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Chariots Of Fire

Great Britain 1981

Director Hugh Hudson

Production Company Enigma Production for 20th Century-Fox and Allied Stars

Producer David Puttnam

Screenplay Colin Welland

Cinematography David Watkin

Editor Terry Rawlings

Sound Clive Winter

Music Vangelis

Principal Cast Ben Cross, Ian Charleson, Nigel Havers, Nick Farrell, Sir John Gielgud

123 minutes

North American Premiere

Cannes Film Festival 1981

Toronto
Film Fest 81

The fuel that fires the will to win is not the same for any two men. In Great Britain in the 1920's, Harold Abrahams, and Eric Liddell, were inspired to run. Their reasons were as different as their education and background. One was a Christian Scot who believed he could best honour God by winning; the other was an English Jew for whom achievement was a ticket to acceptance in a prejudiced society. They arrived in Paris in 1924 with a common goal, to win the Olympic gold. Months of training had brought them to the height of their physical prowess but these two, above all, were driven to give more, to stretch and outrun their limitations. What spurred them on, what made them want to run faster than any man alive was not one simple fact. Each had his own demon and his own god.

(For the record, Liddell later went to China as a Christian missionary and died in a Japanese P.O.W. camp in 1945. Abrahams who died three years ago, went on to become "the architect of modern British athletics," whose 100 meter record stood for fifty-six years.)

Thursday 17 Sept. 8:30 p.m. Elgin
Saturday 19 Sept. 9:30 p.m. Fox