

Offside

Directed & Written by

Emiliano Gioffré

Starring

Luciano Cortés, Andrés Simonian, Natasha Elías, Mario Perez, Diego Pessolano, & Horacio Gioffre

Based on the historic 2014 FIFA World Cup Final, two best friends from Argentina living in Miami journey through the most intoxicated and possibly last day of their lives, as they witness through television the fate of their national team.

Critical Analysis

★★★★★

It's only fitting this review begins with a backbeat of Argentine electronic music beats pulsating through the words. Writer, Producer, and Director Emiliano Gioffré spins a tale of Buenos Aires culture and hardships



surrounding the 2014 FIFA World Cup competition between Argentina and Germany.

Gioffré's depiction of Argentine culture exposes the intensity and extravagance of the Argentinian people whose loyalty sometimes offers the ultimate sacrifice. The story opens in Miami on game day of the 2014 World Cup Final in Brazil. Argentina is celebrating its 5th run at the ultimate prize as the best football team in the world. In the final game, Argentina is focused on bringing home its third World Cup trophy by eliminating Germany.

With one of the best records in competition history surrounding this sport, Argentina's passion for the game is an electrifying current that runs through its people and its country. Two Argentinian best friends, Manu and Fabi, indulge in the celebratory achievements of their beloved countrymen's advancement to the World Cup Finals by overdosing their senses within the RAVE culture of Miami through DJ-infused music and heavy narcotics.

In search of the euphoria believed to accompany the players of Argentina's football team in their competition, the two best friends strive to elevate their

state of being by achieving the highest level of intoxication. It's through this drug-induced fog that Gioffré explores deeper aspects of Argentine culture. The level of greatness Diego Armando Maradona achieved for Argentina through his talent and love of football is highlighted throughout Offside.

Considered "The Golden Boy" of Argentina's football history as a professional athlete and manager, Maradona's achievement as FIFA's Player of the 20th Century amplifies Argentina's exuberance for the sport. Gioffré interjects the presence of his country's hero within the verbal consciousness of conversation as his name is chanted over and over to highlight Maradona's influence over mainstream culture.

Gioffré parallels Maradona's struggle with drug addiction, which eventually affects his greatness as a player, with his character's ambitions to achieve greatness at the highest level.

Within the framework of their drug-induced conversation, the two best friends talk about how it would be an honor to achieve the highest level of being high to then die as a tribute to living life to the fullest no matter the consequences.

The emphasis on this Argentine philosophy is rooted in becoming accustomed to living with social and economic uncertainty. Maradona's cultural presence is also found in Argentina's religious undertones.

As a tribute to the player who helped deliver Argentina's 1986 World Cup victory over West Germany with the "Hand of God" goal, fans established the church of Maradona on the player's 38th birthday.

In a quiet moment before the 2014 World Cup Finals game, Manu's sister Belen is seen on her knees before a shrine of lit prayer candles and small artifacts. Gioffré references the intricate cultural connection between the shrine's religious artifacts such as prayer candles adorned with Jesus and Mother Mary pictures alongside Maradona's prayer candles, a Maradona figurine, and a picture of her mother. As the 2014 World Cup Final begins, Manu, Fabi, and Belen gather in front of the television to watch.

The Argentine national anthem plays and the three fans rise in solidarity with their respect for the game and Argentina's prominence on the world stage. Manu and Fabi's drug-induced fervor elevates as they continue with their celebration. Both characters show obvious

signs they are experiencing extreme intoxication. Manu's behavior becomes verbally abusive toward his sister in the name of football and what he perceives as her lack of loyalty to the game.

Belen and Fabi decide it's time to share their concern about Manu's extreme lifestyle and inform him they have seized his narcotics in an intervention.

Manu's response is manic and aggressive, realizing his sister and best friend have conspired against him. Manu's desperation to find the narcotics seized from him enrages him to desecrate Belen's shrine and defame their dead mother's name along with Maradona's tribute.

Belen is distraught as emotions run high and the frenetic drug-induced energy highlights the family dysfunction both have endured. Manu blames his drug-infused lifestyle on their mother's reliance on using prescription drugs as treatment for his ADHD when he was a child.

Belen defends their mother's choices and reminds Manu he's become a drug addict just like their father. Gioffré exposes the raw underlying childhood emotions

Manu experienced throughout his childhood when he was incapable of controlling his behavior in an environment saturated with addiction. Then, just like that, Argentina scores a goal and all three fans stop arguing to celebrate reuniting their sense of camaraderie and love for the moment.

In an unprecedented twist of fate, Argentina loses their coveted prize of the 2014 World Cup Championship to an Offside call giving Germany the win. Gioffré illustrates in his film, as does life, how the desire to achieve greatness can come at an excruciating cost. Of the players on the 2014 Argentina team, only one would continue on to compete again on the world stage for the ultimate title.

As for Manu and Fabi, their quest to achieve greatness through varied levels of intoxication tempting possible death by overdose exposes the lengths they are willing to go to feel validated as someone who is worthy of greatness.

Gioffré's reflection of Argentinian culture infused with electronic music from the RAVE community along with his use of vibrant colors creates a snapshot of

Argentina's colorful culture and their people's love for all things football.

