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StoryFirst Media Announces Final Production Shoot for *Beyond Human Nature*

Documentary about the notorious 1992 Tom Monfils murder investigation slated to be released in 2020 after five years of research and interviews

Madison, Wisconsin (March 5, 2019) — Director Michael Neelsen, in conjunction with production company [StoryFirst Media](#), recently announced dates for the final large-scale production shoot for *Beyond Human Nature*, a full-length documentary feature about the 1992 murder of Tom Monfils. The shoot is scheduled to begin Wednesday, March 6 and will wrap up Tuesday, March 12.

The Tom Monfils case is known as one of the highest-profile murder cases in Northeastern Wisconsin. One early winter day in 1992, Monfils, who worked at the James River Paper Mill in Green Bay, Wisconsin, went missing. Thirty-six hours later, he was found dead at the bottom of a pulp vat, a 40-pound weight attached to a jump rope around his neck. Almost immediately, Monfils' death was considered a homicide—one that would have had to occur inside the high-security paper mill. Everyone expected an arrest within days. Nearly three years later, six co-workers—referred to as the “Monfils Six” were convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison.

Today, a small but determined group of family and concerned citizens is making the case that the state got it wrong, and that Tom committed suicide. One of those advocates is Tom's brother, Cal Monfils.

With the bulk of the film's interviews being completed—13 to date including Mike Plaskowski, one of the Monfils Six—the focus of this last shoot are the many reenactments that supplement the interviews. Filming will take place in nine locations around Madison, Middleton, Monroe, and Waunakee, as well as Madison's Kapow Studios.

In recent years with films like *Making a Murderer*, *The Jinx*, and *The Staircase*, it's become customary for documentaries to argue the details of a particular case. *Beyond Human Nature* focuses more on dissecting the phenomenon itself, using cinema to consider the subject of homicide investigation through conflicting testimony rather than advocating for a side. The film is the second documentary feature to be directed by Michael Neelsen, whose last film, 2012's *Last Day at Lambeau*, takes viewers through the complex relationship between former Green Bay

Packers quarterback Brett Favre and his loyal fan base after making the decision to play for the Minnesota Vikings.

Beyond Human Nature's core team is rounded out by Producer Jared Gores, Producer [Natalie Pohorski](#), Producer Dave Neelsen, Director of Photography [Michael Nie](#), Writer Joe Pudas, and Production Designer [Erica Engebretth](#). All are from or currently live in Wisconsin.

"The process for *Beyond Human Nature* really speaks to the determination and hard work it takes to create a feature-length documentary film," says director Michael Neelsen. "We've been working on this for nearly five years, and are thrilled that this shoot is going to bring us closer to releasing this film in 2020.

The ripple effects of the Monfils case continue to this day. Since we began production, the key witness in the trial passed away (Brian Kellner) just before signing a recantation of his testimony. One of the Monfils Six has been paroled (Mike Hirn). One has passed away in state custody (Dale Basten). And efforts continue on the part of advocates, family and attorneys across the midwest to bring about closure to a case they feel has been undecided for 25 years. Meanwhile, the state says this is all revisionist history. Our film considers this divide in perspective and hopefully has something to say about all of us."

For more information or to learn more about *Beyond Human Nature*, head to www.beyondhumannature.com.

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