



MR. MUAY THAI NATION

Directed by: Rishi Gandhi

Starring: Greg Melia

Runtime: 12 minutes

PRESS MATERIAL & PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON: <https://www.mrmuaythai.com/>

TRAILER LINK & EMBED: <https://vimeo.com/210010039>

Contact: info@mrmuaythai.com

TAGLINE

Fighting in a Family

LOGLINE

Local Yonkers Muay Thai fighter discusses how personal challenges influence him in the ring as he approaches his next competition.

SYNOPSIS

Fighting and family are the pillars in the life of Yonkers local Greg Melia. Both a competitor and a teacher, Greg trains daily for an upcoming fight while discussing how losses in his personal life have kept him laser focused on excelling in his sport of choice. A leader in his community, he finds solace and brotherhood among his Muay Thai brothers. In this documentary short, director Rishi Gandhi takes an honest look at what drives a dedicated athlete to keep entering the ring. Mr. Muay Thai Nation is a heartwarming tale of community and finding sport as refuge.

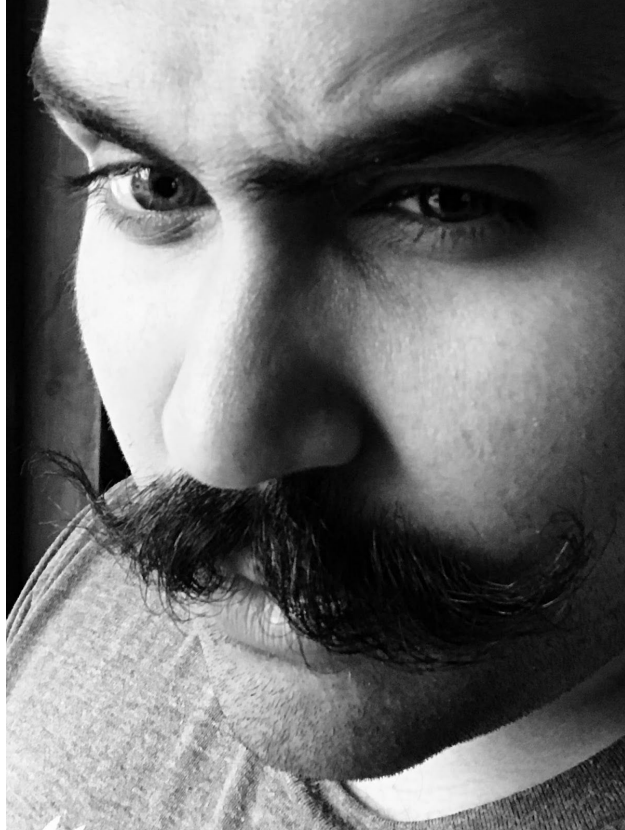
PRODUCTION STATEMENT

Mr. Muay Thai Nation was filmed over the course of a month with director Rishi Gandhi living with his subject, Greg Melia. Gandhi observed and studied Greg's training regimen morning, noon, and night while leading up to his next big fight for the Championship Belt. Prior to this, Gandhi trained under Greg Melia in a variety of martial disciplines, such as Muay Thai, Brazilian Jujitsu and Krav Maga. The film was shot on a GH4, and about one hundred hours of footage was gathered.



BIOGRAPHY OF GREG MELIA

A son of Yonkers, New York, Greg Melia started training when he was seven years old. Excelling at Martial Arts, Greg earned a 1st Degree Black Belt at the young age of fourteen. Greg teaches children's martial arts classes, Krav Maga, Grappling/Brazilian Jujitsu & Muay Thai, imparting over 20 years of experience onto his students. In addition to his teaching ability, Greg is well known for his fighting and competing abilities. He is the American Kickboxing Federation 155 Muay Thai Champion and the Head Coach of Muay Thai Nation, a fight team he created and led many of his students to the Muay Thai Championship victories.



BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR RISHI GANDHI

Moving between the Côte D'Ivoire, the UK, and US, Rishi Gandhi has spent years around the world but decided to make film his home. Honing his skills on short film horror schlock, broadcast news, and YouTube documentaries, Rishi Gandhi is also a producer on the web series Beyond the Longbox, and believes that making a good documentary means more than just being a fly on the wall.

Q&A with Director Rishi Gandhi

Q: How did this project get started?

A: I had been friends with Greg for years before. I knew he had the fight of his life coming up, so I wanted to follow his training leading up to it and find out what keeps him going.

Q: Who is Greg Melia?

A: Greg Melia is a close friend, a fighter, and a trainer. I don't know anyone else that values the family that emerges from the fighting community the way Greg does.

Q: What is Muay Thai Nation?

Muay Thai Nation on the surface is a fight team. What it really is though, is a family. Greg's values of family make him stand out.

Q: Why did you want to do a documentary on the world of fighting?

A: I've been in that world in some form or another since I was a child. I trained in the martial arts from an early age. I started out in taekwondo when I was ten. I trained in kyokushin, jujitsu and other traditional arts as well. When I was in college I started training under Greg in various disciplines. We hit it off immediately as we were of similar age and had many similar interests. Somewhere along the line, I started filming the fights that Muay Thai Nation would compete in, and eventually it led to me making Mr. Muay Thai Nation.

Q: What work in the past informed this project?

A: Previously I had filmed sporting events for broadcast and local amateur fighting events, so I always liked filming these things. My other film work is usually in the style of more traditional interview based docs, so for this I really wanted to get close to my subject, and make something more personal.

Photos



Greg Melia in training



Greg Melia (left) training one of his fighters, Dante Goldsmith (right)



Greg Melia hitting the cage after a hard fought battle



Greg Melia executing a flying knee in training



Camera rig during filming. Dante Goldsmith (left) training Greg Melia (right)

CREW BIOS



Pia De Soiza

Pia de Soiza is an award winning media producer. She has extensive experience working with global brands and bringing their stories to life. In 2015, she produced a nationwide commercial for Delta airlines and is currently in production on a documentary titled "Water Country" for Nestle Waters Poland Spring in partnership with the Wall Street Journal. Based in New York, she earned her BA at Wesleyan University and MA of Media Studies at the New School. A lifelong athlete, Pia finds inspiration and hope in the stories of competitors like Greg.



Renzo Adler

Along with writing and editing for the Film Festival Traveler, Zimmerit, and various pop-culture musings after working on the sets of horror films, Renzo Adler is also a longtime collaborator with Rishi Gandhi, co-producing short films and the web-series Beyond the Longbox. Renzo is a graduate of Fordham University, with a graduate degree in Digital Humanities from the CUNY Graduate Center. He has conducted panel discussions on pop culture for conventions and lives in New York City.