


ROW OF LIFE (2025)

Press + Sales Notes

KEY LINKS:

 Row of Life Film Stills

FILM TITLE: Row of Life | 82 Min | English

DISTRIBUTION: All Rights Available

PRODUCTION CO: Vacationland Films | Togethxr | TIME Studios

FORMAT: DCP | ProRes

FESTIVALS:

2025: Official Selection Santa Barbara International Film Festival (World Premiere)

2025: Official Selection Big Sky Film Festival

2025: Official Selection Ocean Film Tour

LOGLINE:

“**Row of Life**” follows renowned ocean rower, Marine Corps veteran, three-time Paralympian, and fourteen Guinness World Record holder Angela Madsen. In 2020, Angela attempted to row solo and unassisted across the Pacific Ocean, 2400 miles from Los Angeles to Hawaii. What unfolds is a harrowing story of her determination, resilience, and immense courage to pursue the unknown, and the unyielding support of Angela’s wife, Deb, who, separated by a vast ocean, champions Angela’s dream despite the cost.

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE:

WEBSITE www.rowoflifefilm.com

INSTAGRAM <https://www.instagram.com/rowoflife/>

PRESS:

[FORBES: Paralympic Ocean Rower Angela Madsen Celebrated in Upcoming Powerful Documentary](#)

[NEW YORK TIMES: Angela Madsen, Paralympian Rower, Dies on Solo Pacific Voyage at 60](#)

[OUTSIDE: A Death At Sea on the Row of Life](#)

FILM TEAM:

Director: Soraya Simi

Producer: Nicholas Weissman, Jaime Chew

Executive Producer: Sue Bird, Tina Tozzi, Jess Robertson

Executive Producer: Loren Hammonds, Kyle Hentschel, Dave O’Connor

Executive Producer: Amanda Alpert Muscat

Executive Producer: Jack Pearkes

Editor: Joseph DeRose

Composer: James Newberry

Cast: Angela Madsen, Debra Madsen, Miles Muzio

ROW OF LIFE (2025)

Press + Sales Notes

DIRECTOR BIO:

Soraya Simi is an award-winning independent filmmaker, published writer, and entrepreneur. Her strength lies in Directing, Producing, and Writing for film and television, with extensive experience in commercial work. Immediately graduating from USC Film School, Soraya embarked on her first feature documentary, ROW OF LIFE, which follows the story of Paralympian and Marine Veteran Angela Madsen and her harrowing solo row across the Pacific Ocean. ROW OF LIFE exemplifies the complexity of a close subject-director relationship, and how the stakes in non-fiction storytelling are not imagined, but very real. Soraya also runs a local membership-based organization in the Central Coast, 805 Film Collective, which offers events, jobs, and resources to the thriving local film community to help generate high-quality local film work. She is a published writer, with long-form essays in OUTSIDE magazine, The Sun, a plethora of surf and adventure publications, and is currently writing her first novel.

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SUE BIRD BIO:

Sue Bird, widely regarded as the world's premier point guard, retired in 2022 after a legendary three-decade career, leaving an indelible mark on the WNBA and women's sports. A four-time WNBA champion, five-time Olympic gold medalist, and NCAA champion, Bird's accolades include being a 13-time WNBA All-Star and a member of the WNBA's Top 15 Players of All Time. In 2024, she joined the Seattle Storm ownership group, and in 2025, she will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame. Beyond basketball, Bird co-founded Togethxr, a women-focused media platform, and produced impactful projects like the Power of the Dream documentary and Summer of Gold podcast, which is now being adapted for TV. She also hosted Sue's Places on ESPN+ and co-hosts The Bird & Taurasi Show. In 2022, she and her fiancée, Megan Rapinoe, launched A Touch More, a production company spotlighting underrepresented voices, with projects like the upcoming TV series Playing the Field. Their podcast, A Touch More, was named one of Apple's "Shows We Love" for 2024. A passionate advocate for racial, gender, and LGBTQ+ equity, Bird continues to inspire as an athlete, activist, and media trailblazer. She resides in New York and Seattle.

PRODUCTION:

VACATIONLAND Vacationland is a documentary studio making uncommon films on common ground. Since 2014, we've been producing Original stories and Commissioned works to help make the world make sense. Everything we do comes from our hunt and gather method: We bring together a community of award-winning filmmakers all over the planet to manage end-to-end production, from development to delivery. Documentaries include FOR AHKEEM (PBS), HAVANA LIBRE (1091), THE CURIOSITY EFFECT (Roku), and WE THE POWER (Patagonia).

TOGETHXR is a media and commerce company founded by four of the world's greatest athletes: Alex Morgan, Chloe Kim, Simone Manuel and Sue Bird. With a focus on rich storytelling, TOGETHXR is an unapologetic platform where we shatter the often narrow

ROW OF LIFE (2025)

Press + Sales Notes

depictions of women in the media with content featuring a diverse and inclusive community of game changers, culture shapers, thought leaders, and barrier breakers.

TIME STUDIOS is the Emmy award-winning television, film, and immersive entertainment division of TIME. With a brand defining visual language that dates back more than 100 years, TIME Studios aims to impact communities around the world with ideas that forge true progress, bringing a global audience to the most important stories of our time. Notable recent titles include MEGAN THEE STALLION: IN HER WORDS (Amazon), DIRTY POP: THE BOY BAND SCAM (Netflix), THE LIONHEART (HBO), FRIDA (Amazon Prime), and THE TERRITORY (National Geographic) and JEEN-YUS: A KANYE TRILOGY (Netflix).

DIRECTORS STATEMENT:

“A month after I graduated film school, Angela Madsen sent me a cold DM on Facebook asking if I might "make a little video" about her solo ocean row after she'd seen a sailing documentary I'd made. I didn't know what that meant, but soon after meeting her, I was hooked. Angela's warm personality, contagious sense of humor, and eccentricity were irresistible. She was a character unlike any other, and with a shared passion for the ocean and extreme sports, we became fast-friends.

Angela and I worked closely together for a year leading up to her launch. We bootstrapped the entire production, and I called in every favor and friend I had from film school. Eventually, a change in fate would flip everything on its head. After five years of learning to let a story come to me, moving through grief, uncertainty, and a historically challenging economy for independent film, it is no small triumph that this film was completed. My purpose and motivation was held together by one promise to tell her story, no matter what, made all the more profound by its unexpected twists and turns.” - Director, Soraya Simi

SYNOPSIS:

Angela Madsen's life reads like a parable of resilience; beginning with the backstory of her childhood as a closeted gay woman, to a botched surgery during her time in the Marine Corps that left her paralyzed and homeless, to her remarkable rise to adaptive sports superstar as a three-time Paralympian and fourteen-time Guinness World Record holder, and finally to her attempt to row across the Pacific Ocean alone.

Row of Life focuses on Angela's incredible story and bond to her life partner, Deb, as they prepare for her final ocean crossing. In April 2020, Angela set off solo and unassisted in her 20' ocean rowing boat, Row of Life, affixed with everything needed to be self-reliant for 100 days, across 2,500 miles of open ocean, from Los Angeles to Hawaii.

ROW OF LIFE (2025)

Press + Sales Notes

If successful, Angela, at 60, would've been the oldest woman, first openly queer athlete, and only paraplegic to ever do so. Despite having already rowed every ocean, this was Angela's most ambitious row yet, and she intended to retire once completed. Except Angela never made it.

What's left is a love story unlike any other. Angela's love for the ocean, her unrelenting belief in herself and the boldness of her dreams, paired with a life partner, Deb, who quietly and selflessly champions Angela's every move, and is the unexpected supporting character who emerges as the leader of the story, offering us a lens into the aftermath and real consequence of life after loss.

This is a story of a promise made and ultimately kept, of what love does beyond the limitations of death, and how even when an ending is radically different than what was expected, it offers us unique lessons of resilience, grit, hope, and determination against all odds.

CONTACT INFO:

Production Co
Festival Distribution
Sales
Publicist

Nicholas Weissman
The Film Collaborative
WME | Sophia Heslov
Falco PR | Emma Beidler

nick@vacationland.film
jeffrey@thefilmcollaborative.org
SHeslov@wmeagency.com
emmabeidler@falcoink.com