

Thomas Morgan

Filmmaker

imdb.me/thomasmorgan

Thomas grew up in a small town in Michigan. He attended college at Central Michigan University, graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration in 1990. Morgan worked as real estate developer and investment banker for most of his career.

In 2009, after a “series of unlikely events” Morgan left the corporate world behind to become a filmmaker and activist. Thomas candidly shares his own personal journey and understanding of complex social epidemics such as homelessness, youth incarceration, abuse and neglect, as well as his life-changing decisions to use his talents to share the stories of real people facing seemingly insurmountable odds.

His films have been leveraged to create movements and a call to action. A style that has garnered the support of Oscar-winning actress Susan Sarandon, Mary-Louise Parker, Padma Lakshmi and director Morgan Spurlock.

He has added Executive Producer to his resume through his support of *Silenced*, a film about US government whistleblowers, and *India's Daughter*, an Oscar contending film about the rape and murder of a 23 year old medical student in India.

In 2017, Morgan completed *Soufra* – a inspirational story following female generational refugees in Lebanon. The film was a NY Times and LA Times critics pick and won 26 awards internationally. Nearly \$1 million has been raised to build a school within the refugee camp, providing over 150 kids access to education.

In his documentary short film, *Waiting for Mamu* (2014), he speaks to the power of one, through the story of Pushpa Basnet, who at age 21 began helping free children from the prison floors in Nepal. The award winning film has raised \$1.4 million (US) to build a permanent home, The Butterfly Home, in Kathmandu and assisted in supporting their education. It was the first orphanage built to the international standard in Nepal.

In *Storied Streets* (2013), Morgan captures the painful reality of homelessness in America and gracefully unearths pain and personal triumphs of those living unhoused in our country. Through the film he has elevated awareness of the problem, petitioned in front of Congress, and pushed for laws to make violence against the homeless a hate crime and the abolishment of laws criminalizing homelessness.

On the commercial side, Morgan has directed scripted short films, commercials, branded content and various corporate promotional pieces. Thomas has done work for Mastercard, Bank of America, Jones Lang LaSalle, Sunglass Hut, Dr. Pepper, ESPN, CNN, and several other major brands.

Morgan has been a keynote speaker multiple times on Capitol Hill and twice before the U.S. Congress. He also spoke for the PPL forum at the 2012 Democratic National Convention and the United Nations in 2013. His TED Talk entitled *Put On Your Underoos: It's Time To Save The World* that has reached over 250,000 people. He has done one of the most unusual TEDx Talks from Nepal soon after the earthquake while providing relief to Pushpa Basnet and her children. He was the commencement speaker and received an honorary doctorate

in Public Service from Central Michigan University, his alma mater, delivering what has been called “One of the best commencement speeches of 2015”

Morgan appeared on the Today Show in 2014 after teaming up with Mary Fisher to start 100GoodDeeds.org, a “movement for good” based on a game he created and played with his kids. 100% of the proceeds go to supporting vulnerable women and their families in impoverished countries around the world.

Notable Achievements + Awards:

(Soufra, a film that debuted in 2017, was a New York Times critics pick and an LA Times critics pick. It still holds a 100% rating from Rotten Tomatoes)

BendFilm Festival (2018)

- Best Documentary Feature: Winner – Soufra

Cinetopia Film Festival (2018)

- Audience Award - *Foreign Documentary*: Winner– Soufra

El Gouna International Film Festival (2017)

- Best Documentary Feature: Winner – Soufra
- Cinema for Humanity Prize: Winner – Soufra
- Golden Star - *Feature Documentary Competition*: Nominee – Soufra

Florida Film Festival (2018)

- Audience Award - *Best International Feature*: Winner– Soufra

Galway Film Fleadh (2018)

-Feature Film Award - *Best International Feature Documentary*: Winner– Soufra

KIDS FIRST! Film Festival (2018)

- KIDS FIRST! Approved Film (Ages 12-18): Winner– Storied Streets

Footcandle Film Festival (2016)

Best Documentary Feature: Winner— Storied Streets

Napa Valley Film Festival (2018)

- Audience Award - *Favorite Food & Beverage Spotlight Film*: Winner– Soufra

News & Documentary Emmy Awards (2016)

- Emmy - *Outstanding Informational Programing (Long Form)*: Nominee – Silenced

Portland International Film Festival (2018)

- Audience Award - *Best Documentary*: Soufra

Sedona International Film Festival (2014, 2015)

- Festival Award (2015) - *Humanitarian Award*: Winner- *Storied Streets*
- Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary Short (2014) : Winner - *Waiting for Mamu*
- Festival Award (2014) - *Humanitarian Award*: Winner - *Waiting for Mamu*

Traverse City Festival (2013)

- Audience Award - *Best Documentary Short*: Winner - *Waiting for Mamu*