

"The Hidden Game: FIFA's Darkest Hour and the 1966 World Cup"

The docudrama opens in 1960s Rome, where FIFA awards England the honour of hosting the 1966 World Cup—a monumental victory for English football that sets the stage for a tournament filled with drama and controversy.

As the story unfolds, the docudrama delves into the political and racial climate of the era, illustrating how football begins its transformation from a beloved pastime into a burgeoning business enterprise. Against this backdrop, the exclusion of African teams from the tournament is brought to light, a decision steeped in controversy and indicative of the racial discrimination prevalent in European leagues at the time.

Through poignant interviews and archival footage, the docudrama exposes the underlying tensions that shaped this iconic moment in football history. It scrutinizes the strategic manoeuvres behind the scenes, sparking debate over the fairness and integrity of the competition.

Not only does the docudrama chronicle England's journey to eventual victory, but it also serves as a reflective piece on the sport's evolution and the societal issues intertwined with it. As the final whistle blows, viewers are left to ponder the lasting impact of the 1966 World Cup on football and its role in broader cultural and political spheres.



3x 48-minute docudrama© Carolco Samuel Goldwyn Studios Eagle Lion Films a division of OPC Global News and Media Corporation 2024

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FIFA 1930



Jules Rimet, the son of a grocer, pursued a career in law in 1898 and went on to establish the newspaper "La Revue", which reflected his Christian, republican, and democratic values.

His core beliefs centered on progress, and he strongly opposed cheating and discrimination in any form.

Rimet played a pivotal role in the founding of FIFA in 1904 and later became its President in 1921. He was the driving force behind the inaugural FIFA World Cup Tournament held in Uruguay in 1930.

In recognition of his significant contributions to the tournament, the trophy was named the "Jules Rimet Trophy" in his honor.

Rimet passed away in 1956, before witnessing the manipulation of the England team and FIFA President Sir Stanley Ford Rouse - who happened to be English - in 1966.

According to legend, the Jules Rimet trophy is said to be cursed, bringing bad luck for seven generations to any team that wins it through deceit, fraud, or cheating.

This triumph for English football sets the stage for a dramatic and contentious tournament. The renowned Sir Alf Ramsey, who led England to their first and only World Cup victory, refused to cap any players of colour.

In the 1960s, racism was prevalent, highlighted by shows like "Till Death Do Us Part" and "Love Thy Neighbour." As a result, African nations boycotted the tournament in protest against racial injustice and discrimination. In February, the Confederation of African Football sent word to FIFA.

"We limit our demand, in the name of fair play and equity for one place of finalist to be granted to Africa... in the absence of this necessary adjustment African Associations cannot for the considerations stated above participate in the World Cup Jules Rimet Championship, 1966."

This boycott was a unified response to FIFA's decision to allocate most slots to European and American teams, with Africa and Asia forced to share a single slot, effectively excluding one continent.

The story highlights how the sport begins to shift from a passion-driven pastime to a business juggernaut.



Sir Stanley Rous

Sir Alf Ramsey



After England's victory and their ultimate success in the final, controversy still surrounds the Jules Rimet Trophy. The docudrama examines the Portuguese Football Association's unsuccessful efforts to find justice through official complaints to FIFA, all blocked by Sir Stanley Rouse.

The docudrama investigates the notion of a "curse" linked to unethical victories. It portrays England's subsequent struggles in international tournaments, alongside Portugal's challenges, as a lingering legacy of the 1966 scandal. Interviews with historians and football analysts further explore the moral implications of winning at any cost.

What about sporting integrity? Could this be why England has faced a series of setbacks in their European and World Cup campaigns? It is said that the Jules Rimet Trophy, if won through deceit, fraud, or cheating, will bring misfortune to its holder for several generations.

A striking parallel is highlighted between the 1966 events and current allegations of corruption within FIFA, showcasing how history tends to repeat itself. The docudrama concludes with a call for increased transparency and accountability in the sport, delivering a strong message about the lasting significance of integrity.

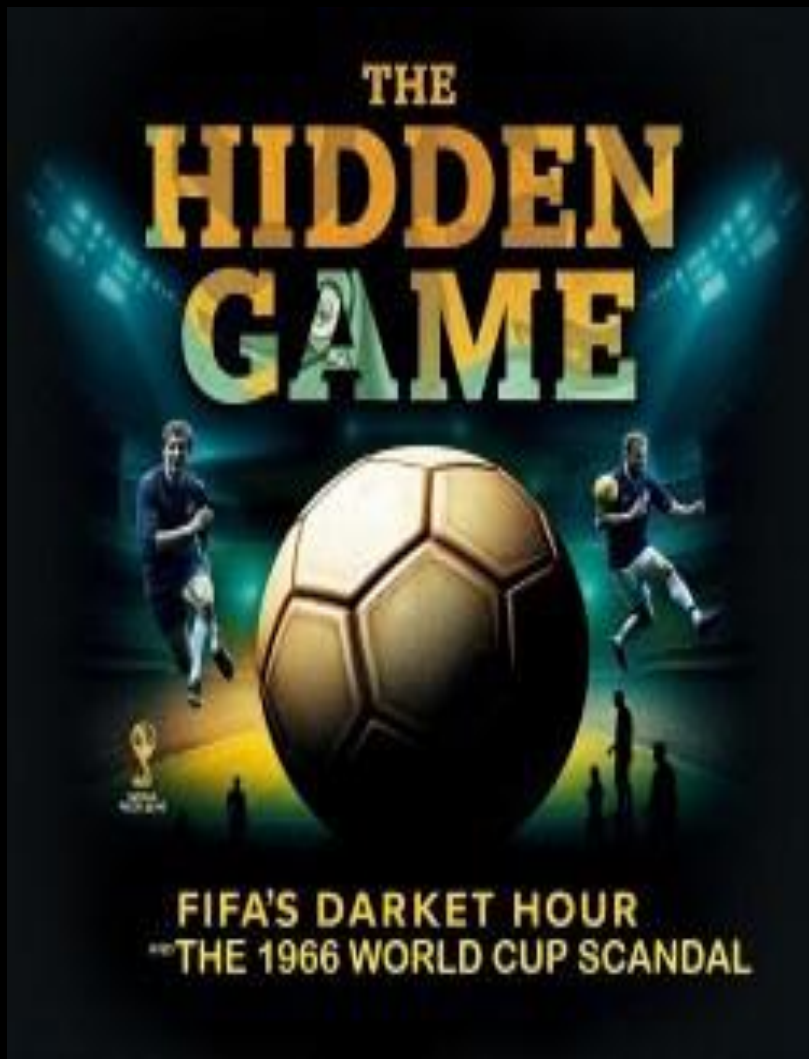
The debate surrounding the 1966 World Cup transcended concerns about the absence of players of color or whether the ball crossed the line during the final between England and West Germany. Recently uncovered documents indicate that FIFA received a significant complaint regarding how England gained a tactical advantage in their semi-final match against Portugal on July 26, 1966.

The docudrama delves into this crucial semi-final, which was initially slated to take place at Goodison Park in Liverpool. However, in a last-minute decision backed by FIFA President Rouse, the English Football Association (FA) relocated the match to Wembley Stadium in London. This sudden change left the Portuguese team in a difficult position, forcing them to embark on a gruelling journey just before one of the most crucial games in their history.

The docudrama highlights the psychological and physical strain on the Portuguese players, contrasting it with England's benefit of playing in front of a jubilant home crowd.



FIFA CORRUPTION SCANDAL:
THE STRATEGIES THAT UNCOVERED BRIBERY, FRAUD, AND MONEY LAUNDRY



"The Hidden Game" is far more than a simple retelling of the 1966 World Cup; it serves as a profound exploration of morality, legacy, and the true cost of victory.

Through its gripping narrative and revelatory insights, the docu-drama not only recounts the events of that historic match but also delves into the ethical dilemmas faced by those involved. It challenges audiences to consider the implications of their choices and the lasting effects of those decisions on both personal and collective levels.

With its compelling storytelling and thought-provoking themes, "The Hidden Game" promises to captivate viewers, urging them to reevaluate their perceptions of one of football's most iconic moments.

It invites audiences to engage with the past in a way that is both reflective and transformative, ensuring that the lessons learned from this pivotal event remain relevant for generations to come.

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