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GirlDad

A FILM BY

DAVID N. STILES



GirlDad

The story of a father-daughter relationship built on confidence, authenticity and fishing.



Synopsis

"Girl Dad" is a short documentary that explores the dynamic bond between fathers and daughters. The film follows fishing guides, Kurt and Morgan Bitikofer, from their home waters of the Lake Erie tributaries to Argentinian Patagonia. Featuring in-depth interviews, moments of familial-joy and struggle, world-class fisheries, and breathtaking scenery, *Girl Dad* is poised to be a heartfelt family portrait amid an epic fishing adventure. In an increasingly fast paced world, *Girl Dad* aims to inspire viewers to slow down, reflect on what got us here and where we are going, both as human beings, individuals and as family. This visually-captivating and thought-provoking film blends classic documentary styles of exposition and cinema verité to bring the viewers into the lives of the characters with overt beauty, subtle symbolism, dry comedy and heartfelt authenticity.





Argentinian Patagonia

Setting

The word Patagonia is synonymous with adventure. For fly anglers, Argentina is a bucket list destination. With stunning scenery, world-class fisheries and remote waters with near solitude, this destination is not only the backdrop for the trip of a lifetime, but it provides a place where the lines between spirituality and adventure blur. It's a place where souls have a chance to grow, unobstructed by the modern day world.

Characters

KURT

Kurt Bitikofer (50), father of Morgan, is a steelhead fishing guide and charter captain in Conneaut, OH. Kurt is a quiet, confident, and wholesome outdoorsman. A tall and sturdy man, you can't miss him in a crowd. He is well-studied and experienced in biology, theology, business and entrepreneurial endeavors. Kurt has owned multiple successful businesses and currently owns and operates Capt. Kurt Charters with his wife Dori. His thirst for knowledge, and diligent work ethic has made him an incredible fisherman and business owner, while his soft heart, silly sense of humor and undying faith has made him a safe harbor for anyone seeking guidance, not only as a fisherman, but as a human being. He gives generously and asks only for your trust and honesty. A true family man, with close ties to his community and friends, Kurt raised his girls the only way he knew how. He taught them lessons of confidence and authenticity, bravery and consequences, to dream, to hone self-discipline, and to cherish time in the outdoors. Kurt is a shining example for all fathers but especially fathers of daughters.





Characters

Morgan

Morgan Bitikofer (22), eldest daughter of Kurt, is a steelhead fishing guide from Conneaut, OH. A wildly driven young woman, she grew up fishing for Trout and Steelhead in the Lake Erie tributaries of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and traveling to Alaska with her family, where Morgan learned to fish for Salmon and Halibut, among other species. As a homeschooled student, she found herself skipping grades, became a homeowner at 17 when she asked her parents to co-sign a home loan so she could have a rental property for income. She decided to try guiding full-time three years ago. A move she made because, in her words, “the best way to find out if you like something is to do it”. Morgan has exceptional character, she is a blend of youthful-energy, old soul deep-thinking and emotional-intelligence, well beyond her years.

Tone

Light-hearted
Endearing
Adventurous
Uplifting
Heartfelt



Locations

SET

it's all about the people!



Rakin Lodge

Days 1-7, tucked deep in the northern reaches of Patagonia, Rakin Lodge has exclusive access to miles of untouched water—places that have never seen fishing pressure and are still wild in every sense. Every step and cast feels purposeful. It's a lodge built for exploration, learning, and full-immersion days in waters most anglers dream of.



Limay River

Days 8-14, hunting big trout in Patagonia, the middle Limay is a large, slow-moving tailwater that carves through a desert canyon landscape. It's home to the largest brown trout in the region—truly powerful fish that cruise ledges, drop-offs, and bank structures in search of big meals. This multi-day floats, covers over 80 miles of river from source to reservoir. Riverside camps each night, make for a perfect backdrop for reflection.



STATEMENT

DIRECTOR'S

I've gotten to know the Bitikofer's over the past 18 months, through film projects and my own personal fishing trips, and I can safely say, they are one of the most wholesome families I've ever met. The decision to embark on this particular film came to me after a trip to Alaska where I saw Kurt's unique ability to relate to women show up while he taught my wife how to fish. I knew Kurt was an amazing father to his girls, Morgan and Brenna, I had also seen how he treated other novice anglers, both male and female, but when I watched him disarm the fears and anxiety of a woman I know better than anyone, something else became apparent. While Kurt was teaching his daughters to be well-rounded, strong women; Kurt's daughters had taught him how to be an immeasurably safe person to any woman. And that is a story the world needs to hear. It's a story of humility and compassion, service to others, joy and ultimately, humanity, all under the guise of being outdoors and catching a few fish. I am looking for brands with values which align with this project to elevate this film to reach as many people as possible.

-David N. Stiles

Comparable Films



Glimmers



GINGERLY FILMS PRESENTS A FILM BY DAVID N. STILES IN ASSOCIATION WITH GAME CREEK GUIDES & CAPT KURT CHARTERS
"GLIMMERS" SHOT ON LOCATION HOONAH, ALASKA FEATURING JUNE LOHNER DIRECTED BY DAVID N. STILES

Comps

Glimmers (2026)

An adventurous portrait of an energetic Korean-American orphan who spent her life running from her past. Glimmers explores what happens when we stop running and start healing.

Short Documentary : 17m02s

Nominee - Best Films About Women - Toronto Women's Film Festival

Watch Now

LESSONS FROM STEELHEAD ALLEY



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Comps

Lessons From Steelhead Alley (2025)

A slice-of-life portrait of a wholesome, family run, business that has organically grown through authenticity and service. Lessons From Steelhead Alley is a glimpse of a typical week in Conneaut Ohio for the Bitikofer's and their clients.

Short Documentary : 29m45s

Official Selection - The Lake Effect Film Festival - 2025

Watch Now



Comps

Go Josie (2021)

An overachieving Asian-American woman quits her dream job to pursue a career as a paracyclist, single-handedly.

Short Documentary : 12m09s

Semi Finalist - Blow Up Chicago international Arthouse Film Festival - 2021

Nominee - Stranger Days independent Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Bicycle Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - San Diego International Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Oceanside International Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Maine Outdoor Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Kendal Mountain Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Austria international Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Filmed By Bike Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Frozen River Film Festival - 2021

Official Selection - Liberty International Movie Fest - 2021

Official Selection - Cat Fly Glitch Fest - 2021

Official Selection - American Documentary & Animation Film Festival - 2021

Watch Now



Details

Shoot Dates:

Feb 12th - Feb 28th, 2026

Estimated Runtime:

12-25 Minutes

Distribution & Sponsorship:

Seeking Exclusive Partner

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Guide Partner:



it's all about the people!