



"Pieced Together" is the first documentary film about American barn quilt trails. Directed by Peabody Award-winning veteran of ABC News, Julianne Donofrio, "Pieced Together" tells the story of how one woman's love for her mother changed the American landscape and saved her life after job loss, breast cancer, and multiple health concerns.

Donna Sue Groves had an idea: pretty up an old barn for her mother Nina Maxine, a celebrated quilter, by hanging a wooden square painted to look like a traditional quilt block. A community organizer by trade, she thought why stop with just one square? So Donna Sue got together with her neighbors in Adams County, OH and created a driving trail of squares hung on barns to attract tourists looking for a day trip who might stop and spend money on gas, food, or crafts made by local artists. The first barn quilt square, an "Ohio Star," was hung on the Lewis Mountain Herbs & Everlastings farm in 2001; the idea sparked a grassroots phenomenon and a new form of American public art.

Nina Maxine finally got her barn quilt, a green and purple "Snail's Trail" square, in 2003.

Donofrio stumbled upon her first barn quilt square in Tennessee in 2009, and learned of Donna Sue Groves through a "pink" web page created by the barn quilt trail organizers in [Garrett County, MD](#). They were raising funds for Donna Sue who had lost her job and was battling breast cancer.

"I guarantee you, that had it not been for the quilt trail community, that I would not be here today," says Donna Sue Groves.

Now over 45 U.S. states and parts of Canada have barn quilt trails. There are more than 360 community organized [trails](#) and countless squares found on barns, garages, and fences from California to Tennessee to Prince Edward Island. Donna Sue never planned on creating a cross-country movement but it is this very community of friends and strangers that is helping her put the pieces of her life back together.

"I feel honored to witness and document what will one day be a chapter in our American history," says Director/Producer Julianne Donofrio.

"Pieced Together" debuted at the [National Quilt Trail Gathering](#) in 2016 and was an Official Selection of the 2016 [River's Edge International Film Festival](#), the 2018 [Ocean City Film Festival](#), the 2018 [Ozark Foothills FilmFest](#), the 2018 [Oil Valley Film Festival](#), and the 2018 [Great Western Catskills International Film Festival](#). "Pieced Together" won Best Documentary Short Feature Film at the 2017 [Buffalo Dreams Fantastic Film Festival](#) and the Audience Award: Feature at the [2018 Indy FilmFest](#). Julianne was an official presenter at the 2017 & 2018 [Appalachian Studies Association Conference](#) in Blacksburg, VA and Cincinnati, OH. The film made its PBS debut on Maryland Public Television in October 2020.

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