

anyone for some more soccer?

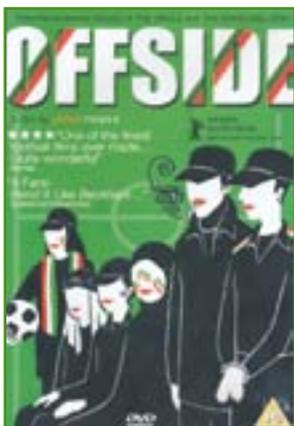


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Audiovisual Selector

After the hugely successful 2010 World Cup Soccer festival held in South Africa, I decided to go and see which soccer DVDs we have in stock. The collection really surprised me as we have soccer DVDs catering for everyone.

Offside / produced, directed and edited by Jafar Panahi

This hilarious comedy is about a soccer-mad Iranian girl who wants to go to the game of her dreams: the World Cup qualifying match for Iran's national football team being played at the Azadi stadium in Tehran between Iran and Bahrain in 2005, and which qualified



Iran to go to the World Cup (the movie was actually in large part filmed during that game). In Iran women are banned from the football grounds by the Islamic religious leaders decreeing that women may not sit with men at sporting events, lest they be exposed to cursing and other

morally questionable behaviour. This hasn't stopped the country's young female fans. Dedicated and 'rebellious' girls have only one way of infiltrating the crowd, by disguising themselves as boys. They do this by wearing peak caps, long sleeved tops, flags on their heads, soldier's uniforms, et cetera. Once their ruse is discovered, the girls are corralled into a small pen right outside the stadium where they can hear the raucous cheering emanating from the game inside. Stuck where they are, all they can do is plead with the security guards to let them go in. These guards are basically bumbling, good-natured lads who are compelled to do their duty as a part of their compulsory military service.

Most of the men going into the stadium don't seem particularly perturbed at the thought of these women being allowed in. Still, the restriction persists. The girls must use their wits and every trick in the book to get to see the match. **Offside** shows the innovative ways in which people can challenge a system. It also illustrates women's rights in Iran using a male-dominated sport.

This film, just like the other films of director Jafar Panahi, is banned in Iran.

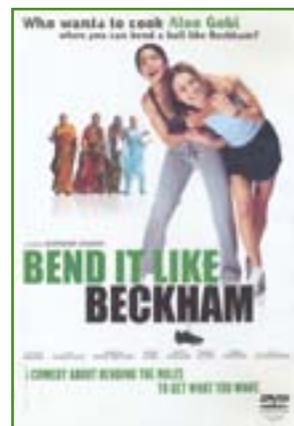
Classification: Rated PG for language throughout, and some thematic elements.

Bend it like Beckham / director, Gurinder Chadha

Teen-aged Londoner Jesminder Bhamra (Jess) of East Indian origin of the Sikh

faith, is part of the Bhamra family who has been settled in Great Britain for several years. They have two daughters, Pinky and Jessminder. Jess is fanatical about football. She even uses a poster of her idol, footballer David Beckham, as her confidant. Although she only takes part in pick-up games in the park with her male friends, she is naturally gifted at the game. She is spotted by Juliette Paxton (Jules) - who plays in a local women's league, and who talks Jess into coming to try out for her team. Jules has aspirations of playing in the Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) professional league in the United

States. Playing organised sports goes against what Jess's traditional Punjabi parents want for her. Her parents are clearly uncomfortable with their daughter running around



in shorts, chasing a round ball, instead of being clad in a traditional salwar kameez, learning to cook Punjabi food, going to law school and attracting a nice Punjabi husband. But Jess is determined to play on Jules's team regardless of her parents. Jess

sees Jules as having the perfect situation, not realising that Jules also has a mother who doesn't want her daughter to focus so much attention on football, but for slightly different reasons. The team's compassionate and sympathetic coach, Joe, tries to help Jess overcome these obstacles in whatever way he can. Jess has to try and reconcile these two aspects of her life, especially in the lead up to the final game at which an American scout will be in attendance who may be able to get both Jules and Jess one step closer to playing in the WUSA league if he likes what he sees. To make matters worse, a football tournament is arranged on the very day of Jess's sister's marriage.

Classification: 12

FIFA fever / producers, Peter Spring and Phillip Williams

The ultimate World Cup's movie with lots of vintage footage. It showcases 100 years of FIFA soccer (between 1930 and 2002). The DVD is a double set so you get over three hours of footage and it is broken up into sections which cover different time periods or particular events in the game. It



covers all the relevant topics: the best defence player, the best team, the best goalkeeper, et cetera. In one part, *Villains*, all the best known fouls and red cards are featured. Some nasty

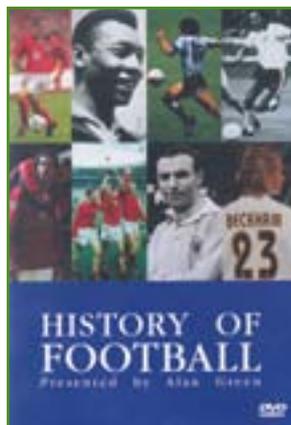
in-game action is also shown, with people fighting on the pitch, throwing chairs, et cetera, giving the game a bad name. Brazil is the best all-time team. Many goals are shown in every section. Great people involved with this amazing sport include Pele, Maradona, Garrincha, Yashin, Beckenbauer, Ronaldinho and Zidane. All the top players around the world are featured. In the extra material you can watch a documentary with original takes from the first World Cup in Uruguay in 1930. An historical

movie that shows the Uruguayan team in the Olympic Games (1924, 1928) and the construction of the Centenary Stadium in Montevideo. If you are a soccer fan this is a must-see.

Classification: No age restriction

History of football / producer, Steve Kemsley; presented by Alan Green

History of football captures more than 100 years of the drama, passion, excitement and despair that only the beautiful game can evoke with nearly two hours of action, rare archive footage, exclusive interviews,



incredible matches and all the most memorable moments. Starting the 20th century, Preston North End was the finest team in the country. As we move into the new millennium a

team from the north west of England, Manchester United, who, along with the London club, Arsenal, dominate the game.

In the intervening 100 years the game of association football has produced a galaxy of stars, thrilling games and controversy from the early years of the White Horse final through to the emergence of Michael Owen, whose goal against Argentina in the 1998 World Cup shook the world, and David Beckham, whose move to Real Madrid in 2003 was easily the biggest soccer news of the decade so far.

Along the way we pay tribute to Herbert Chapman's sensational Huddersfield and Arsenal sides of the 30s; explore the era of Finney and Matthews; relive England's World Cup victory of 1966; we rejoice in the skills of the fantastic Brazil side of 1970; chart the rise of Liverpool as the dominant force in European football in the 70s and 80s; and examine the sweeping changes in the game in the 90s, culminating in an English team, Manchester United, once again being crowned Champions of Europe

in 1999, completing an incredible Premier League, FA Cup and European Cup treble.

The new millennium saw France add the 2000 European Championship trophy to their 1998 World Cup and Liverpool match Manchester United's treble with one of their own in 2001. On the English domestic front Arsenal continued to challenge Manchester United, winning the 2002 FA Cup on their way to a domestic double but narrowly missing out to Manchester United in the 2003 race to the Premiership title.

Presented by Radio 5 Live's Alan Green, it is an essential addition to the DVD collection of any football fan.

Classification: No age restriction

The following DVDs and videos are available from Central Collection (SN)

Football's greatest ever matches

Goddesses of soccer

More than just a game

Pele forever

Pitch revolution

Shaolin soccer

The big clubs

The muti football club

Vimba

World Cup Inshallah

Sources

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www.rottentomatoes.com

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