

grain

**GRAIN MEDIA -
DOCUMENTARY PROPOSAL
MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
APRIL 2026**



ABOUT GRAIN MEDIA

Grain Media is a two-time Academy Award–winning production company.

We pride ourselves on creating **compelling film and television with integrity and sensitivity**—work that sparks global conversations.

With more than **150 international awards**, Grain has earned a worldwide reputation for excellence. Our honors include two Academy Awards, an additional Academy Award nomination, a BAFTA, two Emmys, a Peabody, a Grierson, and a duPont-Columbia Award for outstanding journalism.

Our films reach broad audiences and drive meaningful impact—frequently landing on streamers’ “Top 10 Most Viewed” lists, while one project alone has generated over two billion impressions on TikTok. Our work has been showcased at the United Nations, Capitol Hill, the UK Parliament, and the European Union, and we’ve collaborated with global advocates including Leonardo DiCaprio and George Clooney. Frequent collaborators of ours include Netflix, Amazon Prime, National Geographic, A&E and the BBC.



EXAMPLE CREDITS

GRAIN'S CREDITS INCLUDE:

- Academy Award-nominated Netflix film [Virunga](#)
- Academy Award-winning documentary [Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone \(If You're a Girl\)](#)
- Academy Award-winning Netflix film [The White Helmets](#)

MORE RECENTLY, WE HAVE MADE THE:

- Netflix global smash hit [The Lost Children](#)
- Emmy-winning environmental doc [Buy Now: The Shopping Conspiracy](#) (went viral beyond Netflix - with nearly 2 billion impressions on TikTok alone)
- Critically acclaimed Netflix sports series [Heart of Invictus](#)
- One of the highest rating docs on Rotten Tomatoes, the deeply personal [Evelyn](#)
- Leonardo DiCaprio produced [From Devil's Breath](#) (password: ^&%xFDB221209&%) about the battle to prevent wildfires in Portugal after the devastating fires of 2017 that claimed 120 lives.

Titles are hyperlinks that will take you to the film

A NETFLIX SERIES



HEART OF INVICTUS

ONLY ON **NETFLIX** | AUGUST 30 **grain**

WHY WORK WITH US?

For nearly 20 years, Grain has partnered with leading global organizations and brands to create world-class film and television.

Our team has extensive experience working with **global pop stars** such as **Charli xcx**, massive sporting competitions like the **Invictus Games**, and other **large institutions**.

We have been trusted to make films about **high-profile, sensitive cases** — from wildfire response to skateboarding schools in warzones — and we have a **deep understanding of the sensitivities and legal complexities** involved.

From rescue workers in Syria, from park rangers defending one of Africa's most embattled nature reserves to civilian firefighters battling catastrophic wildfires—**Grain's documentaries immerse audiences in extraordinary stories.**

Across every project, we work closely with contributors to ensure their experiences are told with authenticity, sensitivity, and integrity.



THE PROPOSAL

Grain Media would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Madison Gay Hockey Association **on a vital, informative and compelling documentary series that primarily follows one of MGHA's teams throughout the upcoming season, while also sharing more about the players' life beyond the rink too.**

Our goal is to tell both a compelling sporting story, alongside a warm, enlightening and positive queer story about key players' wider lives in modern America.

Further details on our vision for the series are outlined overleaf.



THE SERIES

The Madison Gay Hockey Association has become the largest association of its kind in the world. It is a vibrant, tight-knit, and quietly transformative sports community in the Midwest, a space where athletes of all identities find belonging, acceptance - and healthy competition! - both on the ice and beyond it. This is the story we want to tell.

Through the natural stakes present in a sporting season, alongside the depth of the personal stories featured alongside, this documentary series will be a sensitive and positive look inside a sport that is traditionally quite exclusionary in other, professional leagues.

And thanks to the success of *Heated Rivalry*, now feels like the perfect time to utilise increased interest from the general public to make a documentary series that is educational, informative and entertaining. Hopefully, such a series will provide benefits to your association too - from increased membership to inspiring viewers to celebrating your members.



WHY THIS STORY NEEDS TO BE TOLD

The Madison Gay Hockey Association is doing something quietly incredible: reshaping a sport that has long excluded LGBTQ+ players and building a community where joy comes first.

The MGHA is a blueprint for what inclusive sport can look like. But the story reaches far beyond Madison. At a time when LGBTQ+ rights are increasingly contested, the world urgently needs to understand what it takes to create and sustain communities where people can show up fully as themselves. And the immense joy that can be found as a result.

By documenting a full season with the MGHA, this series will illuminate the honest realities of queer life in modern America, and the power of sport to bring people together.

Crucially, this will be a compelling sports series in its own right too, following teams as they battle to top the league.



HOW A DOCUMENTARY WOULD WORK

At Grain Media, we work closely with contributors to ensure their stories are told with **authenticity, sensitivity, and integrity**.

In that spirit, **this project would be developed in close collaboration with the MGHA** throughout both development and production, with meaningful consultation at every stage to guarantee **factual accuracy** and **authenticity**.

The documentary we are proposing would be told mainly in the present-tense, with cameras following contributors who have agreed to take part in the documentary beforehand. Any members of MGHA who do not wish to take part will be anonymised.

We recognize that filming with MGHA involves significant sensitivities. We would consult with you continuously to ensure that boundaries are respected, concerns are addressed, and everyone remains fully comfortable with the process.



Before beginning formal work together, we would prepare a detailed contract outlining the scope and parameters of our collaboration with the MGHA. This agreement would establish clear guidelines that protect your needs and expectations and provide structure for the entire production.

Once the framework is in place, we would work with you to develop the series and then bring the project to our streaming partners. Grain has strong relationships with Netflix, Apple, HBO and Disney, who would be our first points of contact.

Upon securing a commission, **we would move into pre-production—the planning stage—followed by production.**

A full 'casting' process would take place before the season starts, where in full collaboration with you, we will decide who the key participants in the series will be.

For production, we would also explore incorporating **archival material** filmed by your members, and other archival sources, to help tell the story of the sporting season.

During post-production, a small, core group of on-screen participants from MGHA **would have opportunities to review material for fairness and factual accuracy**, along with ongoing consultation to ensure the documentary remains **responsible and accurate.**

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OSCAR® WINNER

2019 - How to Skateboard in a Warehouse (if you're a girl)
Best Documentary Short Subject
S.A.M.P.A.S.B.



OSCAR® WINNER

2016 - The White Helmets
Best Documentary Short Subject
S.A.M.P.A.S.B.



OSCAR® NOMINEE

2014 - Young
Best Documentary Feature
S.A.M.P.A.S.B.



PEABODY WINNER

2016



GRIERSON WINNER

2016, 2016, 2020



FOREIGN PRESS ASSOC. WINNER

2016, 2017 (nom), 2014, 2016



ONE SHOW BRONZE WINNER

2016



PLATINO NOMINEE

2016



WINNER OF OVER 150 INTERNATIONAL FILM AWARDS



BAFTA WINNER

2019



EMMY WINNER

2016, 2019



BAFTA NOMINEE

2014



EMMY NOMINEE

2016, 2017, 2019, (nom) 2016, 2017, 2019



BIFA WINNER

2016 (nom), 2014, 2019



IDA WINNER

2016, 2019



DUPONT-COLUMBIA WINNER

2016



JACKSON WILD MEDIA AWARDS WINNER

2016