

Women Behind The Wheel



UK | 2023 | 96m | 12A

Directors: Hannah Congdon and Catherine Haigh

Starring: Hannah Congdon and Catherine Haigh

Women Behind the Wheel is an inspiring testament to the roughly two-month-long journey undertaken by directors Catherine Haigh and Hannah Congdon. Their mission: to explore the less touristy region of Central Asia through a 3000 km road trip on the Pamir Highway, spanning Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

For the filmmakers, the aim was to gain a deeper understanding of what it is like to be a young woman in these countries. Contrary to what many might assume, they found that they had more in common with the Asian women they met than expected.

The documentary tells a wonderful story, showcasing how women around the world are finding ways to fight for their equality. Change does not happen overnight through groundbreaking events but rather gradually through global initiatives that educate people worldwide. These initiatives include educating young women about their sexuality, creating job opportunities for them, and providing safe spaces. Many of these women have fewer privileges than European women, as in these patriarchal cultures families often struggle to change the long-held traditions which favour men over women.

Catherine and Hannah masterfully craft a nuanced narrative that challenges conventionally held beliefs through an honest and insightful account. They carefully portray the emotions, reflections, and challenges of the women they interact with, allowing the audience to connect with the local communities. This approach helps viewers grasp the complexities of these traditions and cultures, moving beyond mere facts to paint a more representative and accurate portrait.

Recipients of the John Brabourne Award for emerging talent in film and television, Catherine and Hannah's documentary was selected as the winner of the 2019 Edinburgh International Film Festival's Work in Progress Pitch and continues to captivate audiences wherever it goes.

'A celebration of the shared experiences of womanhood,' *Camden New Journal*.

Excellent

Fair

Poor

What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

Please add any further comments here

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Fun Facts

- About 50% of the women interviewed in the documentary were found through social media platforms like Instagram; the rest were found through word of mouth, or while hitchhiking.
- Neither Catherine nor Hannah studied film, but Hannah has since worked as a documentary producer, while Cat works as a filmmaker alongside her full-time job in the business world.

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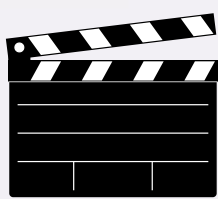
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