

With hopes of competing in the Gay Games someday, two queer women from Uganda find healing in swimming. **BUT** the country they love only sees hate.

# UKAT Swim Documentary

UKAT "UGANDA KUCHU AQUATIC  
TEAM"



Directed by Kristal Mosley

Being the first LGBTQI swim team  
from Uganda wasn't their goal.



# LOGLINE

**Ugandan activists Clare Byarugaba and Didi Bakuraira are no strangers to protest marches, false charges, and constant scrutiny from the Ugandan government.**

**They co-founded the Ugandan Kuchu Aquatics Team (UKAT), Uganda's first queer swim team, to find healing in swimming.**





# SYNOPSIS

Uganda has been dubbed one of the most homophobic countries in the world.

Under a colonial-era law, gay sex can be punished with life in prison. And it's a law the citizenry supports.

Polls show that more than 60% of Ugandans support anti-gay legislation.

## Rolling Stone

UGANDA'S LEADING INVESTIGATIVE POLITICAL NEWSPAPER

ISSUE NO. 05

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Ushs 1500

### 100 PICTURES OF UGANDA'S TOP HOMOS LEAK

Hang them



INTELLIGENCE

Military  
Chiefs  
Rush To  
Congo Over  
ADF

INVESTIGATION

8000  
Bududa  
Victims  
Rot In  
Camps

TARIFF WAR

- We Shall Recruit 1000,000 Innocent Kids By 2012 - Homos
- Parents Now Face Heart-breaks As Homos Raid Schools



A young Black woman wearing a black swim cap with a white American flag on the side is smiling and hugging an older man from behind. They are in a swimming pool. The man is shirtless and wearing blue swim trunks. The woman is also shirtless and wearing a dark swimsuit. In the background, other people are visible in the pool area, including a man in a black shirt and another person in a colorful swimsuit. The setting appears to be an indoor pool with a white tiled wall.

But the good news is that sports has an incredible power to heal.



# MEET THE CAST





# MEET CLARE

Byarugaba

At the age of 25, Clare Byarugaba heeded the advice of her therapist and took up swimming to help her handle the pressures of being an out lesbian in Uganda.

In the water, alone with her thoughts, she realized others needed healing too. She met Diane "Didi" Buraira in 2008. Didi, who was shut out of the sport as a young girl, was rekindling her love of the water when she saw Clare swimming every day at a local pool. The two became fast friends.

A swimmer in a blue and black suit is crouching on a starting block at a pool. Other swimmers are visible in the background, also in starting positions. The scene is set in an indoor pool with spectators and staff in the background.

# MEET “DIDI”

Buraira

UKAT SWIM TEAM COACH

She was born Diane Buraira. But to her close friends, she’s “Didi”.

When Didi suffered a brutal gang rape and was left for dead in 2015, swimming became more than hobby. It would now be a lifeline critical to her healing process.

She longed for a community that could provide support.



# MEET NATE

FREEMAN

HUMAN RIGHTS ATTORNEY

CYCLIST



SWIMMER



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## U.S. Lawyer Cycles Through Africa in Support of LGBT Rights

In 2016, lawyer Nate Freeman set off on a journey close to his heart. He cycled roughly 7,450 miles through 10 countries, from Cairo to Cape Town, stopping only to sleep. His goal? To meet with LGBT activists and blog updates for his nonprofit, Out in Africa Ride. He completed the route—equivalent to cycling between New York and Los Angeles almost three times, —over 121 days, finishing in Cape Town.

Freeman said he hoped his journey would highlight the fact that Africa "is a hotbed for grassroots LGBT activism."

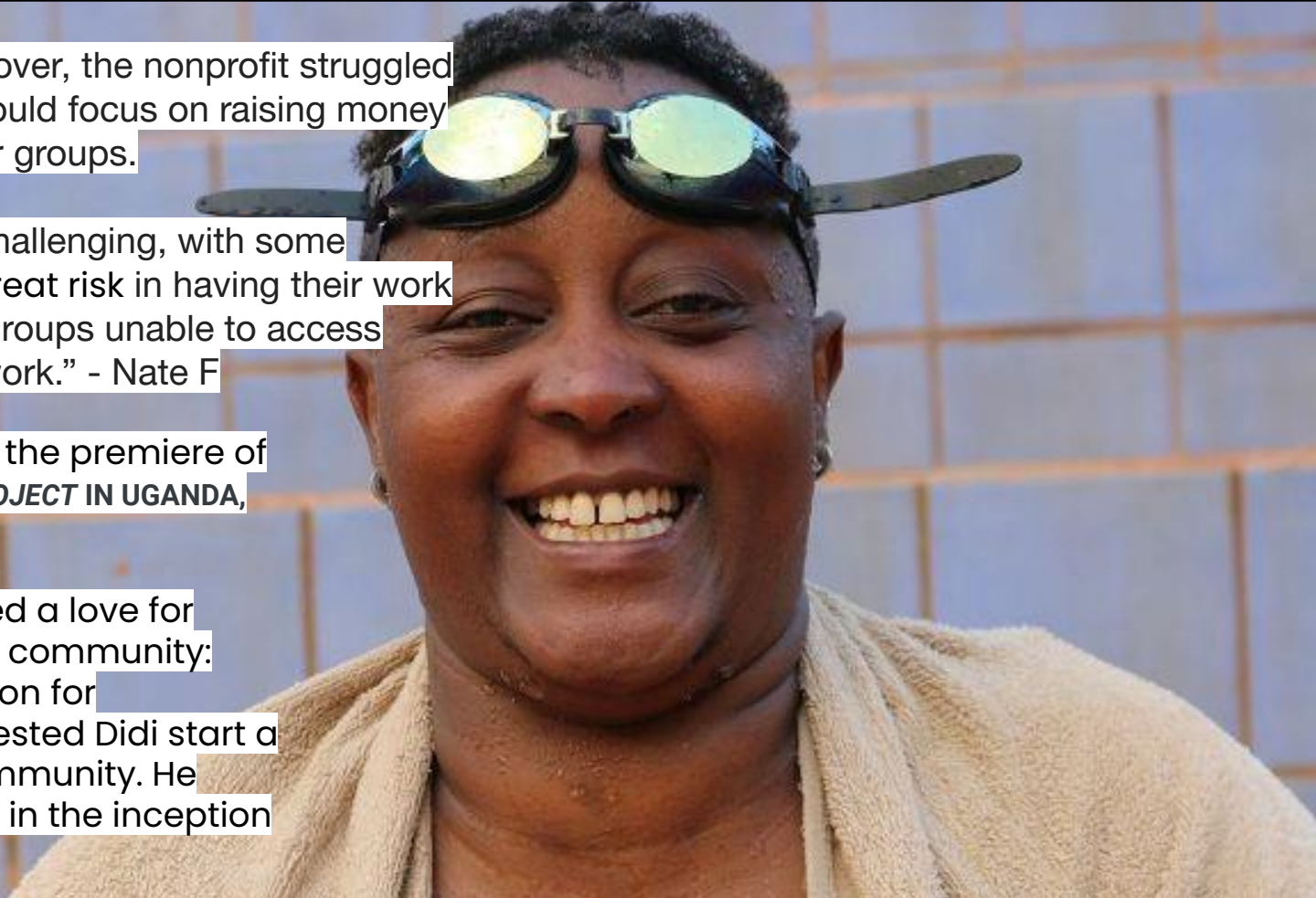


Once Freeman's trip is over, the nonprofit struggled to decide whether it should focus on raising money or creating exposure for groups.


“Both options can be challenging, with some groups experiencing great risk in having their work highlighted, and other groups unable to access foreign funds for their work.” - Nate F

Once Nate met Didi at the premiere of his film *“THE LARAMIE PROJECT IN UGANDA,”* the answer was clear.

The two not only shared a love for Africa and their LGBTQ community: They both had a passion for swimming. Nate suggested Didi start a swim team for her community. He would play a vital part in the inception of UKAT.





A group of people, including several women in red and white athletic wear, are walking on a stage. In the foreground, a large black stage light is visible. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

UKAT made their global debut when they flew the Ugandan flag at the Paris Gay Games in 2016, declaring that everyone has the right to participate safely in sports, no matter their sexual orientation and gender identity or background.

While the team is targeted towards members of Uganda's LGBTI community, the team is open to anyone who believes in UKAT's values of diversity, equality, and inclusiveness.



# UKAT COMPETITIONS

2016 EDMONTON, CANADA "IGLA" International Gay and Lesbian Aquatic Championships

2016 PARIS "GAY GAMES"

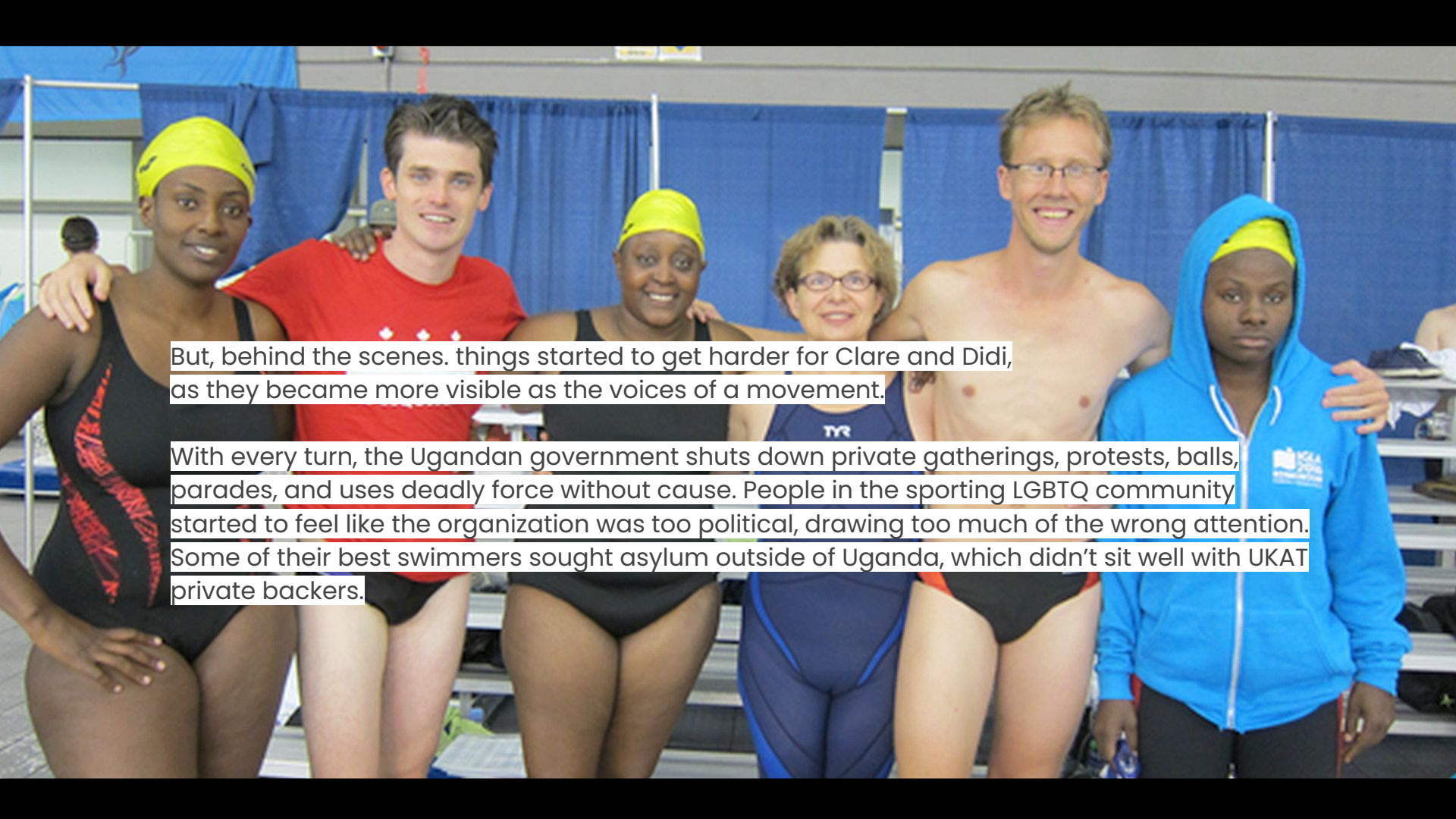
2017 MIAMI "WORLD OUT GAMES"

2019 NEW YORK "IGLA" International Gay and Lesbian Aquatic Championships

**As a non professional swim team, UKAT has accumulated over 100 medals.**

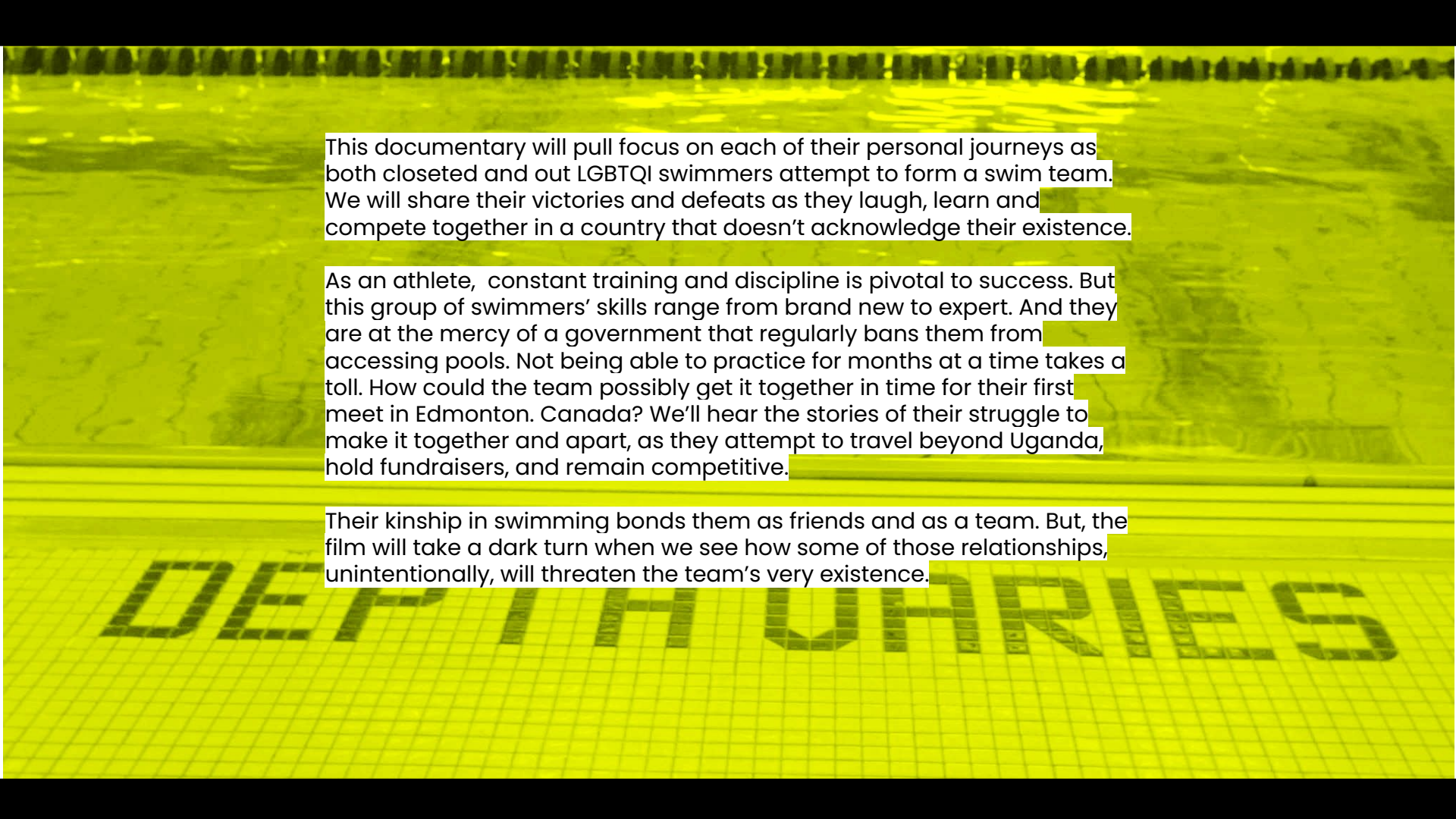






But, behind the scenes, things started to get harder for Clare and Didi, as they became more visible as the voices of a movement.

With every turn, the Ugandan government shuts down private gatherings, protests, balls, parades, and uses deadly force without cause. People in the sporting LGBTQ community started to feel like the organization was too political, drawing too much of the wrong attention. Some of their best swimmers sought asylum outside of Uganda, which didn't sit well with UKAT private backers.

A swimming pool with a yellow tint. The word "DEPTH" is visible on the bottom of the pool. The water is rippling, and the overall scene is bright and somewhat abstract due to the color filter.

This documentary will pull focus on each of their personal journeys as both closeted and out LGBTQI swimmers attempt to form a swim team. We will share their victories and defeats as they laugh, learn and compete together in a country that doesn't acknowledge their existence.

As an athlete, constant training and discipline is pivotal to success. But this group of swimmers' skills range from brand new to expert. And they are at the mercy of a government that regularly bans them from accessing pools. Not being able to practice for months at a time takes a toll. How could the team possibly get it together in time for their first meet in Edmonton, Canada? We'll hear the stories of their struggle to make it together and apart, as they attempt to travel beyond Uganda, hold fundraisers, and remain competitive.

Their kinship in swimming bonds them as friends and as a team. But, the film will take a dark turn when we see how some of those relationships, unintentionally, will threaten the team's very existence.



While these fearless swimmers will not back down from challenging Uganda at the height of its power, they also long to bring the community back together around their first love: a passion for sports and sporting events.



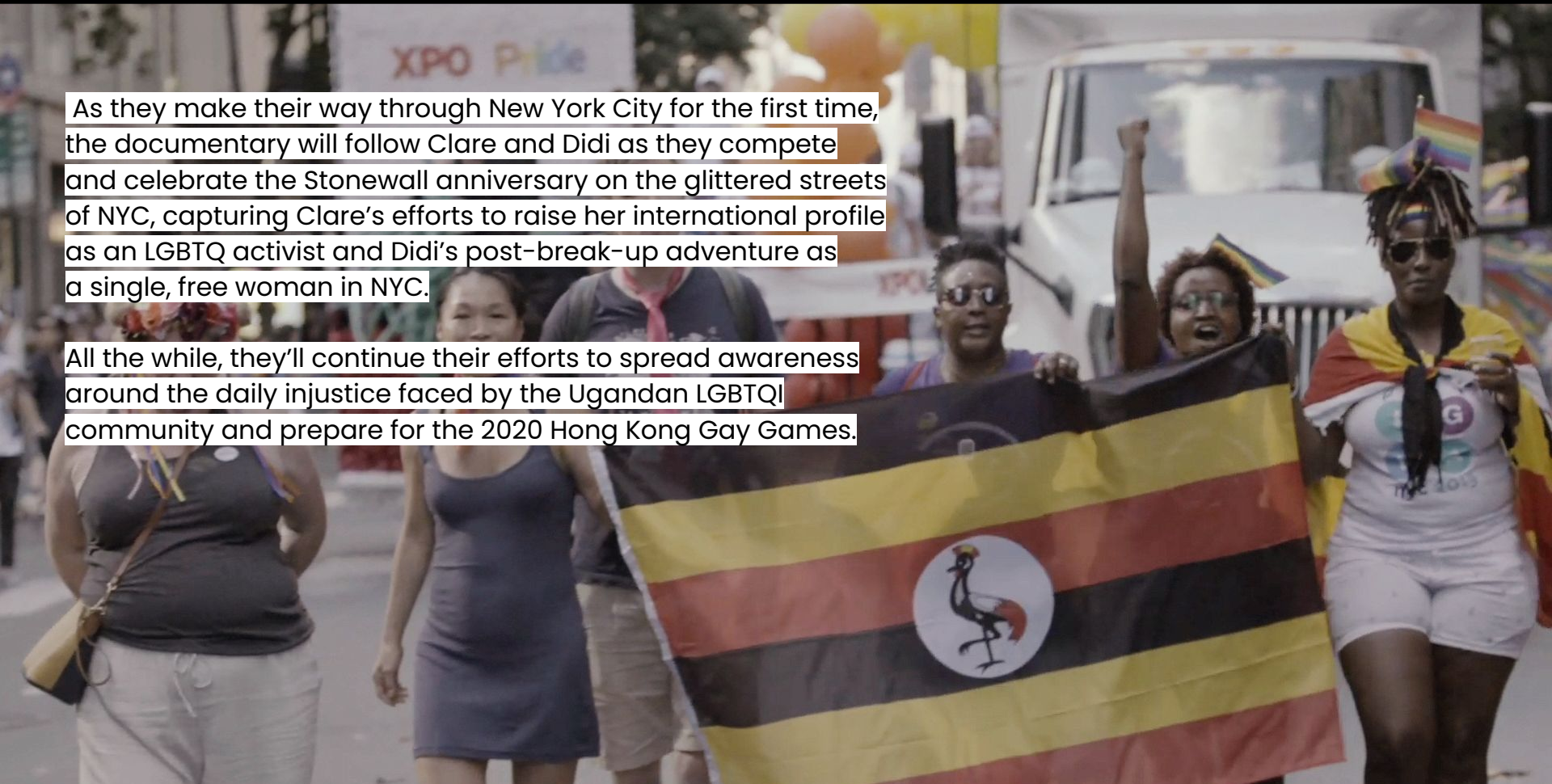
A crowd of diverse people is gathered behind a metal barricade, likely at a Pride parade in New York City. In the background, the Freedom Tower and other skyscrapers are visible against a hazy sky. A man in the foreground is holding a transgender flag. The scene is filled with people of various ages and ethnicities, some looking towards the camera and others looking away.

***" We stand to lose everything, if we give up now."***  
**- Clare Byarugaba**



As they make their way through New York City for the first time, the documentary will follow Clare and Didi as they compete and celebrate the Stonewall anniversary on the glittered streets of NYC, capturing Clare's efforts to raise her international profile as an LGBTQ activist and Didi's post-break-up adventure as a single, free woman in NYC.

All the while, they'll continue their efforts to spread awareness around the daily injustice faced by the Ugandan LGBTQI community and prepare for the 2020 Hong Kong Gay Games.



# SIMILAR FILMS



This film festival favorite follows a group of African-American gay and transgender youth in one of Washington D.C.'s most violent neighborhoods. After being subjected to constant torment and assault, the group formed their own gang for camaraderie and protection.



The story follow us on a journey from the west African pearl divers of the 1700s through the 1800s US Jim Crow era and the stratification of US swimming, to the indigenous athletic tradition of the Caribbean swimmers to the epidemic drowning levels in African-American communities and finishing with the mythical story of the championship run of Cullen Jones, three women named Simone, Lea and Natalie and a Young boy named Reece and everything in between. ONE LOVE. (2016)

**Box Office Budget:** \$350,000 (estimated)



**F(1)ag Football** is a 2015 American documentary film on the National Gay Flag Football League directed by Seth Greenleaf. It documents the training of players on the NGFFL's New York Warriors team as they prepare for the Gay Bowl. The documentary explores masculinity in sports. The documentary stars, Wade Davis, team captain of the New York Warriors, Cyd Zeigler, co-founder of the NGFFL, Brenton Metzler, and Jared Garduno.



“ From *Rocky* to *Field of Dreams*, sports movies are among the most beloved of American films. Revolving around familiar narratives like the underdog story, these movies have generated modern-day legends, reinforcing and disseminating our national myths about the American Dream.”

-- Lester D. Friedman, Sports Movies  
Emeritus professor and former chair of the Media and Society Program



# EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR

## Kristal Mosley

is an independent content producer-director and editor who has worked with brands including Viacom, Comedy Central, TLC, Oxygen, VICE, BRIC TV and the Discovery Channel to create compelling, diverse content that has reached millions of viewers across the globe.

She currently partners with CEOs, executives, and high-level entrepreneurs to further the reach of their professional brands and digital projects. Kristal's technique focuses on video docu-branding. This new concept treats video not as a project, but as an evergreen brand-nurturing tool — to develop ongoing, high-quality, story-driven video that works from an overarching content development platform.

Her own work as a filmmaker and cinematographer has been featured on PBS, AOL, iTunes and even in the Smithsonian Institute. She founded Alignment Pictures as a vehicle for networks, production companies, and independent producers to distribute her own and their work.