

SUBMITTING TIGERS

A DOCUMENTARY SHORT BY LUKE KELLERHOUSE



AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Best Short Film

MOUNTAINFILM 2026

SPECIAL JURY MENTION

Charlie Fowler Best Adventure Film

MOUNTAINFILM 2026

LOGLINE

A gritty portrait of professional MMA fighter Julija Pajic. Her journey to Tanzania unexpectedly becomes one of healing and rediscovering her own strength.

SYNOPSIS

After surviving childhood trauma and rising as a professional MMA fighter, Julija Pajic faces a crossroads when instability threatens her career. She finds unexpected healing, connection and purpose among the street fighters and orphanages of Tanzania. A fighter in the ring and in life, Pajic finds what it means to feel strong and safe in her own body.

FILM FACTS

TITLE	Submitting Tigers
DIRECTOR	Luke Kellerhouse
YEAR	2026
RUNTIME	26 minutes
FORMAT	Documentary short
COUNTRIES	Germany / Tanzania
WORLD PREMIERE	48th Mountainfilm Festival, Telluride, CO — May 21–25, 2026
AWARDS	Audience Choice Award (Short); Special Jury Mention, Charlie Fowler Best Adventure Film

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Luke Kellerhouse is a documentary filmmaker with a passion for storytelling rooted in exploration. Originally from San Diego, he studied film production at the Savannah College of Art and Design and earned a master's in documentary filmmaking at MetFilm School Berlin. His work spans the United States, Europe and Africa, including *You're A Man*, a documentary giving voice to male survivors of sexual abuse. He serves as festival producer for Mountainfilm. Off set, he's a rock climber and hiker.

ABOUT THE SUBJECT

Julija Pajic is a professional MMA fighter who has competed at the sport's top level. *Submitting Tigers* follows her to Tanzania, where time among street fighters and orphanage kids becomes an unexpected reckoning with her past — and a new definition of strength.

CONTACT

Press, programming & screening inquiries: via the film's website contact form, or through Mountainfilm (mountainfilm.org/contact-us).

ASSETS

Web-resolution key art is included with this kit. High-resolution stills, the trailer, and the full credit block are available on request.