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I HAVE A DREAM



LONDON
2012

**Our vision of an Olympics
for a new generation**

Reports:
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D-DAY

TONY BLAIR AND LORD COE PROMISE A 'GAMES FOR A NEW

Emotion and inspiration as London makes one last pitch

LONDON today delivered its final plea to host the Olympic Games, offering a vision of an unforgettable event to inspire children around the world.

As 30 children from the East End sat alongside David Beckham in the auditorium, Seb Coe's team promised to stage a "Games for a new generation" in 2012 which would transform London and unite the world.

The centrepiece of the 45-minute presentation to International Olympic Committee members was an uplifting film showing children from Mexico, Russia, China and Africa watching a variety of sports after taking a London Games.

Tony Blair also appeared on video using the words of Nelson Mandela to make an emotional pitch for the Games. The Prime Minister spoke both French and English, saying: "He [Mandela] can't think of a better place than London to hold the event that unites the world. London will inspire young people around the world and ensure that the Olympic Games realises the dreams of future generations."

"These words remind us that as leaders in government or sport we have a duty to reach beyond our own time and borders to have a vision which serves those who come after us."

Lord Coe was joined at the presentation by the Princess Royal, Olympians Sir Steve Redgrave, Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson and Denise Lewis and 14-year-old Newham schoolgirl Amber Charles.

He set out Britain's passion for Olympic sport, demonstrated by the large number of fans travelling from

BY ADRIAN WARNER in Singapore

the UK to last year's Athens Games. If London wins, the IOC was told, athletes will be able to walk from their rooms to the Olympic Stadium because the village will be in the heart of the sporting complex, while iconic venues such as the new Wembley, Wimbledon and Lord's will provide the perfect backdrop.

London, Paris, New York, Madrid and Moscow were all making final pitches, before the IOC delegates started voting behind closed doors. Their decision was due to be delivered at 12.46pm UK time. London appeared neck-and-neck with favourites Paris. Few IOC members

spent most of the party talking to IOC members. But for one minute, Mr Chirac came over to Tony and Cherie Blair and shook hands warmly. Today, London's pitch began with a message from the Queen, read by Princess Anne, saying: "I have been impressed by the way everyone has united behind London's bid. As a country we share a passion for sport and we also share a vow to welcome you to London in 2012."

Lord Coe pointed to the 30 children from East London and said they were from multi-cultural backgrounds and represented the youth of the world today. He told the panel: "Why there are so many young people here today, taking the place of politicians and businessmen, is because we are serious about inspiring young people."

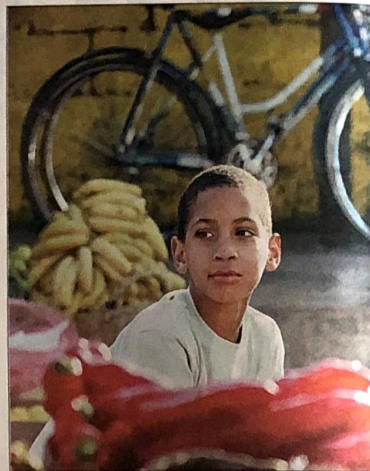
He said they shared a "heartfelt wish" to bring the games to London. Sue Barker took the panel on a virtual tour around London on a special film, showing off venues which would host the Olympics, including Wimbledon and the Wembley Stadium, and locations such as Horseguards Parade and Regents Park.

Denise Lewis then told of her own Olympics memories, and highlighted London's multiculturalism.

She said: "Thanks to the city's diversity, every athlete will have a home crowd."

In conclusion, Lord Coe took the stand again, telling how flickering images of the Mexico City Games in 1968 had inspired his own golden athletics career. "London's vision is inspiration and legacy," he said.

When I



Inspirational: a boy in a Mexican slum has a vision of a better future



Transformation: a young Russian girl yearns for sporting glory

GENERATION' AS CAPITAL WAITS FOR FINAL VERDICT IN SINGAPORE

D-DAY

grow up I want to be ...



Motivational: wearing his I Love London T-shirt, he finds a battered bicycle and rides through the city. The years pass and the boy swaps his T-shirt and trousers for the space-age strip of an Olympic competitor



an Olympic champion



Uplifting: after seeing the Games in London she starts training harder than ever. As powerful music plays, the girl, now grown up, appears to be poised on the brink of Olympic success



THE FORECAST



UK tomorrow Cloudy with patchy rain, especially in central and northern areas. Brighter in the south.

South-East tonight Showers affecting east Kent, but elsewhere it will be mainly dry. Low 11-13C (52-55F).

Five-day London forecast table with columns for Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, showing temperature ranges and weather icons.

Worldwide Destinations table listing cities like Amsterdam, Athens, Barcelona, and others with their respective weather conditions.

Weather News Call 0906 9510-7 Day National Forecast ... 701 7 Day World Forecast ... 702 UK Towns & Cities Forecast ... 703 South-East Forecast ... 704 Holiday Forecast ... 705 Tip per minute at all times

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Grass pollen Yesterday 73, Forecast - Mod

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BY MATEUS SANCHEZ

LONDON

A SMALL boy cycles through a Mexican slum, a Russian girl splashes about in a swimming pool, while an African child runs down a dirt road.

These are the images that London's Olympic bid team believe will swing today's vote their way and bring the games to Britain.

to the IOC members deciding which city will host the 2012 Olympics. London opted for a film that underlined the capital's place as a multicultural city with worldwide appeal.

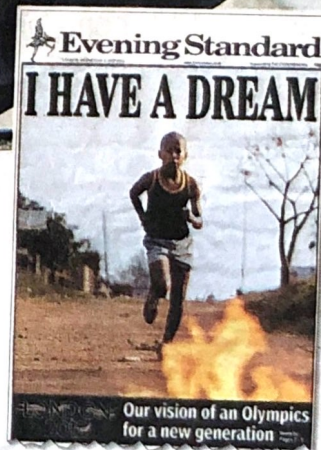
A London Olympics, the film says, will inspire not just future generations in the UK, but millions of children worldwide. "Give me

resonance. Anybody who has been involved with sport can't fail to be touched emotionally by at least one of these scenes."

My Olympic reward

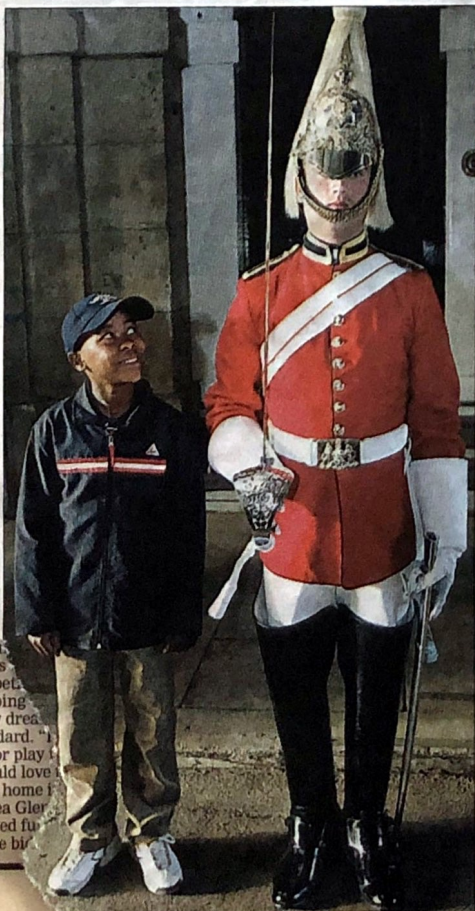


We bring African star of London 2012 bid film to see the city of his dreams



I'll be there: Siphwe Mbatha, star of the London bid film, left, in front of the Stratford site where the 2012 Olympic Games will be held

Alex Lentati



HE is the African boy who helped London clinch the 2012 Olympic Games.

Siphwe Mbatha, 13, was the star of the film shown to Olympic chiefs as the city headed towards victory in its bid to host the Games.

His performance embodied the spirit of the Olympics and played a big part in securing the historic win.

The Evening Standard decided it was time to grant Siphwe his own dream — with the trip of a lifetime to London.

The young sports fan always dreamed of visiting the capital and with the help of the London 2012 team and Virgin Atlantic, the teenager is here for a week.

"I cannot believe it, this is fantastic," said Siphwe, who comes from a modest suburb outside Johannesburg and had never left his home country.

His father George, 36, said: "He couldn't sleep before trav-

BY MATHEUS SANCHEZ

elling, he was so excited. We are so happy to be here."

Siphwe was chosen to take part in the film Inspiration following a talent search across schools and sports clubs in South Africa. The film-makers thought he embodied "the spirit of a kid with a dream... a boy who doesn't have everything on a plate and still goes on to achieve his dream".

The three-minute production featured Siphwe as a boy who is inspired to be a champion by the thought of competing in the 2012 Games. After showing him training on dirt tracks, the film closed with his character on the starting blocks for the 100-metre event in London.

A keen runner and footballer, Siphwe is aiming to compete in the 2012 Games himself — and he enjoyed a glimpse of the site where the events will take place. With gold medallist

Jonathan Edwards as his guide, he was shown the Stratford Olympic Park site.

The London 2012 ambassador said: "We won by only a couple of votes and I think our video was so powerful that it's one of the things that helped to make a difference."

Siphwe and his father were shown around some of the capital's sights by Amber Charles, the east London 14-year-old who handed in the bid to Olympics chiefs in Singapore. They visited the London Eye, Horseguards Parade, which will host the beach volleyball competition, and Buckingham Palace, which will be part of the marathon route.

Afterwards, Siphwe said he could not be prouder to have helped London's bid. "The Olympic park is so big, it will be fantastic," he said.

Today Lord Coe, the chairman of the 2012 organising committee, joined Siphwe on a visit to Carpenters Primary School — the closest school to the Olympic Park.

In a special assembly, Siphwe told the children it was a "great honour" to be involved in the bid.

Lord Coe said: "It's lovely to see somebody so central to our victory in the flesh."

Later, Siphwe met Olympic Minister Tessa Jowell for a guided tour of Westminster.



On tour: Siphwe at Horseguards Parade, left, with chairman of the 2012 committee Seb Coe and taking in the sights from the London Eye

From Johannesburg, Siphwe Mbatha is my dream. "Going to London is my dream. I would love to see the sights. His home in Protea Glen seemed fun for the bid."

who won race for us



Extraordinary: Sipwe Mbatho was chosen for the campaign film for his "unbelievable intensity". Right: the image of Sipwe on yesterday's front page

BY MATHEUS SANCHEZ

THE African boy who became the face of London's final push for the 2012 Olympics today spoke of his own dream — to compete in the Games himself. Sipwe Mbatho is the child seen training on a dirt track in the moving film *Inspiration*, centrepiece of the capital's final presentation in Singapore. His extraordinary look of determination summed up the spirit of London's bid and helped secure the city's historic win. Sipwe was cast after film-maker New Moon Productions commissioned a search of schools and sports clubs in South Africa. A shortlist of 50 was drawn up for interview by director Daryl Goodrich about their hopes and dreams. Now — speaking for the first time from his home 12 miles from Johannesburg — the 12-year-old told of his fervent hope to be a 2012 competitor. "Going to the Olympics in London is my dream," Sipwe told the *Standard*. "I love sports, I want to run or play football when I grow up. I would love to go to London." His home in the modest suburb of Protea Glen could hardly have seemed further away from the glitz of the bid team's party in Singapore



Family ambition: Sipwe with father George, mother Mpho and younger brother at home near Johannesburg

and the ecstatic scenes in Trafalgar Square. But Sipwe, his parents and five-year-old brother were caught up by the news of the bid's success, joining in the celebrations in their front room. "I started jumping!" he said. "I'm so happy London won. I know it is important and I am very glad I was part of it. I cannot believe it." The family home is already dotted with his certificates and medals, both for schoolwork successes and football and athletics trophies. "He is a good boy, very quiet and very intelligent," said his father George, a teacher. "I'm very happy to have a boy of this calibre." His

I really do want to run at Olympics says boy who inspired win

mother Mpho, who has just finished a commerce degree as she searches for a job, is equally proud. Sipwe, whose name means "gift" in Zulu, represents his school in regional championships, is a midfielder player in the football team and has won medals in 100-metre, 400-metre and cross-country athletics events. According to *Inspiration*'s producer, Caroline Rowland, it was this drive for success that won Sipwe his starring role in the three-and-a-half minute production. "He is an extraordinary kid," she said. "He has unbelievable intensity — he seems to embody the spirit of

a kid with a dream. We wanted to communicate the idea of a boy who doesn't have everything on a plate and still goes on to achieve his dream. Sipwe was perfect." Daryl Goodrich added: "He is what the Olympic movement is all about. I have no doubt Sipwe is going to do something spectacular. I wouldn't be surprised if he became a champion or a world leader." In the film, the boy is seen hanging around with friends, with no direction and little future. But as he walks past a shop he hears the commentary for a race during the 2012 Games in London and becomes instantly taken. Inspired to be a

champion, he is then seen training on dirt tracks and winning junior championships. As the film ends, he is seen on the starting blocks for a 100-metre Olympic event. The film was meant to show that London could inspire children around the world — and his father believes it has already done that. "Sipwe is now more motivated and optimistic than ever to follow his dream," said Mr Mbatho. "It has been a real inspiration to him." "London can definitely inspire children. It's a very beautiful, very big city with a tradition for sports. My son is from South Africa but he already loves London."

