IAN THORPE: THE SWIMMER

Re-writing his sporting legend, revealing an everyday man

FACTUAL 1 x 56' HD

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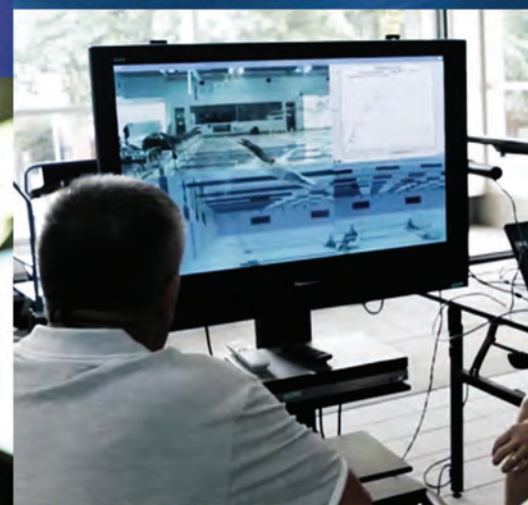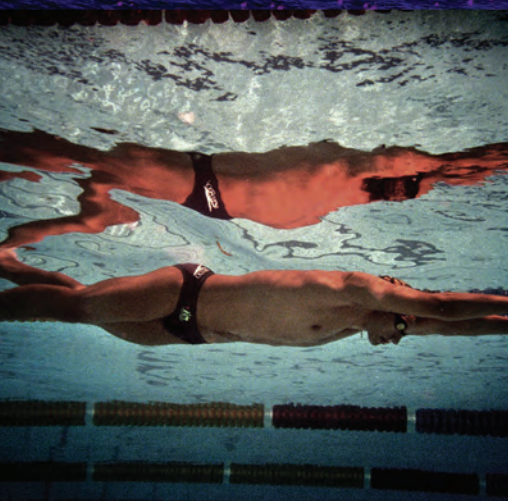Commercial

IAN THORPE: THE SWIMMER

In November 2006 Ian Thorpe, Australia's most successful Olympian, announced his retirement from competitive swimming. Aged 24 and the winner of nine Olympic medals, including five gold, he was adamant that a return to the sport was out of the question. He stepped from the limelight much as he first came to it: articulate but somewhat remote with the media and public. His short life only came into focus in water, where his efficiency and consistency, his line through the pool, elevated swimming to a kind of art. Now that was gone.

Then, in October 2010, he began a comeback – his goal, victory at the London Olympics. Immediately friends and filmmakers, Gregor Jordan and Simone Kessell, started interviewing and filming Ian as he trained, secretly at first, then competed in lead-up events to the Olympic Trials in March 2012.

We all know how the competitive swimming part of this story ends: defeat. What IAN THORPE: THE SWIMMER reveals are the inner struggles of Ian Thorpe not just to swim fast but to rewrite his sporting legend, re-engage with the public and, most intriguing of all, discover a different relationship with the water itself.

It's a rollercoaster ride in which Thorpe and the filmmakers explore his depths but find, despite failure at the Trials, a surprising redemptive ending. Ian Thorpe learns to love swimming again. And he learns to value the extraordinary champion he was – just as he comes to terms with being a more ordinary man now.

DIRECTOR Gregor Jordan PRODUCERS Gregor Jordan, Helen Panckhurst, Simone Kessell, Michael Hilliard
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Rob Galluzzo PRODUCTION COMPANY The Finch Company