

PRESS KIT



Directed by Eddie Edwards

72 minutes

English, Hausa & Twi with English subtitles

Colour, DCP, 5.1

2024

Meet skate soccer teammates: ambitious and volatile Smallee and talented but troubled Dungu. The friendship that has kept them afloat is now at risk as their paths take very different directions.



We follow two friends from Accra's skate soccer team over a 10 year period as they live their dream of going from amateur status to players in an internationally recognised sport. Through ambitious and volatile Smallee and talented but troubled Dungu we see the highs and lows of their professional lives. Can they stay the course while the team gears up for an international tournament against arch rival Nigeria?

Skate soccer is a game created by athletes living with disabilities that is every bit as skillful and antagonistic as the able-bodied version of the game. There's no skate soccer at the Paralympics; there is no tournament anywhere in the world for them, so the team is going at it on their own. The team hopes that their sporting successes might bring more awareness to their personal situation, and help them access the resources they need to be more accepted in society.

Coach and manager Albert K Frimpong sets up a match that will pit Ghana against Nigeria, with media attention and significant prize money on offer. The journey to this day is hard-going: in-fighting, power struggles and disappearances threaten to bring the team to its knees. The film tracks Smallee and Dungu, and the marathon effort of the team from a back street taxi rank onto an international stage.



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The PUMA Creative Catalyst Award in partnership with Channel 4 BRITDOC Foundation

Media Film Service

Refinery

This project was presented at:

Durban Filmmart

Sheffield MeetMarket

Rough Cut Lab

Producers

Steven Markovitz, Tamsin Ranger

Music by

FOKN Bois

Executive Producer

Tony Tabatznik

Associate Producers

Shelley Barry

Kevin Kriedemann

Polio Survivors & Associates Rotarian Action Group

Ian Learmonth

John Hirschfeld

Nico Phillips Matsoukas

Stephen Cheifitz

Director biography

Eddie shot his first film, KING FOR A KNIGHT in 1991 in CAPE TOWN on a borrowed cam-corder. This led him into the world of documentary filmmaking where he won numerous awards for his films THE BLACK and THE FIGHT. Eddie then entered the world of Broadcast television, directing South African Music Megastar, Zola on a journey around Southern Africa highlighting social issues in the SABC programme, ZOLA 7 IN AFRICA. His other television work includes series of IT'S FOR LIFE, RIZE MZANSI and KHUMBUL'EKHAYA. In 2011, his short documentary ONCE UPON A DAY: BRENDA FASSIE, premiered at Encounters Documentary Festival.

In the last ten years, Eddie has spent the bulk of his working life in Ghana, being at the helm of Vodafone's telecommunications' Corporate Social Responsibility Project, Healthline, an ambitious medical outreach program with a reach over the whole country. Eddie is currently working in medical technology with a company using virtual reality to assess and rehab brain health.



Big World Cinema

Big World Cinema was established in 1994 and is managed by Steven Markovitz. They have produced a number of award-winning fiction and documentaries. Big World has an extensive production and distribution network across Africa and has co-produced with over fifteen countries internationally. They have worked with over 150 directors from over 30 African countries.

Big World Cinema fiction work includes co-producing Balaji's award-winning Omen (Cannes – Un Certain Regard 2023); producing Amil Shivji's Tug of War (Toronto 2021, FESPACO), Wanuri Kahiu's Kenyan feature Rafiki (Cannes – Un Certain Regard 2018, Toronto); hajooj kuka's aKasha (Venice Critics' Week 2018, Toronto) and Jenna Bass' High Fantasy (Toronto 2017, Berlinale 2018). The company executive-produced Stories of Our Lives (Toronto and Berlin), which won Berlinale's Teddy Special Jury award in 2015; produced the award-winning South African feature film Love The One You Love (Durban, Busan, Goteborg); co-produced Viva Riva! (Toronto and Berlin), the winner of MTV Movie Award for Best African Movie, 2011. They executive-produced the feature film Boy Called Twist (Cannes 2005) by Tim Greene; and produced the South African – Canadian feature film, Proteus (Berlin, Toronto, Sydney, Rio, Hamptons). They also produced the feature

film Visa/Vie (Durban, Sao Paulo); Inja (nominated for an Oscar® – 2003); and Husk which premiered In Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival; and executive-produced the shorts Pumzi (Sundance) and Beyond Freedom (Berlinale Shorts Competition). They executive-produced the shorts omnibus African Metropolis (Toronto, Locarno, Rotterdam 2013/2014).

The company has produced and executive produced over 100 documentaries that have sold to over 40 countries including Khalid Shamis' The Colonel's Stray Dogs (Hot Docs 2021), The Prophet and the Space Aliens (CPH: Dox, Fantasia), 2017's Winnie by Pascale Lamche (winner of Sundance Directing Award) and Silas (Toronto 2017, IDFA), Beats of the Antonov (Toronto 2014, IDFA, Dubai, FESPACO), winner of the TIFF People's Choice Documentary award; Congo in Four Acts (Berlin, Hotdocs, IDFA), Behind the Rainbow (London International Film Festival, Rio, Tri Continental, FESPACO); It's My Life, which won five international awards and sold to over 20 countries.



Festival selections:

- Encounters South African International Documentary Festival - South Africa
- Zanzibar International Film Festival - Tanzania