



Courtesy of Women Make Movies

Afghanistan Unveiled

When the Taliban was in power, most of the women who filmed *Afghanistan Unveiled* could barely leave their homes, let alone study or work. But in 2002, the young documentarians—some still teenagers—traveled across mountains, rivers, and deserts to make the first film by and about Afghan women.

The crew documents lives devastated by Taliban repression and the U.S. military campaign, journeying from rural Bamyan, where Hazari tribeswomen have lived in mountainside caves since the Taliban razed their village, to the ancient village of Herat, where a young mother tells how an errant U.S. cluster bomb killed her husband when she was six months pregnant.

But the documentary is as much about the young filmmakers—trained by Afghan media organization Aina—as it is about the women they interview. Filmmaker Mehria Aziz, 20, stands surrounded by men in the crowded street of a remote village refuting one man's claim that women must conceal their faces. She remembers her mother—killed by mujahedeen when Aziz was just eight—who wrapped her long hair in a veil but never covered her face. "I am not afraid. I am a journalist. I am brave," says Aziz.

Released in 2003 by Woman Make Movies, *Afghanistan Unveiled* has been featured in six film festivals.

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