



ACADEMY QUALIFIED
42 BEST FILM AWARDS
70 TOTAL FILM AWARDS
75 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

INK AND GOLD

AN ARTIST'S JOURNEY TO OLYMPIC GLORY



SYNOPSIS

Ink and Gold follows the journey of New Zealand artist and athlete, Zakea Page, winning the Lausanne 2020 Youth Olympic Games medal design competition.



Zakea reflects on his multi-cultural upbringing, moving every two to four years to many countries as the child of international teachers. These experiences form the foundation for his medal design, entitled “Beauty in Diversity”, to embody the Olympic celebration of respect, friendship and excellence, honouring every athlete’s (and in this case, artist’s) journey to the games.

After notification of his design being chosen among three hundred submissions from sixty nations, Mr. Page successfully pitches to perform at the Games. We follow as he plans the sequence of movements and painting strokes using a field hockey stick and ball dripped in ink to recreate the image of his winning medal design.

Upon arrival in Switzerland, Zakea is invited to the International Olympic Committee headquarters where he is awarded a gold, silver and bronze set of his Olympic medal design from IOC president, Thomas Bach. In the week that follows, Zakea continues his training at Vaudoise Arena and finalises the last details of his performance.

Fulfilling a lifelong dream, his adventure culminates with the live performance as part of the Opening Ceremony and witnessing the first athletes being awarded the medals. The film ends in celebration amongst the confetti on the arena floor.

ABOUT THE FILM

The Oscar qualified documentary short film *Ink and Gold: An Artist's Journey to Olympic Glory* follows the journey of New Zealand artist and athlete, Zakea Page, winning the Lausanne 2020 Youth Olympic Games medal design competition and fulfilling a lifelong dream to perform at the opening ceremonies. It has been Official Selection at 75 Film Festivals since the beginning of 2023, receiving 70 awards to date including 42 Best Film Awards.

The film was shot over the course of one week in Lausanne, Switzerland, at the 2020 Youth Olympic Games and weaved together with self-taped footage of Zakea's younger years as an athlete and artist. Accompanied with interviews of his family, *'Ink and Gold'* highlights the connection between art and sport in bringing together peoples of diverse cultures and backgrounds to bridge barriers of language and foster connections, mutual understanding, and respect for one another. It also aims to dismantle the requirements of young people to choose between the two.

The story, artwork and design work in the film are a reflection of Mr. Page's non-traditional upbringing as the child of international teachers and the many different cultures and experiences he was exposed to in New Zealand, Kuwait, Viet Nam, England, Bangladesh and China. These experiences are the foundation for his medal design, entitled *'Beauty in Diversity'*, to embody the Olympic celebration of respect, friendship and excellence, honouring every athlete's (and in this case, artist's) journey to the Games.

Throughout his childhood, the ideals of the Olympic movement inspired Zakea. The film beautifully encapsulates the initiative of Pierre de Coubertin to combine muscles and mind. Known as the father of the modern Olympic Games, de Coubertin believed that athletic competition promotes understanding across cultures to better demonstrate the spirit of sportsmanship which properly considers fairness, ethics, respect and a sense of fellowship.

"THE IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE IS NOT THE TRIUMPH BUT THE STRUGGLE, THE ESSENTIAL THING IS NOT TO HAVE CONQUERED BUT TO HAVE FOUGHT WELL." - Pierre de Coubertin

This idea of the importance in 'the struggle to overcome' was further cemented when Zakea discovered the works of American poet and civil rights activist, Maya Angelou, who worked to educate others on the importance of valuing human diversity. This focus made it all the more important for Mr. Page to surround himself with the diverse, inclusive and multicultural production team from New Zealand, England, India and the United States.

A poetic and uplifting portrait of a young man looking for connection with humanity combining art and sport in expressive form, *Ink and Gold* is filled with hope and the limitless possibility of tomorrow.

"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength."
Maya Angelou

FILM SPECIFICATIONS

Project Type: Documentary Short Film

Genres: Sport, Inspirational, Olympic,

Runtime: 15 minutes 50 seconds

Completion Date: January 5, 2023

Production Budget: 6,098 USD

Sales/Marketing Budget: 5,021 USD

Country of Origin: New Zealand

Country of Filming: New Zealand, Switzerland, China

Language: English

Closed Captions: English

Subtitles Available:

English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish

Shooting Format: 4K, 2K, 1080p

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Film Color: Color

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

As a child, it was always a dream of mine to win an Olympic medal. Designing the medals and performing at the 2020 Lausanne Youth Olympic Games was both a humbling and invaluable experience in which I realised the value of risk-taking, rising to meet a challenge, and taking part in the Games.

It is my belief that sport and art require a strong drive for excellence, dedication, and detail. Having traveled around the world, I witnessed how art and sport both bring together communities and people of diverse backgrounds. Artistry and competition bridge barriers of language and foster connections, mutual understanding, and respect for one another.

Drawing synergy from both art and sport, my performance at the Opening Ceremony was a statement against the stereotypical art vs sports dichotomy that New Zealand youth are very often forced into.

The documentary highlights the connection between art and sport to demonstrate that investing in both is culturally beneficial for New Zealand, the world of sport, and humanity. It is an opportunity to share what I learned and experienced - a reflection on my individual Olympic journey and the fact that we are all multi-faceted beings. It is my hope that the audience develops a deeper understanding of the beliefs and values that went into my performance - values that align with the Olympic movement which I take pride in as an artist, an athlete, and a New Zealander:

Innovation, creativity, and an appreciation for beauty in diversity.

Zakea Page

Zakea Page

KEY PLAYERS



ZAKEA PAGE, Writer/Director/Producer

Zakea, a filmmaker and artist, recently graduated from Massey University with a degree in Creative Media Production. He was a camera operator and assistant editor for *Zonta Ignite*, a short documentary offering insight into the lives of five members of Zonta International's Wellington Club, an international women's organisation, which through service and advocacy empowers women worldwide. Zakea was a drone pilot and assistant camera operator for the official video of the *Spirited Women's North Island Event*, an all-women adventure race prioritizing health and fitness. Zakea also directed *Malformation Capital*, exhibited as part of the inaugural 2018 Asian Aotearoa Arts Hui, a national public festival celebrating diverse expressions of 'Asianness' in New Zealand in the Arts. He had two Solo Exhibitions in Shanghai: *Tenacious* in 2017 and *Benevolence* in 2019. His fine art has been showcased in America, New Zealand, and China. He was a 2018 finalist for the *Wellington Regional Arts Review* and a three-time finalist at the *New Zealand National Youth Art Awards*. Zakea has recently showcased his work for the first time in two locations in England. The first exhibition, entitled *The Big 'Little' Exhibition*, took place in Bath and was dedicated to raising funds for refugees, specifically focusing on women and children facing domestic violence. Zakea was also featured in *Shades Of Red* at Fox Yard Studios in Suffolk.

K.W. MILLER, Producer/Editor/Sound Design

K.W. is a founder and director of Blue Aeris, His producing, writing and directing credits showcase over 30 years with industry leaders in film & television, theatre, live events and music. He is currently guiding development for the feature film version of *DREDGE* by NZ. Other credits include *Backgammon: Survival Of The Misfits* (which premiered at The Cannes Film Festival and garnered a *Best Feature Film Award* at the New York International Independent Film Festival); the feature *A Couple Of Days and Nights* (with consultant Nancy Wilson of the rock band, *Heart*); several documentaries and reality series; the *Kid's Choice Award* winning shows of Disney Channel's *The Suite Life On Deck* and Nickelodeon's *The Amanda Show*, *The Nick Cannon Show* and *All That*; notable stage productions such as the award winning Barry Manilow's *Copacabana* and *The Only Game In Town* starring Wayne Brady; *Oliver Twisted!* (hosted by Tom Hanks, Lily Tomlin & Lesley Ann Warren); as well as producer and songwriter of tunes featured on such shows as *The Young & The Restless*, *Chef Roblé and Co.*, *America's Next Top Model*, *Sony Playstation* and more.



BLUE AERIS, Production Company

Blue Aeris is a multi-faceted production company based in New Zealand which launched in 2020 specializing in film, music and live events. With a desire to pursue creative opportunities that bring communities closer together, and ultimately, contentment, the company's mission is to foster human connection and joy through mindful creative expression. They are currently consulting and leading development for the feature film version of the award-winning video game *DREDGE* by NZ company Black Salt Games, having secured top industry legal firm Greenberg Glusker in Los Angeles, as well as navigating negotiations with major production companies. They have also produced multiple audio-visual projects including *JOY* Christmas compilation LP and music videos, the community-building project between New Zealand and international music artists entitled securing an international distribution deal with Mercia Records and SONY/The Orchard UK, as well as licensing deals with brands such as Brown Forman (Jack Daniels), Takamine Guitars and others.

FESTIVAL SELECTION & AWARDS

**75 Official Selections with 70 Awards
including 42 Best Film Awards**



SPORT MOVIES & TV 2023 - 41st Milano International FICTS Fest “Olympic Storytellers” Section

FICTS Award

Best Film

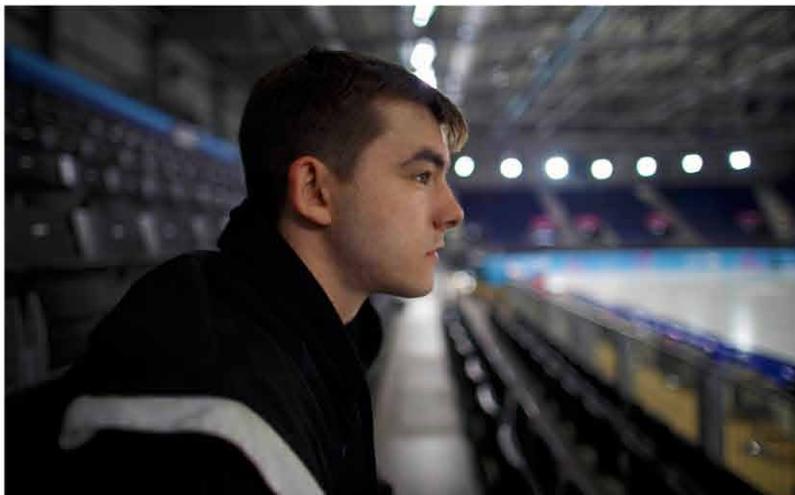
“Olympic Storytellers”

- 4theatre selection (*Italy*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Accolade Global Film Competition (*CA, USA*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Editing Awards
- All That Moves International Film Festival (*Brazil*) - Official Selection
- Arte Non Stop Film Festival (*Argentina*) - Best Documentary Short & Golden Special Recognition to the Artist Awards
- Bahia Independent Cinema Festival (*Brazil*) - Official Selection
- BCN Sports Film - Barcelona International FICTS Festival (*Spain*) - Official Selection
- Beausoleil Côte d’Azur International FICTS Festival du Cinéma Sportif (*France*) - Official Selection
- Boden International Film Festival (*Sweden*) - Best Documentary Short Semifinalist
- Borrego Springs Film Festival (*CA, USA*) - Official Selection
- Cambodia Film Festival (*Cambodia*) - Official Selection
- Canadian Sport Film Festival (*Canada*) - Best Documentary Short Honourable Mention
- Cannes Continental Film Festival (*France*) - Official Selection
- Daegu International Film Festival (*Republic of Korea*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Dilmun International Film Festival (*Bahrain*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Poster Awards
- Doha Independent Film Festival (*Qatar*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Ekurhuleni International Film Festival (*South Africa*) - Best Documentary Short Nominee
- Emiratis Film Festival (*Oman*) - Official Selection
- Festival Internacional Cine de América / FICAH (*Mexico*) - Official Selection
- FICLAPAZ - La Paz International Film Festival (*Plurinational State of Bolivia*) - Official Selection
- Film in Focus (*Romania*) - Best Documentary Short Nominee
- FilmHaus (*Germany*) - Best Documentary Short Semifinalist
- Filmocracy Oscar Qualifying Program (*Los Angeles, USA*) - Official Selection for qualifying run
- First-Time Filmmaker Sessions - by Lift-Off Global Network (*UK*) - Official Selection
- Golden Nugget International Film Festival (*London, UK*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Gulf Tiger International Film Festival (*United Arab Emirates*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Gwangju International Film Festival (*Republic of Korea*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Havelock International Film Festival (*India*) - Best Documentary Short, Best Director, Best Editor & Best Producer Awards
- IndieFEST Film Awards (*CA, USA*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Editing Awards
- Indo French International Film Festival (*India*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Indo Nepal International Film Festival (*Nepal*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Indo Singapore International Film Festival (*India*) - Best Documentary Short, Best Editor & Best Concept Awards
- International Film Festival Belgium (*Belgium*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- International Online Web Fest (*Italy*) - Best Documentary Short, Best Young Director & Best Original Song Awards, as well as Nominee for Best Editor, Best Cinematographer & Best Sound Design Awards
- International World Film Awards (*Slovakia*) - Official Selection

FESTIVAL SELECTION & AWARDS

- Kenya International Sports Film Festival (*Kenya*) - Official Selection
- Kurdistan International Independent Film Festival (*Iraq*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions Hosted by @LiftOffGobalNetwork (*UK*) - Official Selection
- Lion city International Film Festival (*Singapore*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Liverpool Indie Awards // LIA (*UK*) - Official Selection
- Lonely Wolf International Film Festival (*UK*) - Best Documentary Short Quarterfinalist
- Louisville's International Festival of Film (*KY, USA*) - Best Sport Film Award
- Mabig Film Festival (*Bavaria, Germany*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Maracay International Film & Video Festival (*Venezuela*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Mojo International Film Awards (*CA, USA*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Murukas International Film Festival (*Peru*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Muscat International Film Festival (*Oman*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Muzzle Film Festival (*Iraq*) - Official Selection
- Nitiin International Film Festival (*Malaysia*) - Audience Choice' Best Documentary Short Award
- NZ Independent Film Festival (*New Zealand*) - Best NZ Short & Audience Choice Awards
- NZ Web Fest (*New Zealand*) - Best Documentary Short Award & Best Director Nominee
- Osaka International Film Festival (*Japan*) - Official Selection
- Paris Short Film Festival (*France*) - Official Selection
- PlanetCinema (*Spain*) - Best Documentary Cinematography Nominee & Finalist
- Poombukar Independent Film Festival (*India*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Qatar Indie Film Festival (*Qatar*) - 'Critics Choice' Best Documentary Short Award
- Rohip International Film Festival (*India*) - 'Special Mention' Best Documentary Short Award
- San Antonio Independent Film Festival (*Ecuador*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Santa Dev International Film Festival (*India*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Editing Awards
- Saudi Arabia International Film Festival (*Saudi Arabia*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- SENSEI FilmFest (*Japan*) - Best Documentary Short Nominee
- Serbest International FilmFest (*Republic of Moldova*) - Best Documentary Short Semifinalist
- Short Shot Fest (*Russia*) - Official Selection
- South Pacific Film Festival (*New Zealand*) - Best Editing Award & Quarterfinalist Winner Best NZ Short
- Sportfilm Festival Liberec (*Czech Republic*) - Best Documentary Short Finalist
- Stockholm City Film Festival (*Sweden*) - Official Selection
- Suwon-Si International Film Festival (*Republic of Korea*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Sydney World Fest 2023-2024 (*Australia*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Tekka International Film Festival (*Singapore*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Tylos International Film Festival (*Bahrain*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Universal Movie Awards (*Nigeria*) - Official Selection
- Valparaiso Amateur Film Festival (*Chile*) - Special Mention for Excellent Documentary Award
- Vision Feast Film Festival (*New Zealand*) - Best Documentary Short Nominee
- Wings1929 International Film Festival (*Malaysia*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Director Awards
- Wisdom Tree International Film Festival (*India*) - Official Selection

PERFORMANCE VISUALS



MULTIPLATFORM DEVELOPMENT

INK AND GOLD: WHERE SPORT MEETS ART is a documentary series that chronicles a group of athletes across multiple sports who are also celebrated artists, illustrating what's possible when art intersects with sport... and a combined perspective is leveraged as a vehicle to affect fundamental change within communities.

The docuseries suggests that athlete and artist alike are imaginative and competitive spirits who employ the same pursuit of excellence, harnessing it in ways that are very unique and individual. They are one and the same... just different forms of expression not bound by race, gender, age, ethnicity or creed. It will appeal to a wide demographic who connect with and are passionate about sport, the arts and culture. Each of these disparate practices informs the other: Athleticism is creative, requiring intellect, lateral thinking and incredible mental patience. And art, on its side, requires a physicality, patience and drive that rivals anything that happens during practice.

A celebration of common ground between the sport and art worlds, the series intensifies appreciation for both spheres. Working across the globe from New Zealand to Lebanon and the UK, all the way to Jamaica and the United States, we examine the lives of athletes who share their creative processes and have found an emotional outlet and deeper connection to their cultural identities through art.



The 10-part docuseries with episodes at 30 minutes to one hour in length provides an insightful glimpse into these athletes' artistic sensibilities and techniques - each confronting his or her own relevance in a time of profound cultural change. Each episode will feature an individual athlete/artist and explore a wide range of more than 40 options of sport and art disciplines from football, mountain climbing, skydiving and dog mushing to painting, sculpture, large scale installation, interactive and performance art.

The series uses a combination of candid narratives, present day and archival footage, personal anecdotes, and poignant insights into real-world issues to touch upon sources of inspiration, involvement with different sporting groups and artistic movements, as well as the unique challenges each athlete/artist has faced in realising their creative visions and the strategies they have employed to overcome them.

For many athletes, it is more than just about their exploits with a basketball or hockey stick. Likewise, many artists often find themselves at odds with society and its rules and conventions. While sports and art can seem like worlds apart, the inner conflicts and economic challenges faced are subjects both athletes and artists can relate to.

By showcasing the work and experiences of these athlete/artists, the docuseries aims to challenge and dispel the widespread misconceptions and prejudices that have historically forced people to choose between the two. Sport and art are universal languages that enable us to express ourselves physically, emotionally and even intellectually, allowing us to connect and communicate with each other around the world, crossing borders, cultures, languages and generations.

There is extraordinary opportunity for reinvention at this moment - a need to adapt. Highlighting the diverse ways in which sport and art can be harnessed to solve problems, evoke emotions, and transform spaces, **INK AND GOLD: THE SERIES** encourages viewers to rethink their physical and psychological boundaries and consider art's potential as a catalyst for personal growth and transformation.

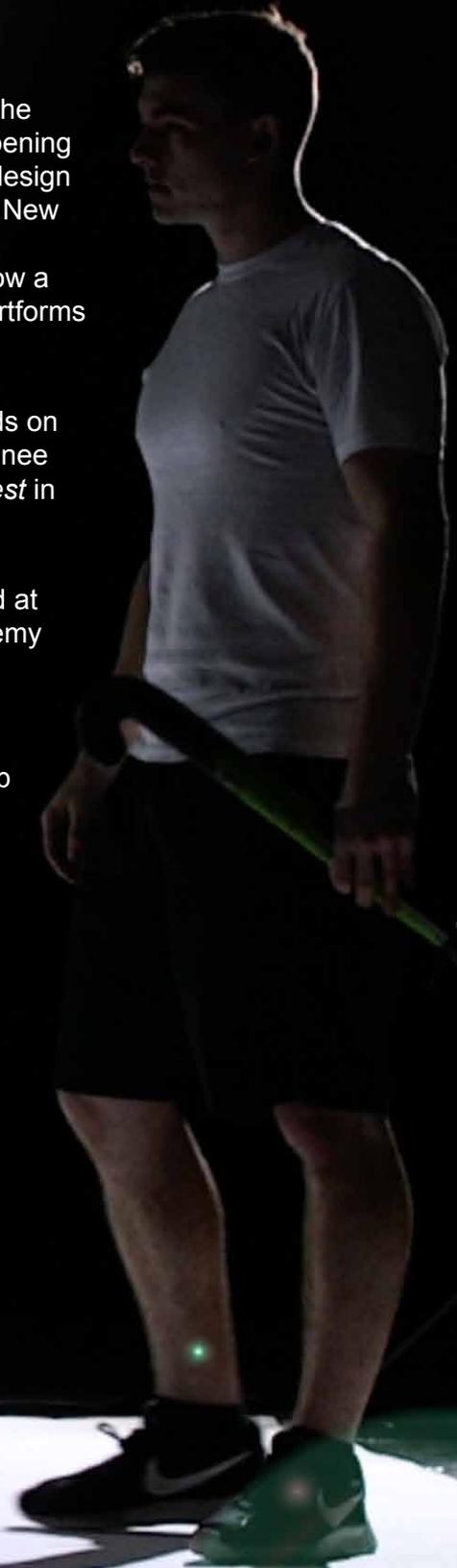
MARKET STRATEGY

Unique and global:

- The shortform documentary highlights the unique feat of Zakea being the only individual to have designed an Olympic medal and perform at an opening ceremony at any version of the Games. The story of his winning medal design has been publicised world-wide, featured in France, Switzerland, China, New Zealand, The Phillipines, Fiji and on international channels including the Olympic Channel and sport federation websites. The docuseries will follow a similar structure of revealing unexpected and unique pairings between artforms and sporting genres each athlete pursues.
- The film has completed an Oscar qualifying run and received 66 awards on the international festival circuit in 2023, culminating with an Official Nominee at the *SPORT MOVIES & TV 2023 – 40th Milano International FICTS Fest* in Milan, Italy in November 2023.
- Zakea is among a select group of individuals who have both performed at Olympic Games Opening/Closing ceremonies and qualified for an Academy Award which includes musical artists John Legend, Bryan Adams, Björk, Celine Dion, and Sir Paul McCartney.
- Each highlighted athlete in the docuseries is also among a select group of individuals who uses art to project their identity and perspectives.
- The combination of designing the medals, performing at an opening ceremony, and creating a documentary film is a rare multi-faceted contribution to a single Olympic Games/ major global sports event.

Multi-genre entertainment:

Sport, Art, Family, Motivational, Inspirational, Biographical



MARKET STRATEGY

Style and Comps:

- **Ink and Gold: An Artist's Journey to Olympic Glory** was shot in the style of commercial sports documentaries produced by recognisable brands such as Red Bull, Nike and ESPN. The story aligns with programming and distribution of previous short form documentary films such as *The Queen of Basketball* (2021 Oscar winner), *Audible* (2021 Oscar Nominated), *Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone* (2019 Oscar and BAFTA winner, A+E), *Zion* (2018 Sports Emmy winner, Netflix), *38 at the Garden* (2023 Emmy winner, HBO/HBO Max), *The Speed Cubers* (2022, Netflix), *Hold Your Breath: The Ice Dive* (2022, Netflix), and *Troublemakers* (2018, Amazon Prime).

The documentary short film will release in late 2023/early 2024 to coincide with major international sporting events of the ATP & WTA, IAAF, ICC, IDITAROD, IIHF, IOC, ISU, FIFA, UEFA, FIA, FIM & Motocross, FINA, IRFB, MLB, NASCAR, NBA & WBA, NFL, NHL, PGA, RL360, UCI, UFC, WS, WTC and the tX Games.

- **Ink and Gold: Where Sport Meets Art** aims to align with strategies of Emmy-winning Sport documentary series such as *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* (2022, Netflix), *Last Chance U* (2020, Netflix), *Cheer* (2020, Netflix), *The Last Dance* (2020, Netflix/ESPN), *Losers* (2019 Emmy nominated, Netflix), *Home Game* (2020, Netflix) and *30 for 30* (2014 Emmy winner, ESPN), as well as notable Art or Sport documentary films and series such as *Art in the Twentieth-Century* (2013 - 23, PBS), *Fabric* (2022, Redbull), *The Art of Making It* (2022, Ro*co Films International), *Grayson's Art Club* (2020-22, Channel 4 UK), *Untold: Crimes and Penalties* (2021, Netflix), *Pelé* (2021, Netflix), *Sisters on Track* (2021, Netflix), *Home Game* (2020, Netflix), and *Abstract: The Art of Design* (2017-19, Netflix).

The Docuseries will shoot in 2024 with release to follow in late 2024/early 2025, capitalizing on the press and awareness generated by the large media presence and global retention of these sporting events.

Positive social impact:

- We will emulate current social media campaigns such as Peloton's *#TogetherWeGoFar*; Nike's *#YouGotThis*; Puma's *#ForeverBetter*; Sport England's *#ThisGirlCan*; *#impossibleisnothing* and *#HereToCreate* by Adidas; Peace and Sport's *#WhiteCard*; Under Armour's *#ProtectThisHouse*; *#WhatsYourGoal* by the Chicago Blackhawks; Vodafone's *#FeelTheConnection*; Gatorade's *#FuelTomorrow*; and Star Sport's *#MaukePeChauka*... each with tens of millions of views and followers.

These campaigns focus on empowering conversations to illuminate how sports and art can help mental health and find confidence in one's true self; ways to see the possibility of reaching potentials and changing lives through the power of sport; and of seeing the world for what it can be, not as it is.

These attitudes are reflected in both our short documentary film and spin-off docuseries **Ink and Gold: Where Sport Meets Art**.

NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE

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CONFIDENTIAL

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