

Synopsis

A 32-year-old female boxer, Nadja Ropac, turns her love of boxing into a professional career typically dominated by men. A former kick boxer, she trains in the famous La Habra Boxing Club under the watchful eye of David Martinez, a decorated war hero and the director of an open door La Habra Boxing Foundation that has produced champions like Librado Andrade, Julio Gonzales and Enrique Ornelas. Slav Zatoka, a photographer turned filmmaker, follows Nadja during the first few months of her professional career in a beautifully filmed short.

Director Statement

About 3 years ago, while on a commercial photo shoot I noticed a church building with a sign: La Habra Boxing Club. After work I stopped by to see the club inside and met the director: David Martinez. 2 years later I came back to take some stills of one of his boxers. Nadja was getting ready for her professional debut and seemed a perfect match for the project. After shooting stills I switched to video and quickly realized that I want to shoot a short video about her. We met again and discussed the process of filming her training and the debut. I spent a number of days shooting her training, interviewing her and getting a closer look at her personal life. I had the privilege of being the third man in Nadja's team on the day of her pro debut. Nadja's approach to life and her career made the whole production an extremely valuable experience for me personally. The fact that it

Production Notes
"Boxing in a Church"

La Habra Boxing Club building used to be a Catholic Church. Between 1947 and 1956 it was a home to the congregation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic was my debut as a filmmaker makes it a memorable one, too.

Church. Since 1982 the boxing ring is situated right where the altar used to be.

<http://fightersroomthemovie.tumblr.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fightersroom>

Photo credits:

SZIMAGES214DSCF6596.jpg, SZIMAGES2014DSCF6631.jpg:

Nadja at the Hangar, OC Fight Club, April 11, 2012 debut fight.

photo by Slav Zatoka

SZIMAGESfightersroom2014official.jpg, fightersroom2014poster.jpg:

Nadja Ropac at La Habra Boxing Club photo by Slav Zatoka