



*SXSW 2015 - Official Selection*

*Hot Docs International Documentary Film Festival 2015 - Official Selection - Big Ideas*

*AFI Docs Film Festival 2015 – Official Selection*

*Frameline San Francisco LGBT Film Festival 2015 - Centerpiece Gala*

*Ouffest Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival 2015 – Centerpiece Gala*

*BFI Flare London LGBT Film Festival 2015 - Closing Night Film*

*Boston LGBT Film Festival 2015 - Closing Night Film*

**A Documentary Directed By Malcolm Ingram**

**PRESS NOTES**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

*Out to Win* is a documentary film from award-winning Sundance alumni Malcolm Ingram that serves as an overview and examination of lives and careers of aspiring and professional gay and lesbian athletes from all over the world. Chronicling the present, framed within a historical context of those that came before, this film highlights the experiences of athletes who have fought and struggled, both in and out of the closet, to represent the LGBT community and their true selves. This film is told through the voices of pioneers, present day heroes, tomorrow's superstars and the people who've helped them get to where they are including agents, managers, fans, team mates, coaches, organizations and members of the media.

## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – MALCOLM INGRAM**

I was sitting watching TV when the news broke that an openly gay football player was setting his sights on the NFL for the first time. I knew right away this was a game changer. While gay marriage has long been a main talking point in the fight for gay rights, I instantly recognized the significance of the possibility that a gay man was going to be teleported into millions of people's living rooms via the perceived virile world of football.

I have always believed the fight for equal rights will only be won through representation and a truly historic moment was taking place.

Within a week I had miraculously secured funding and thus began the journey that ultimately led us to not only chronicle what was happening now but also look back at where it all started.

We couldn't believe what we found and feel privileged to share these stories with you.

## **STATEMENT on *OUT TO WIN* – CYD ZEIGLER, FOUNDER OF OUTSPORTS.COM**

The history of the gay sports movement has been in the making for four decades, since former NFL player Dave Kopay came out publicly in 1975. Yet we have never seen such movement in the conversation like we have in the last year. 2014 was the year of the gay athlete as we saw people like Jason Collins, Brittney Griner, Conner Mertens and Michael Sam break incredible barriers. What had been deemed impossible was suddenly infinitely possible after the last year.

Documenting that journey, not just over the last year but over the 40-year history of the gay sports movement, is powerful. Gay history has simply been pushed to the sidelines of sports, politics and entertainment for too long. To have a film that tells the stories of gay athletes is a powerful, educational, and entertaining tool for telling the entire story of the history of gay people all over the world.

## **INTERVIEW SUBJECTS INCLUDE:**

- **Billie Jean King** - *Women's tennis icon*
- **Martina Navratilova** - *World Champion tennis player*
- **David Kopay** - *NFL player*
- **Jason Collins** - *NBA player*
- **Brittney Griner** - *WNBA player*
- **John Amaechi** - *NBA player*
- **Billy Bean** - *MLB player*
- **Charline Labonté** - *Olympic gold medal-winning Women's Hockey goalie*
- **Conner Mertens** - *first openly gay, active NCAA football player*
- **Chandler Whitney** - *out College baseball player*
- **Robert Gulliver** - *NFL Executive VP*
- **Kathleen Behrens** - *NBA and WNBA Executive VP*
- **Cameron Weiss** - *Sports agent for Michael Sam*
- **Howard Bragman** - *Publicist for Michael Sam*
- **Kate Fagan** - *Columnist, ESPN*
- **Bill Plaschke** - *Award-winning Los Angeles Times sports reporter*
- **Cyd Zeigler** - *Founder and journalist, Outsports.com*
- **Peter Tatchell** - *LGBT rights activist*
- **Pat Griffin** - *LGBT sports activist, Founding Director of GLSEN's Changing the Game*
- **Wade Davis** - *Former NFL player and Executive Director, You Can Play*
- **Patrick Burke** - *NHL Executive and Founder and Director, You Can Play*
- **Brian Sims** - *Openly gay Pennsylvania State Representative and former NCAA Football Captain*
- **Aslie Pitter** - *Founder, Stonewall FC*
- **Kony Ealy** - *Top 2014 NFL Draft pick and Michael Sam's college teammate*

## **ABOUT THE FEATURED ATHLETES**

### **David Kopay**

Dave Kopay made headlines in 1975 when he became the first NFL player and one of the first professional athletes to come out. His autobiography, now in its fifth printing, was a New York Times bestseller.

Kopay began his football career at Notre Dame High School in Los Angeles, a school known for its championship athletics. He was named to the all-Catholic conference all-star football team. He enrolled at the University of Washington and as team co-captain led the Huskies to the PAC-10 conference title. The following year, he was named an All-American running back. In 1964, Kopay was drafted by the San Francisco 49ers. He was the team's leading rusher in his rookie year. He played for five NFL teams in his nine-year career, including the Detroit Lions, the Washington Redskins, the New Orleans Saints and the Green Bay Packers.

Three years after retiring from the NFL, Kopay came out publicly in an interview with the Washington Star. He shared details about his struggle with homophobia and sports in "The

David Kopay Story," published in 1977. Kopay pursued coaching positions with NCAA and NFL teams, but believes he wasn't hired because he is gay. A champion of gay rights for more than 30 years, Kopay has given hundreds of speeches and media interviews. In 2007, he donated \$1 million to the University of Washington's LGBT center.

### **Martina Navratilova**

A champion on and off the court, Martina is not only a tennis legend, but an inspirational leader who demonstrates tenacity, candor and motivation. Arguably the best tennis player ever to step on the court, Martina amassed an unmatched number of professional records over the course of a career that spanned an amazing four decades. She has won 59 Grand Slam crowns and a record 9 Wimbledon singles champions.

Off the court, Martina has lived an equally bold and successful life. As one of the first openly gay sports figures, she has spent much of her career overcoming prejudices and stereotypes, giving up millions of dollars in endorsements and sponsorships as a result of her insistence on living a life of integrity and honesty. Since coming out in 1981, she has been an inspiring and vocal advocate for equal rights and a strong supporter of many charities benefiting the LGBT community. She has received numerous awards from many of the most influential organizations within the LGBT community.

### **Billie Jean King**

As one of the 20th century's most respected and influential people, Billie Jean King has long been a champion for social change and equality. She created new inroads for both genders in and out of sports during her legendary tennis career and she continues to make her mark today.

Billie Jean King was one of nine players who broke away from the tennis establishment and accepted \$1 contracts from tennis promoter Gladys Heldman in Houston. The revolt led to the birth of women's professional tennis and the formation of the Virginia Slims Tour and Women's Tennis Association. She has won 39 Grand Slam singles, doubles and mixed doubles tennis titles, including a record 20 titles at Wimbledon and made international headlines and empowered women and educated men when she defeated Bobby Riggs in one of the greatest moments in sports history – the Battle of the Sexes in 1973. This match is remembered for its effect on society and its contribution to the women's movement. Billie Jean King continues to be a leader in the fight for equality and recognition in the GLBT community, and has been honored by many of the leading GLBT organizations, including the Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD and Lambda Legal Foundation.

### **John Amaechi**

John's journey to becoming an elite-athlete almost defies belief: at the age of 17, when he first picked up a basketball, John was considered 'too late to the game' and 'not athletic enough' to have any chance of success in domestic sport, much less overseas. Six short years later he became a 'starter' in the National Basketball Association (NBA), playing for the Cleveland Cavaliers, Orlando Magic and Utah Jazz over the course of his career. Twelve years from first picking up a basketball, John became the first and only Briton to have his jersey hung in the U.S. Basketball Hall of Fame. Even in 'retirement,' John led the England squad to bronze (its first and only ever medal finish) in the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

In 2007, John wrote his New York Times bestselling book "Man in the Middle," chronicling his

life and work and providing distinct lessons to anyone ever told that they weren't capable of doing great things. John is a social affairs and sports pundit for the BBC, Sky, CNN and ESPN as well as a presenter on a range of radio and television programmes, including ITV's "Britain on the Move" series and Channel 5's weekly "Sport on Five".

### **Billy Bean**

Billy Bean is the only openly gay Major League Baseball player alive today. From 1987 to 1995, he played for the Detroit Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers, and San Diego Padres.

As a closeted gay man in the often anti-gay world of baseball, Bean faced a wrenching choice between his love of the game and the love of his life. Ultimately unable to reconcile the two worlds he lived in, he walked away from pro baseball in the prime of his career. When Bean came out in 1999, his story found nationwide media coverage, including on the Sunday cover of The New York Times and on CNN. On December 8, 1999, he was interviewed by Diane Sawyer on the nationally televised TV program 20/20. His memoir, *Going the Other Way*, originally published in 2003, became a national bestseller. On July 15, 2014, Major League Baseball commissioner Bud Selig announced the appointment of Billy Bean as MLB's first Ambassador for Inclusion, a role which puts him at the fore of the League's efforts for a fair and equitable workplace throughout all of baseball.

### **Wade Davis**

Wade Davis is a former NFL player who is one of a small number of openly gay men to have played professional sports. Davis played college football at Weber State before spending four years with NFL practice squads and in NFL Europe. In addition to his collegiate and professional sports background, Davis worked with inner-city LGBTQ youth at the prestigious Hetrik-Martin Institute in New York City.

Currently the Executive Director of the You Can Play Project, an advocacy group working for equality for LGBT athletes in sports, Davis also co-founded the You Belong Initiative, which partnered with the NBA, You Can Play, and other LGBT Sports groups to provide the world's first LGBTQ sports camp to inner city youth. Davis has written for the New York Times, Huffington Post, Outsports.com, and other major media outlets.

### **Jason Collins**

Jason Collins is a retired American professional basketball player who played 13 seasons in the National Basketball Association (NBA). He played college basketball for Stanford University where he was an All-American in 2000–01, before being drafted 18th overall pick in the 2001 NBA draft by the Houston Rockets. He went on to play for the New Jersey Nets, Memphis Grizzlies, Minnesota Timberwolves, Atlanta Hawks, Boston Celtics, Washington Wizards and Brooklyn Nets.

After the 2012–13 NBA season concluded, Collins publicly came out as gay. He became a free agent and did not play again until February 2014, when he signed with the Nets and became the first publicly gay athlete to play in any of four major North American pro sports leagues. In April 2014, Collins was featured on the cover of Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People in the World" issue.

### **Brittney Griner**

Brittney Griner is an openly lesbian American professional women's basketball center with the Phoenix Mercury of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). She played college

basketball at Baylor University in Waco, Texas and was the first NCAA basketball player ever to score 2,000 points and block 500 shots. In 2012, the three-time All-American was named the AP Player of the Year, the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four and received the Best Female Athlete ESPY Award. In 2014 she won the WNBA Championship with the Phoenix Mercury and was named the WNBA Defensive Player of the Year.

### **Charline Labonté**

Charline Labonté is a three-time Olympic gold medalist (Salt Lake City in 2002, Turin in 2006, Vancouver in 2010) and has been a member of Canada's National Hockey Team since 2000. Charline has been part of five IIHF World Women's Championships (2012, gold; 2011, silver; 2009, silver; 2008, silver; 2007, gold; 2005, silver; 2004, gold), five 4 Nations Cups (2011, 2008, 2005, 2004, 2003) and the Torino Ice Tournament (2005). She was named Top Goaltender by the Tournament Directorate at the 2009 IIHF World Women's Championship. In June 2014, Labonté publicly came out as a lesbian in an article she wrote featured on Outsports.com.

### **Conner Mertens**

Conner Mertens is an American football placekicker for the Willamette Bearcats. He was the first active college football player to publicly come out about his sexuality and his story was the subject of a large amount of media attention in early 2014. Since coming out, Mertens continues to be active and interested in the LGBT sports equality movement.

### **Chandler Whitney**

Chandler Whitney is an openly gay college baseball player currently playing with the Walla Walla Warriors. Originally from Beaverton, Oregon, he batted .350 in high school with a .461 on-base percentage. He was first-team all-state in Oregon his senior year, leading the team to the state semifinals.

## **ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS**

### **MALCOLM INGRAM - Director**

MALCOLM INGRAM (Director / Producer) While on assignment for Film Threat magazine, Ingram met filmmaker Kevin Smith (Chasing Amy, Dogma, Clerks), who soon became his mentor. Smith financed Ingram's first feature film, "Drawing Flies," starring rising talent Jason Lee. Shot in the summer of 1995, the comedy found success on the Festival circuit and was released on DVD. Ingram's next feature, "Tail Lights Fade" featured a high profile, talented cast including Denise Richards, Jake Busey, Elizabeth Berkeley and Margot Kidder. The film, a delirious action-comedy-drama, was released by Trimark/Lions Gate in 1999.

His third film, the documentary "Small Town Gay Bar," has screened at over 100 film festivals around the globe. Making its world premiere at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival, the film received a nomination for the Grand Jury Prize and went on to get a *GLAAD Media Award* nomination for Best Documentary. It also garnered multiple awards including the HBO Award for Best Documentary at the Miami LGBT Film Festival and the Grand Jury Award at Outfest in Los Angeles. Ingram's next film project, "Bear Nation," premiered at the 2010 SXSW Film Festival and played over 50 film festivals before winning the Best Documentary at the Atlanta International Film Festival.

His most recent documentary "Continental," that tells the story of the infamous NYC gay landmark that started the careers of Bette Midler, Barry Manilow, Patti LaBelle and Frankie

Knuckles while serving as a cultural and political hub, premiered to sell-out audiences at the 2013 SXSW Film Festival. It has since gone on to win awards and screen at festivals including the Hot Docs International Documentary Festival, Outfest, Frameline, Palm Springs International Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival and 2013 BAM Cinemafest.

**SEAN STANLEY - Editor**

After years of editing award-winning short films and music videos and before tackling "Out To Win," Stanley's first feature-length editor credit came on Malcolm Ingram's SXSW 2013 documentary "Continental". Stanley stays up late and has a healthy interest in rock and roll.

**ANDREW MACDONALD - Director of Photography**

After attending Ryerson University's Media Arts program in the early 90's, MacDonald began work as a lighting technician in the emerging Toronto feature film world. MacDonald worked his way through the trades until he became fluent in all aspects of the filmmaking craft, from polished commercial work to guerrilla documentary. MacDonald has developed a rewarding career in the doc/reality TV and feature film world, shooting for networks including Discovery, History, National Geographic, CNN, OLN and Quest UK, on a regular basis. MacDonald also worked as one of the cinematographers on Malcolm Ingram's SXSW 2013 documentary "Continental" and spends time working in the developing world shooting for several NGO clients.

**MATT THOMAS - Producer**

Matt Thomas attended York University's Film Program before taking on the job as editor of *fab* Magazine, Canada's largest gay men's magazine. Thomas has acted as a host and interviewer on OutTV's yearly "Out @ TIFF," which covers the LGBT content at the Toronto International Film Festival, and on the Banff Television Festival Rockie Award-winning pilot "The Gayest Show Ever." Film credits include directing "The Orange Ball" (Bravofact) and "All Over Town" (2014 Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival) as well as co-producing Malcolm Ingram's SXSW 2013 documentary "Continental".

**CREDITS**

**Featuring**

David Kopay  
Billie Jean King  
Martina Navratilova  
John Amaechi  
Billy Bean  
Wade Davis  
Jason Collins  
Brittney Griner  
Charline Labonté  
Conner Mertens  
Chandler Whitney

Cyd Zeigler  
Pat Griffin  
Brian Sims  
Bill Plaschke

Kate Fagan

Patrick Burke  
Peter Tatchell  
Amal Fashanu  
Aslie Pitter  
Jason Hall

Robert Gulliver  
Kathleen Behrens  
Cameron Weiss  
Howard Bragman  
Josh Liskewitz

Kony Ealy  
Jadeveon Clowney  
Johnny Manziel  
Teddy Bridgewater

James Connell  
Aric Colondres  
Bill Barker  
Christopher Fredericks  
Karl Grimmer  
Matt Sokolowski

Shaun Gottlieb  
Ryan Darks  
Andrew Roth  
James Marlock  
Eric Murphy

**Director**

Malcolm Ingram

**Editor**

Sean Stanley

**Director of Photography**

Andrew MacDonald

**Producers**

Malcolm Ingram  
Nhaelan McMillan  
Matt Thomas

**Executive Producers**

Harvey Cohen  
Nhaelan McMillan  
Michael A. Petryshyn



**Associate Producer**

Doug Langway

**Consulting Producer**

Cyd Zeigler

**Production Consultant**

Bob Hawk

**Second Unit Camera**

Darnell Peacock

Derek Wieseahn

Frank Huang

**Hair and Makeup for Martina Navratilova**

Christina Johnson

**Hair and Makeup for Billie Jean King**

Linda Melo

**Audio Post-Production**

Post City Sound Inc.

**Audio Post Coordinator**

Pino Halili

**Sound Editor**

Noam Shpiegler

**Re-Recording Mixer**

Allen Ormerod

**Re-Recording Assistant**

Vladimir Borissov

*Mixed at Post City Sound, Toronto*

**Colour Correction**

Pixel Underground

Post Producer - Cailyn Webster

Colorist - Martin Wells

Online Edit - Nathan McCormick

**Still Photography Retouching**

John Madden

**Fonts and Titles**

Warren Stanley

**Original Music**

Paul Kehayas – Echosound Studiolab  
Martin Rae – Raetunes

**Music Supervision**

Amy Fritz and Erin Hunt for RADAR Music Group

**Songs:**

“We Will Rock You”

Written by Brian May

Performed by Queen

Published by Queen Music Ltd (PRS)/ EMI Music Publishing (UK) Ltd. (PRS)  
By arrangement with Universal Music Canada Inc.

“I Am Woman”

Written by Ray Burton and Helen Reddy

Performed by Helen Reddy

Used courtesy of Universal Music Publishing  
By arrangement with Universal Music Canada Inc.

“Do It Cos You Like It”

Written by Kris Ife and John Howell

Performed by Justin Fashanu

By arrangement with Cherry Red Records

“Blue Moon”

Written by Beck David Hansen

Performed by Beck

Published by Youthless (ASCAP) administered by Kobalt Music Publishing  
By arrangement with Universal Music Canada Inc.

“Money (That’s What I Want)”

Written by Berry Gordy Jr. and Janie Bradford

Performed by Martin Rae

Published by Jobete Music Co Inc. (ASCAP)/ Stone Agate Music (BMI)/ EMI Music Publishing Ltd. and  
Alberts PTY Ltd.  
Courtesy of Raetunes

“Shooting Hoops”

Written by Garrett Dutton

Performed by G. Love and Special Sauce

Published by Chicken Platters (BMI) administered by Bluewater Music Services Corp.  
Courtesy of Sony Music Entertainment, by arrangement with Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc.

“(What’s So Funny ‘Bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding”

Written by Nick Lowe

Performed by Elvis Costello

Used courtesy of Universal Music Publishing  
By arrangement with Universal Music Canada Inc.

“Feels Blind”

Written by Kathleen Hanna, Kathi Wilcox, Tobi Vail and William Karren  
Performed by Bikini Kill  
Published by Babe Anderson Publishing (ASCAP) & Kathi Wilcox Music (ASCAP)  
By arrangement with Terrorbird Media

“Heroes”  
Written by Brian Eno and David Bowie  
Performed by David Bowie  
Published by Tintoretto Music (BMI) administered by RZO Music, Inc., Universal Music Publishing  
Canada and Sony/ATV Music Publishing  
Courtesy of RZO Music

“We Are The Champions”  
Written by Freddie Mercury  
Performed by Queen  
Published by Queen Music Ltd (PRS)/ EMI Music Publishing (UK) Ltd. (PRS)  
By arrangement with Universal Music Canada Inc.

“Disco Sting”  
Written and Performed by Kevin MacLeod  
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[www.incompetech.com](http://www.incompetech.com)

“Unpromised”  
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“Emergence”  
Written and Performed By Michael David Crawford  
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“Recursions”  
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“Sahara”  
Written and Performed By Michael David Crawford  
Licensed by Creative Commons

“As Yet Untitled”  
Written and Performed By Michael David Crawford  
Licensed by Creative Commons

“Children are Falling”  
Written and Performed By Left For Snakes

“Birdseed”  
Written and Performed By Eric Conway  
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“Beans”

Written and Performed By Eric Conway

© 2014 Bloodwood Studios

“Hockey Acid”

Written and Performed By Eric Conway

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