

Olympian

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letes we would worship. He did all that in 11 years and he said goodbye. That's why I felt this title, this audacious title, was quite fitting for this character.

TSN: How did you prepare for the role both physically and mentally?

Davey Frankel: Rass spoke to a lot of people who ran on the team or old coaches, his main coach who has a main role in the film passed away before Rass started doing the main research for the film, so he never spoke to the actual coach. He met with a lot of his relatives.

RL: Physically, I prepared by running. I actually ran in the marathon in NYC before the film. I had to lose 30 to 35 pounds for

the role and also gain weight, because toward the end of his career he was crippled and he began to gain some weight. I had to do those transitions. As far as mannerisms and sensibilities, it's something that's common to Ethiopia, that I've seen in particular men who come from the mountain who are particularly quiet, but strong and full of hubris.

TSN: How did he react to his fame?

RL: He was indifferent to fame and his glories. He had this quality about him.

DF: He was a confident guy. And sort of a little bit quiet to the outside world. As Rass portrays him, talking to his friends, if you were his close friend, he was an open, giving man. But the world at large, he was a

Thursday, Feb. 17

The Athlete, Noon, Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, Room 104
Pumzi, Ousmane, and Saint Louis Blues (three shorts) — 1:45pm, Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, Room 104

Burning in the Sun, 7:30 p.m., Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, Room 104

Friday, Feb. 18

The Athlete, 7 p.m., Hollywood Theatre

Saturday, Feb. 19

White Lion, 2 p.m., McMenamins Kennedy School

Pumzi, Ousmane and Saint Louis Blues (three shorts) 7:30 p.m., Moriarty Arts and Humanities Building, Room 104

little bit more secluded, a little bit more introverted. My sense of it was that he was very proud of his accomplishments and in that sense, had an ego about him, but the glory of his accomplishments weren't the reason he accomplished them. For him it was something more internal.

TSN: How do you go about making a film about running interesting?

Davey Frankel: There is a history of them, so I think part of it that we wanted to make a film not specifically about running, but what it

means to be a champion.

After being the great runner, he was paralyzed in a car accident, he had this determination to carry on. That is what we tried to focus on, the running is part of what he does, but the running itself is not central to the film per se. Throughout the film, because we actually used the Olympic archives of the Olympics themselves, you see the man run. We used the imagery in a much more evocative way, as opposed to it being about the race, per se. There was even a time we talked about, hey man we're not going to shoot our running sequences, because we weren't out to make Charriots of Fire or a Rocky or a movie along those lines. It was making an epic man and detail

the character study.

TSN: Is marathon running something that is true to Ethiopian culture or is it just one of many pastimes that Ethiopians take up?

RL: It's a very, very interesting question, because the first Black African is an Ethiopian, it is Abebe Bikila, he did it in a way that was so visceral, so organic, he did it in bare feet ... the soldier shepherd who conquered Rome. That actually established a

big movement because other runners really looked up to him when he went back to Ethiopia, and pursued that dream, that same dream. Marathons in this point in Ethiopia, anyone pursuing athletics would say, our runners, short distance runners, wouldn't get the ultimate respect of finishing a num-

ber one in marathon, because everyone realizes the marathon takes a great deal of effort. The marathon is old, just like Ethiopia. It takes perseverance, too, and it's also a nation of perseverance, 5,000 years without being colonized or conquered by an

outside force. It's the first place where human kind has walked. It's one place where the oldest empire existed. This is an empire that is so mountainous and so mystical, and all these

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things are so parallel to the definition of marathon. The people that come out of the mountains are so rugged and strong and skinny, that they are the result of this nation. It's what this nation is all about it.

It's a very romantic thing. A very romantic event. It's a very proud sport.



Dr. Heller

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1101 SE 135th St. Parking lot available. Bus Lines: 9, 12 & 20

OR

Tuesday, March 1, 6:00-8:30 PM at Wilson High School

1151 SW Vermont St. Parking lot available. Bus Lines: 44, 54 & 56

Community Resource Fair 6:00 - 6:30 PM

For more info visit: www.portlandonline.com/communitybudget Or call: 503-823-8806

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