

TWO-TIME EMMY® AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER

Baktash Ahadi

Human-centered sports storytelling for athletes, brands, teams, and institutions.

Director

Producer

Executive Producer

Writer

▶ Watch the director's reel





Sport is never just about sport.

I make films that use sport as a doorway into something deeper: human dignity, cultural identity, resilience, and transformation.

At its best, sport reveals who we are.

WHY NOW

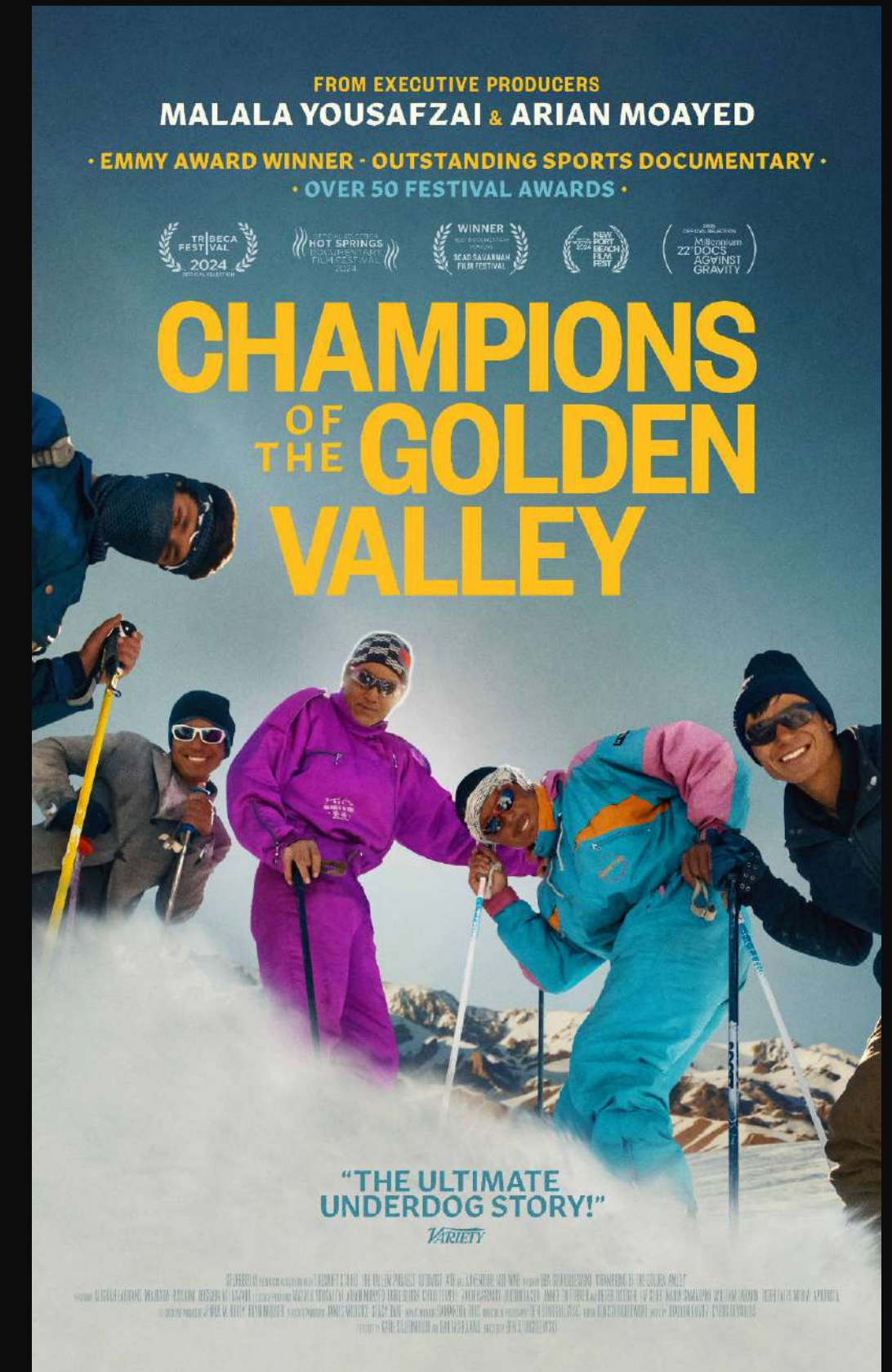
An Emmy-winning story. A moment of momentum.

As a producer of Champions of the Golden Valley, I helped bring to life a story that began in the mountains of Afghanistan and resonated around the world.

SPORTS EMMY® AWARD WINNER

Outstanding Sports Documentary — Long Form

*The opportunity right now is not to make more sports content.
It is to make sports stories that endure.*



IMPACTFUL STORIES

The world responds to sports stories with soul.

What resonates most are stories that do more than document performance — they reveal character, illuminate culture, and stay with people long after the final whistle.

Emotional depth

Cinematic beauty

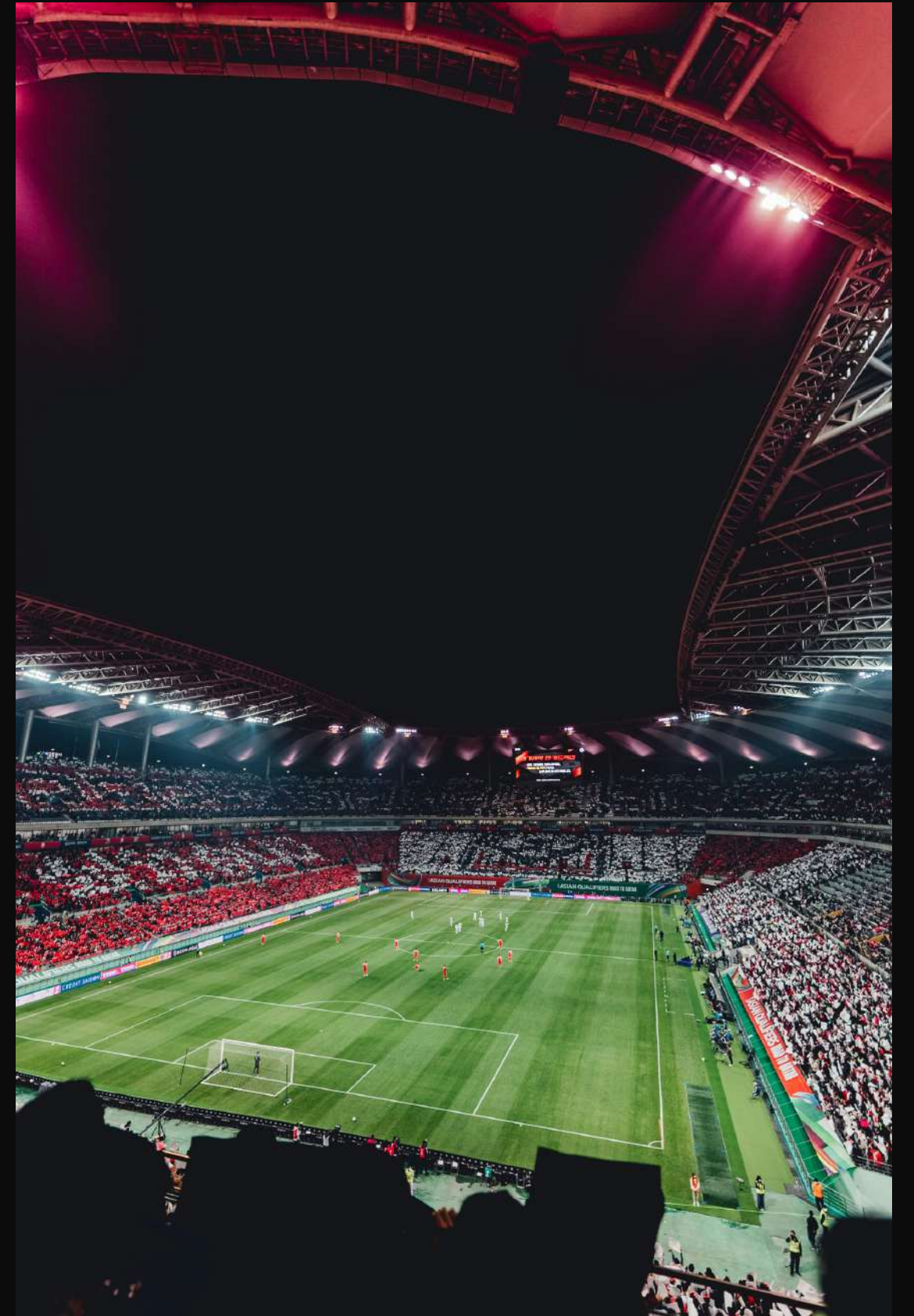
Cultural specificity

Universal resonance

Real human stakes

Impact beyond the screen

Human-centered sports films that move beyond spectacle into meaning.



DIRECTOR'S REEL



A body of work shaped by conflict zones, intimate human spaces, global stories, and people navigating moments of rupture, pressure, and transformation.

The race, the match, the mountain, the fight — never just events. They are containers for meaning.

WHAT I BRING

A different kind of sports storyteller.

I bring more than production experience. I bring a way of seeing — built across cultures, institutions, and high-trust human environments.

- I know how to enter sensitive stories with care.
- I know how to build trust with subjects.
- I know how to hold complexity without flattening it.
- I know how to shape emotional arcs that connect.

For athletes and brands: honest, cinematic, enduring stories — never promotional.



Filmmaker & producer

Peace Corps volunteer

Cultural intelligence practitioner

Military interpreter

Leadership facilitator

Human-centered. Cinematic. Purposeful.

I am especially drawn to sports stories about —

- Underdogs and unlikely champions
- Athletes shaped by migration, identity, and family
- Women breaking barriers in sport
- Sport as healing, belonging, and transformation
- The human cost behind excellence
- The moment after victory, when the deeper story begins

The best sports films don't simply ask "Did they win?" They ask —

"What did it take to become this person?"

Available for select projects and partnerships.



Directing

Premium short and feature documentaries, branded films, and athlete films.



Producing

Creative, field, and development producing; access and cultural strategy.



Executive Producing

Festival positioning, awards visibility, and high-level partnerships.



Writing

Narration, treatments, story architecture, and campaign language.



Story Advisory

Emotional clarity, structure, and meaning — development through rough cut.

WHO THIS IS FOR

Built for stories worth telling.

- Athletes building legacy beyond competition
- Sports brands investing in original storytelling
- Teams and leagues seeking human narratives
- Foundations using sport for social change
- Universities, streaming platforms, and studios
- Agencies and companies that treat sport as culture

The goal is not content volume — it is cinematic story with emotional and cultural staying power.



Flexible formats. Premium execution.

8–20

MINUTES

Short Documentary

Athlete stories, brand campaigns, foundation work, digital release, festivals.

25–45

MINUTES

Mid-Length Documentary

Character-driven stories, team stories, broadcast and streaming opportunities.

70–100

MINUTES

Feature Documentary

Major athlete stories, legacy films, social impact, premium distribution.

3–6

EPISODES

Multi-Part Series

Teams, academies, foundations, and stories unfolding over time.

Film+

IMPACT

Campaign + Impact Package

Cinematic short plus social cutdowns, screenings, and partner materials.

The strongest sports films do not feel like advertisements.

They feel like truth.

Deepen audience connection

Elevate an athlete's legacy

Strengthen a brand's emotional identity

Attract partners, funders, and sponsors

Reach beyond core sports audiences

Transform visibility into meaning

SELECTED WORK

Credits & recognition.

Champions of the Golden Valley

PRODUCER · Sports Emmy® Winner · 50+ Jury & Audience Awards · Tribeca World Premiere

Retrograde

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER · Emmy® Winner · Academy Award® Shortlist · Nat Geo

HollywoodGate

CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER · Academy Award® Shortlist · Emmy® Nominated

Frame by Frame

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER / TRANSLATOR · SXSW Premiere

Almost American

PRODUCER · Big Sky Documentary Film Festival

NARRATIVE INTELLIGENCE

Stories shape how we see the world.

Narrative intelligence shapes how we understand it.

My work is grounded in Narrative Intelligence — the ability to recognize, interpret, and responsibly engage the stories that shape identity, trust, belonging, and meaning. In sports, it means seeing beyond the scoreboard — to the emotional, cultural, and personal forces beneath performance.

That is where powerful sports storytelling begins.



- What is this athlete carrying?
- What does this journey reveal?
- What does it make visible?
- Why does it matter now?
- What will audiences feel and remember?

Story territories I'm actively exploring.

The Athlete as Migrant

Athletes shaped by migration, exile, cultural identity, and belonging.

The Underdog System

Teams building excellence without access to elite infrastructure.

Women at the Edge of Change

Female athletes reshaping what is possible in their sport or country.

Sport as Healing

Veterans, refugees, and communities reclaiming dignity through sport.

The Cost of Greatness

Pressure, injury, sacrifice, reinvention, and identity beyond performance.

The Future of Sport

Young athletes navigating NIL, social media, technology, and representation.

LET'S TALK

Let's tell the story beneath the sport.

Now opening select conversations with athletes, brands, teams, agencies, and institutions interested in premium documentary storytelling.

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REEL [▶ f.io/h8bRODFy](https://f.io/h8bRODFy)

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