

# PELADA

## NAKED FOOTBALL

1 x 52 or 1 x 89 **HD**



**PBS**  
INTERNATIONAL

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### CONTACT

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Away from professional stadiums, bright lights, and manicured fields, there is another side of football. Tucked away on alleys, side streets, and concrete courts, people play improvised games, making goals out of rocks, construction helmets, or Coca-Cola bottles. Every country has a different word for it. In the United States, it's a "pick-up game." In Trinidad, it's "taking a sweat." In England, it's called "having a kick-about." In Brazil, the word is "pelada," which literally means "naked"—the game stripped down to its core. It is the version of the game played by anyone, anywhere.

*Pelada: Naked Football* is a documentary following Luke and Gwendolyn, two former football stars who didn't quite make it to the pros. Not ready to be done, they quit their jobs and take off to twenty-five countries around the world, chasing the global phenomenon that spans age, gender, race, religion, and class.

The film follows their year-long journey, their tale one among many. While it is a different kind of game than the high-pressure college matches Luke and Gwen used to compete in, they find out the stakes can be just as high. In Bolivia, they bribe their way inside the country's most notorious men's prison, where the inmates run the jail, people are held without trial, and soccer games rage constantly on the single court—an inmate says, "Here we have nothing. Our life is to play." In Kenya, they go to Mathare, the oldest slum in Africa, where players bet twenty shillings on Saturday games. The field, which used to be a garbage dump, is at the center of the slum, and everyone comes to watch. A moonshine brewer confides, "Down here, everybody thinks you're just another drunkard, but then when you get to the field, people say, 'Oh, that person can *play*.'" Their final stop, Iran, is perhaps the greatest test. When Luke wanders up to a court in central Tehran and says in broken Farsi, "Is it ok if I play with you?"...the Iranians beckon him to the field with both hands. Luke slings his thumb over his shoulder toward Gwendolyn and says faintly, "Her too?"

This is a story that has never been told: no one has ever focused on pick-up soccer—and the window it provides into lives all around the world. From businessmen who play on the rooftops of Tokyo, to women who herd llamas in the mountains of Peru, from eighty-year-old Brazilians, to Arabs and Jews who occupy the same court in Jerusalem but refuse to play on the same team, *Pelada* tells the story of the people who are passionate about the same game.

1002072

### CREDITS

*Directors:* Luke Boughen, Rebekah Fergusson, Gwendolyn Oxenham & Ryan White  
*Producers:* Francis Gasparini & Ryan White

*Photo Credit:* JB Reed



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