

A Knock Out

A film by Tessa Boerman and
Samuël Reiziger



Documentary, 2004, Netherlands
53 min, Video, Color, Subtitled

CREDITS

Director/s: Tessa Boerman and Samuël Reiziger
Producer/s: Valerie Schuit for Viewpoint Productions
Cinematographer: Ricky Cramer
Editor: Iris Sikking
Music: LowGravity



**“Demonstrates how hard it is not to compromise what you stand for in the face of sponsors’ demands,
[and] the importance of following your passion.”**
International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam

SYNOPSIS

Boxing champion Michele Aboro grew up in South London, where life for a girl was never easy, let alone for a mixed-race lesbian girl. Thanks to her tenacious spirit and an uncanny talent for combat sports, she put her difficult past behind her and managed to sign a contract with the biggest boxing promoter in Europe. She won all 21 fights, 18 of them with a knockout—an exceptional achievement in women’s boxing. But despite her spectacular record in the ring, her career came to a sudden halt when her promoter broke her contract under the belief that she was not “promotable.” Refusing to vamp up her image and pose naked in magazines, this undefeated world champion was abandoned by an industry more interested in selling sex than sport.

A KNOCK OUT interweaves Aboro’s personal story with interviews with boxers whose wild success strikes a painful contrast with Aboro’s struggles. Searching for logic behind Aboro’s case, this poignant documentary captures a universal story of fighting for one’s identity and offers a probing look at the intersection of gender, ethnicity, sexuality and the increased commercialization of women’s sports.

FESTIVALS

For the most updated list, please visit www.wmm.com.

- International Documentary Film Festival, Amsterdam (IDFA)
- Festival Vrouwenfilms Assen
- Outfest Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival
- Out on Film - Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- New Festival - New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- Inside Out - Toronto Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival

DIRECTORS’ BIOGRAPHY

Tessa Boerman has directed several documentaries for VPRO, a national public TV station in the Netherlands. Besides documentary directing, she has programmed African diaspora films and programs for festivals and institutes like Africa in the Picture Filmfestival in Amsterdam and the British Film Institute in London.