

# Film Notes

By Neil Clements

## Life After

2025 | 99mins

Director: Reid Davenport

Starring: Colleen Cassingham, Ash Kelly, Alex Thompson

In a California courtroom in 1983, Elizabeth Bouvia, a quadriplegic afflicted by cerebral palsy since birth, challenged her right to decide the manner of her own death. Due to the requirements for special care in order to live day-to-day, she considered herself a burden on society and so had resorted to legal action to end her own life in hospital. The case attracted media attention (much of which misrepresented the issue) and sparked wider national debate.

In this absorbing and deeply affecting documentary, filmmaker Reid Davenport investigates Bouvia's story and the outcome of her court case, while also exploring current legislation for assisted death in the USA and Canada. In his own words, 'I want to know what today's society thinks about giving disabled people access to assisted suicide'.

Davenport's film examines the subject in depth and asks difficult but necessary questions, while confronting cynical mentalities in institutional policy and the media. By doing so, he breaks through the insincere rhetoric and gives justified time and space to those voices often sidelined. As a result, this film bravely gets closer to the heart of matters and to the devastating decisions and consequences at stake.

      @FilmBathUK



*Life After* was previously screened at over 20 international film festivals, beginning with Sundance in January 2025, where it won the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award. This showing at Film Bath Festival is especially timely, contributing to the broader discussion of assisted dying in the UK (since passing in the House of Commons in June 2025 with a majority of 23, the Terminally Ill Adults Bill continues to be debated in the House of Lords).

*Life After* offers a different perspective to that found in mainstream news media, and as such, this is an urgent and compassionate film, which calls for a more open-minded society and asks the question: Why is it acceptable to give disabled people the means to die, before supporting them in the chance to live?

**“Engrossing, moving, and most importantly, confrontational”**

-Variety

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

Please add any further comments here



Excellent

Fair

Poor

Please detach this from your Film Note and drop it into the box or hand it in at the end of the screening. Thank you!



## Did You Know?

- Director Reid Davenport has previously won acclaim for his 2022 documentary *I Didn't See You There*, which was inspired by the appearance of a circus tent in his hometown.
- *Life After* is among six documentaries nominated for the Grierson Award at this year's London Film Festival. The award is named after the pioneering Scottish documentary filmmaker and producer, John Grierson (1898-1972).
- You can support the film and its campaign goals by visiting their website: [www.lifeafterfilm.com](http://www.lifeafterfilm.com)

SCAN ME



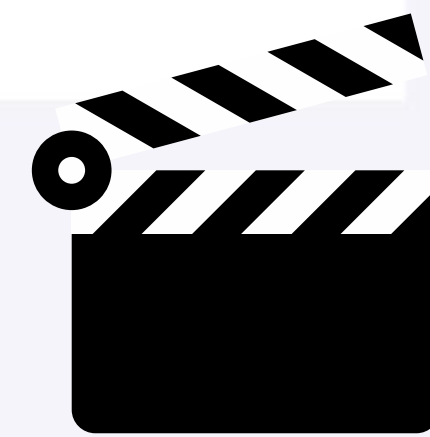
## Tell Us What You Think and Win!

Complete our survey and enter our prize draw with the chance to win a FilmBath Fan Membership and tickets to our Movie at the Museum series in March 2026.

We really value your opinion and your answers are really helpful to help us understand our audiences, improve the festival and apply for funding.

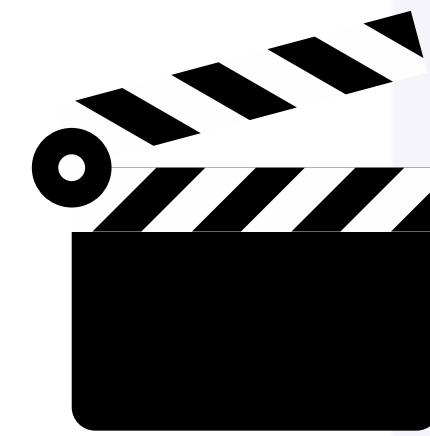
## Continue Your Journey...

If you enjoyed this film, you might like:



### The Room Next Door (2024)

Pedro Almodóvar's first English language feature stars Tilda Swinton as a terminally ill woman who confides in her old friend about plans for her final days. Contemplative, compassionate and thought provoking.



### Super/Man: The Christopher Reeve Story (2024)

"Once you choose hope, anything is possible". The story of the former Superman actor, whose devastating horse riding accident in 1995 left him paralysed from the neck down. The film shows his journey to becoming a celebrated activist and spokesperson for disabled causes. It won the 2025 BAFTA Award for Best Documentary.



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