

Berlin: film festival sell-out premiere for Streetkids United

Streetkids United, a film about the Street Child World Cup has premiered to a sell-out audience at the Berlin Film Festival this week.

An audience of 1,000 people attended the special screening and world premiere of this new documentary feature.

The film is an uplifting story of the Umthombo Young Stars – a football team of South African street children representing their country in the inaugural Street Child World Cup in 2010.

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Tim Pritchard, the documentary explores how a simple sporting event can change lives and raise the hopes of an international group of homeless children.

Umthombo football coach Vuyani "Biza" Madolo, who was at the premiere, said: "Our kids need more than fancy footwork to make it through selection. They also have to survive life on the streets."

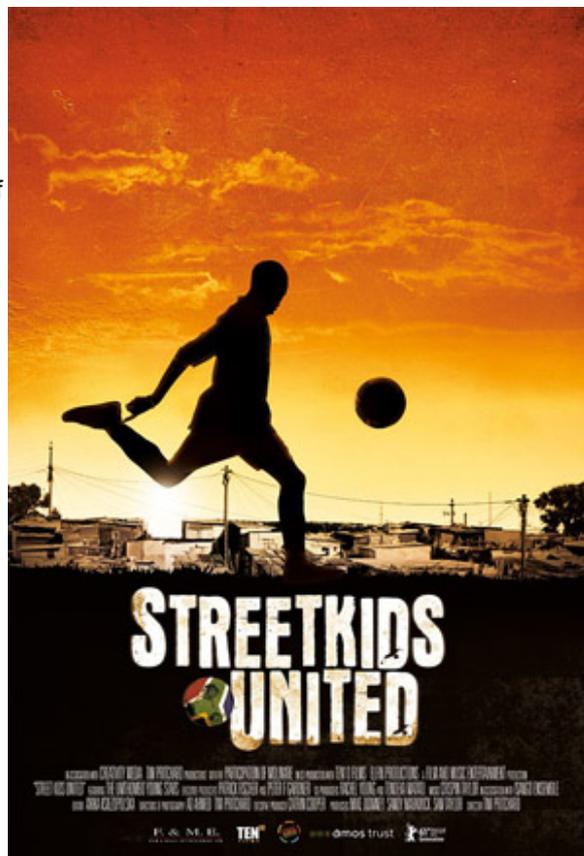
Street Kids United was screened at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt Kino where Director Tim Pritchard introduced the film to festivalgoers. Vuyani "Biza" Madolo and Bulelwa Ngantweni-Hewitt, co-founder of Umthombo Street Children, took part in a Q&A following the screening.

Both Biza and Bulelwa lived on the streets of South Africa as children. After meeting cinema-goers, Biza commented "I never expected to be signing autographs. I have gone from nothing to something."

One cinema-goer said of the film: "We got a fascinating and moving insight into the Street Child World Cup, and a refreshingly real look at the struggles and the fun of a diverse and characterful group of South African street children. It was great to hear from the kids first hand their thoughts and emotions, and to see these children portrayed as individuals rather than as simply numbers in a huge problem."

UK Charity the Amos Trust organised the Street Child World Cup in Durban, South Africa last year. The event was hosted their partner project, Umthombo Street Children. Producers Film and Music Entertainment (F&ME) worked alongside Umthombo and Amos to tell the event's story through the eyes of the host team.

F&ME's Managing Director Mike Downey said: "Football is a truly a globalised phenomenon from the glitter and riches of the European leagues to the dreams of children growing up in third world poverty. We hope this film will give a voice to street children all over the world."



[Back to list](#)