



63 OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

57 TOTAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

34 BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT AWARDS

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 63 Film Festivals since the beginning of 2023, receiving 57 awards to date including 34 Best Documentary Short 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

DESIGN COMPETITION VISUALS



The kid with the stick
Ben Barnes

What's that white face doing in the blue sky? It's a drawing of a stick figure, the winning design for the 2012 Olympic logo. It's a simple, minimalist design that captures the spirit of the Olympic Games. The drawing was created by a young man named Ben Barnes, who is a student at the University of North Carolina. Barnes' design was chosen from over 100,000 submissions. The logo is a simple stick figure with a white face, standing on a blue background. The design is simple and elegant, capturing the spirit of the Olympic Games. Barnes' design was chosen from over 100,000 submissions. The logo is a simple stick figure with a white face, standing on a blue background. The design is simple and elegant, capturing the spirit of the Olympic Games.



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

THE TEAM



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. Zakea will also participate in an upcoming exhibition at Fronteer Gallery in Sheffield in September.

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

K.W. is a founder and director of Blue Aeris, a multi-faceted production company specializing in film, music and live events based in New Zealand. Dedicated to developing a broad scope of experience and expertise in various positions of the production arena, he has immersed himself into several different disciplines and cultures across the globe. 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 the development and negotiations for the film version of the award winning video game *DREDGE* by NZ company Black Salt Games. 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, including *4 Inch Heals* which offers empowering views on alternative approaches to cancer treatment; *Friends: End Of Life Celebrations*, an upcoming docuseries that follows unique, personalized end-of-life funeral experiences that reaffirm the beauty and value of life AND death; and *Erroneous*, an upcoming feature documentary exposing the criminal world behind identity theft, falsification of death records and money laundering within the Social Security system and international banking corporations; 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); co-writer, director and producer of the critically acclaimed *Anne*, a play personally blessed by and based on the writings of Anne Morrow Lindbergh; 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.



THE TEAM



ETHAN THOMPSON, Producer/Colourist

Ethan is the Post-Production Supervisor and Senior DIT for POW Studios in Wellington, NZ. Since graduating from Victoria University of Wellington in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Ethan has been a freelance Post-Supervisor, DIT, and Editor; a DIT and assistant editor at Department of Post, Auckland; independent contractor for Melville Docs; and producer for several campaigns, including music videos such as the live session of *One Dollar Pizza* by CRYSTAL and the RNZ live session of *What If* by Wellington alt-pop duo Paper Plates. They were the editor for Isaac Gwen's *Tokyo*

Women which won Best Documentary Short at the 2021 Independent Short Film Awards; colorist for Kelly Moneymakers *VAKA*, a short documentary which represented Tokelau (the Ministry of Climate, Oceans, and Resilience) and New Zealand (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) at the UNFCCC's COP 25 in Madrid in December 2021. *VAKA* also won the World Distribution Award 2021 for *Best Short Environmental Documentary*.

SHYAM PATEL, Cinematographer/Producer

Shyam is a New Zealand-based cinematographer, graduating with honors from Massey University with a Bachelor of Design. He is the lead cinematographer for the upcoming documentary *Dance Dance Revolution*, a cinema verité short about Wellington nightclub 121 as hosts of their first three-day international music festival. Shyam was also cinematographer for many New Zealand artists including Benee, L.A.B, Mild Orange, Ocean Alley, and Neil MacLeod, additionally directing music videos for the likes of Riiki Reid and Drax Project. Shyam has also been the director of photography and directed commercials for Red Bull New Zealand, Massey University, and Upper Hutt City Council; as well as shooting content for New Zealand on Air, RNZ Music, World of Wearable Arts, and Land Rover New Zealand.



MATT ASUNDER, Associate Producer/Sound Mixer

Matt Asunder is an emerging producer, sound mixer and engineer based in Wellington, New Zealand. They specialize in post-production for audio-visual mediums, drawing on experience from across the screen, stage and events industries, honing their skills by working with POW Studios on such projects as *Head South* (2024) and *Miles From Nowhere* (2024) as well as with Park Road Post alumni in conjunction with Victoria University of Wellington. Regularly inspired by their contributions to Wellington's music scene, they have been observed mixing theater productions on-stage via DJ decks and delights in bringing local sounds to the table. They are blessed to have recently contributed to pushing important political issues such as representation of minority groups in the screen industry (*UNESCO Wellington City of Film's Diverse Voices*, 2022); climate change awareness (*The Next Step Doco Series*, 2022); the experience of immigrants in New Zealand (Doc Edge 2022 Short Film Winner: *Our Aotearoa*, 2022); as well as narratives which promote examination of multicultural connection (*The Lascar*, 2023).

INK AND GOLD

PERFORMANCE VISUALS



MARKET STRATEGY

Unique and global:

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 film has completed an Oscar qualifying run in Los Angeles and received 54 awards on the international festival circuit in 2023, culminating with an Official Selection at the *SPORT MOVIES & TV 2023 – 40th Milano International FICTS Fest* in Milan, Italy in November 2023. The title song, 'Dreams', reached #6 on the *Hot 20 NZ Singles Official Music Charts*.

Style:

Ink and Gold 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), *Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone* (2019 Oscar and BAFTA winner, A+E) and *Zion* (2018 Sports Emmy winner, Netflix), *Audible* (2021, Netflix), *38 at the Garden* (2022, HBO/HBO Max), *The Speed Cubers* (2022, Netflix), *Hold Your Breath: The Ice Dive* (2022, Netflix), and *Troublemakers* (2018, Amazon Prime).

Strong vision:

The film 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. It is not bound by race, gender, age, ethnicity or creed, appealing to a wide demographic who connect with the Olympic movement and are passionate about sport, the arts and culture.

Multi-genre entertainment:

Sport, Art, Family, Motivational, Inspirational, Biographical

Positive social impact:

Youth organisations expressed greatest concern about the impact of COVID-19 on mental well-being, disruptions to education, familial relations and friendships, as well as a limitation to individual freedoms. The message of this film inspires youth to develop solutions using creativity and dedication to ensure communities emerge stronger than before. We plan to emulate current social media campaigns such as Peloton's *#TogetherWeGoFar*, *#ThisGirlCan*, *#HereToCreate* by Adidas, *#WhatsYourGoal* by the Chicago Blackhawks, and *#MaukePeChauka...* each with tens of millions of views and followers.

FESTIVAL SELECTION & AWARDS

63 Official Selections with 57 Awards (including 34 Best Documentary Short Awards)

- 4theatre selection (*Italy*) - Best Documentary Short Award
- Accolade Global Film Competition (*CA, US*) - Best Documentary Short & Best Editing Awards
- Beausoleil Côte d'Azur International FICTS Festival du Cinéma Sportif (*France*) - Official Selection
- Boden International Film Festival (*Sweden*) - Best Documentary Short Semifinalist
- 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
- Emiratis Film Festival (*Oman*) - Official Selection
- FICLAPAZ - La Paz International Film Festival (*Plurinational State of Bolivia*) - Official Selection
- FilmHaus (*Germany*) - Official Selection
- Film in Focus (*Romania*) - Best Documentary Short Nominee
- Filmocracy Oscar Qualifying Program (*Los Angeles, CA*) - 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
- 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*) - Official Selection
- 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
- 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*) - Official Selection
- 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

FESTIVAL SELECTION & AWARDS

- **SPORT MOVIES & TV 2023 - 41st Milano International FICTS Fest (Italy) - Official Selection**
- **Sportfilm Festival Liberec (Czech Republic) - Official Selection**
- **Stockholm City Film Festival (Sweden) - Official Selection**
- **Suwon-Si International Film Festival (Republic of Korea) - Best Documentary Short Award**
- **Tekka International Film Festival (Singapore) - Best Documentary Short Award**
- **Tylos International Film Festival (Bahrain) - Best Documentary Short Award**
- **Valparaiso Amateur Film Festival (Chile) - Official Selection**
- **Vision Feast Film Festival (New Zealand) - Best Documentary Short Nominee**
- **Wings1929 International Film Festival (Malaysia) - Official Selection**
- **Wisdom Tree International Film Festival (India) - Official Selection**



SPECIFICATIONS

Project Type: Documentary Short Film

Genres: Sport, Inspirational, Olympic

Runtime: 15 minutes 50 seconds

Completion Date: January 5, 2023

Production Budget: 2,910 USD

Marketing Budget: 4,017 USD

Country of Origin: New Zealand

Country of Filming: New Zealand, Switzerland, China

Language: English

Closed Captions: English

Subtitles Available:

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

Shooting Format: 4K, 2K, 1080p

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Film Color: Color

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