

# beyond the team

Directed and Produced by Tim Kulikowski

United States, 2012, 14 min, Short Documentary, In English  
Shot on location in San Francisco, California



photo courtesy of Tim Kulikowski

## Festival Screenings

- \* World Premiere: Frameline36 – San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival 2012; June 23, 2012
- \* Official Selection: Hawai'i International Film Festival - October, 2012
- \* Official Selection: Barcelona International LGTIB Film Festival – October 2012
- \* Official Selection: Vinokino Lesbian and Gay Film Festival (Finland) – November 2012
- \* Official Selection: Indianapolis LGBT Film Festival – November 2012
- \* Official Selection: All Sports Los Angeles Film Festival – November 2012 [**AWARD: Short Documentary category**]
- \* Official Selection: MixBrasil (Sao Paulo/Rio de Janeiro) LGBT Film Festival – November 2012
- \* Official Selection: Merlinka International Film Festival (Serbia) – December 2012
- \* Official Selection: Bangalore Queer Film Festival (India) – February 2013
- \* Official Selection: Outview Film Festival (Athens, Greece) – April 2013
- \* Official Selection: Boston LGBT Film Festival – May 2013
- \* Official Selection: KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival (India) – May 2013
- \* Official Selection: Inside Out – Toronto LGBT Film Festival – May 2013
- \* Official Selection: QFest St. Louis – June 2013
- \* Official Selection: Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (South Africa) – June 2013
- \* Official Selection: Rio Gay Festival de Cinema (Rio de Janeiro) – July 2013
- \* Official Selection: Diva Film Festival (Valparaiso, Chile) – July 2013
- \* Official Selection: Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival – October 2013
- \* Official Selection: Polari Film Festival (Austin, TX) – October 2013
- \* Official Selection: Budapest Pride LGBTQ Film Festival – October 2013
- \* Official Selection: Hollywood Shorts Film Festival (Los Angeles) – November 2013

## Logline

Drawn together by their love of soccer, a group of disheartened men finds refuge, romance, family and a few surprises...on and off the field!

## Synopsis

Discouraged as teenagers by the macho world of sports, a diverse group of transplanted gay men in San Francisco ultimately finds something more encompassing than a place to play soccer: camaraderie, extended family, political refuge and love.

The film unfolds around Jose, a gay asylum refugee from Venezuela; Topher, a middle class Bay Area twenty-something who was bullied and learns to persevere; Jay, a middle-aged Japanese-American from Honolulu who finds love amongst his soccer buds; Brian, a sensitive yet confident artist from small-town Ohio who befriends a Russian teammate and his family; Chris, a once-nervous kid from suburban New Jersey who finds a 'normal' life in San Francisco.

Themes include overcoming fear, the power of community, regaining self-confidence, mentoring, creating family, and of course, soccer!

## **All territories currently available**

Contact: Director/Producer - Tim Kulikowski 415-309-6185 [tkulikowski@mac.com](mailto:tkulikowski@mac.com)  
[www.facebook.com/BeyondTheTeam](http://www.facebook.com/BeyondTheTeam) [www.timkulikowski.com](http://www.timkulikowski.com)

Still available at: [www.timkulikowski.com/#!/For%20Press/ckjr](http://www.timkulikowski.com/#!/For%20Press/ckjr)  
**TRAILER** viewable at: [www.vimeo.com/42633167](http://www.vimeo.com/42633167)

## Production Credits

Director / Producer: Tim Kulikowski  
Producers: Corey Tong, Jörg Fockele  
Consulting Producer: Marc Smolowitz  
Director of Photography / Editor: Amir Jaffer  
Sound: Douglas Robertson, Matt Ozer  
Original Music Composed by: Don Seaver

## Filmmaker Bio

With over twenty years experience in the areas of advertising, marketing, consulting, the web, and interactive multimedia, along with an MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Phoenix, Arizona, Producer/Director Tim Kulikowski left a comfortable, yet unfulfilling, corporate life in 2005 to travel the world and seek out a new path, landing in San Francisco two years later to pursue a lifelong dream of becoming a filmmaker. He believes film is a powerful medium to help bring about social change. Working with the producers of STILL AROUND (premiered at Boston LGBT Film Festival May 2011), a feature compilation of short films about people living and thriving with HIV/AIDS in 2011 (30 years after the crisis began), he co-directed PAWS, one of the 15 shorts, and was an Associate Producer on the overall compilation. BEYOND THE TEAM is his first solo film. While developing new film projects, he is writing a book based on two consecutive years of exploring five continents.

## Director's Statement

Hearing Dan Savage and Terry Miller discuss on NPR setting up the *It Gets Better Project* in reaction to a slew of gay teen suicides energized and inspired me to watch numerous videos posted to the *It Gets Better* web site from individuals, companies and organizations—and to create a video of my own. But instead of speaking in front of a webcam by myself, I felt a group of gay athletes, the San Francisco Spikes, with whom I'd been playing for three years, would have more of an impact on struggling teens. The video went live in October 2011 ([www.itgetsbetter.org/video/entry/yz4\\_oozbic/](http://www.itgetsbetter.org/video/entry/yz4_oozbic/) or [www.youtube.com/watch?v=20EOLUacu8o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20EOLUacu8o)). The video has been viewed thousands of times and was used by teammates as a way of coming out to their extended families. Based on positive reaction to the video, along with the encouragement and guidance of friends, the idea of turning the video into a short film, further delving into the personal lives of five players, began to take shape, resulting in BEYOND THE TEAM.

Afraid of team sports at my Minneapolis high school (mine didn't offer soccer), I decided that joining a gay soccer team after moving to a new city was an ideal way to stay active in my 40's, learn a new sport and make friends along the way. Overcoming my tendency towards shyness and fear of team sports took time, but once those faded away I began to *feel the love*. BEYOND THE TEAM captures not only how being a part of the club has affected me, but also shows how a few of its 100+ members feel about being part of a healthy, supportive environment. Soccer is the most popular sport in the world and at a personal level it's had a powerful impact on, and been the connecting factor between, Jay, Chris, Topher, Jose and Brian.

## Director's Filmography

### *Director* (2 titles)

2012 Beyond the Team (documentary short)  
[see [www.imdb.com/title/tt2404535/fullcredits#cast](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2404535/fullcredits#cast)]

2011 Still Around (documentary) (collaborating director on PAWS, a 5 min short documentary)  
[see [www.imdb.com/title/tt1801537/fullcredits](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1801537/fullcredits)]

### *Producer* (2 titles)

2012 Beyond the Team (documentary short) (producer)  
2011 Still Around (documentary) (associate producer)

## Film Subjects [Meet the Players]



**Topher, midfielder**  
SF Bay Area native,  
heavily involved in the  
LGBT community



**José, striker**  
From Venezuela,  
Ru Paul Drag Race fan



**Chris, midfielder**  
Jersey boy, thought he  
had to be a priest



**Jay, defender**  
Lived early years in  
Okinawa, went to high  
school with Barak (Barry)  
Obama in Hawai'i



**Brian, defender**  
From Glee country, loves  
to tango

## Press

San Francisco Chronicle Newspaper and Web Site, June 22, 2012:

[www.sfgate.com/sports/article/World-not-quite-ready-yet-for-openly-gay-players-3654190.php](http://www.sfgate.com/sports/article/World-not-quite-ready-yet-for-openly-gay-players-3654190.php)

Interview at Inside Out: Toronto LGBT Film Festival, May 23, 2013

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jilLfbUyCc>

## About the Team

Established in 1984, the San Francisco Spikes soccer club is one of the longest running gay soccer clubs in the United States, one of the five teams that competed in the first Gay Games in San Francisco that same year. The SF Spikes is a place for gay men to play soccer openly. It currently fields three competitive teams in two different leagues throughout the Bay Area, and has competed in numerous tournaments throughout the world, including the Gay Games and annual IGLFA Tournaments. Its members consist of guys from all across the globe, including those from Argentina, Taiwan, Germany, Japan, Israel, Italy, El Salvador, Holland, Lebanon, Mexico, Ireland and Venezuela. The Spikes remains to this day a non-profit organization comprised of mostly gay men who love to play soccer and socialize in a friendly, supportive environment. [www.sfspikes.com](http://www.sfspikes.com) or [www.facebook.com/sfspikes](http://www.facebook.com/sfspikes).

## About Gay Soccer

There are numerous gay and lesbian soccer clubs across the United States and throughout the world, including Seattle, Portland, Los Angeles, New York, Minneapolis, Cincinnati, Tokyo, Barcelona, Cologne, Beijing, Vancouver and San Francisco. Full list: [www.sparkssoccer.org/gayclubs2.html](http://www.sparkssoccer.org/gayclubs2.html).

### *International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA)*

The International Gay and Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) fosters and augments the self-respect of gay women and men throughout the world, and engenders respect and understanding from the non-gay world, through the medium of football (soccer). They and to promote physical and tactical understanding of the game of football. Founded in 1992, the IGLFA works to establish an international network of football clubs. Today, after 20 years, over 80 teams from more than 20 countries from all over the world have become part of this organization. [www.iglfa.org](http://www.iglfa.org).