

Blind Australian surfer smashes world big wave record for new doc

4 x World Champion, Matt Formston, rides 50ft wave into the record books

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA, July 8, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Four time para surfing World Champion, former Paralympic Cyclist and World Champion, Matt Formston, has taken his quest for sporting greatness to new heights, setting a new Guinness World Record for the largest wave surfed by a vision impaired male (IS2), captured in the new feature-length documentary, 'The Blind Sea', in cinemas in Australia from August 15.



Blind surfer, Matt Formston, wades towards an oncoming wave

At the age of five, Matt was diagnosed with Macular Dystrophy, a rare eye condition that left him two life-changing things: 3% vision, and a desire ever since to do what everyone else says can't be done.

“

If I've been able to do the things I have with a disability, then maybe we're all capable of more than other people would like us to believe.”

Matt Formston

An avid surfer since his childhood growing up on the beaches and oceans of Narrabeen, from paracycling glory through to his role at the heart of Optus's diversity, inclusion and sustainability team, Matt's passion for surfing has been ever-present.

So, when the opportunity arises to go head-to-head with the world's biggest and most dangerous waves at Nazaré, family fears, super storms, injuries, and a lifetime of doubters won't stand in the way of Matt's relentless

determination to break through life's latest obstacle.

But faced with a mountain of raging water that cares not for pride and glory, where will Matt's desire to prove people wrong carry him?

Alongside surfing insights from World Champions Layne Beachley AO, Sam Bloom, Joel Parkinson and big wave legends Lucas 'Chumbo' Chianca and Dylan Longbottom, Matt's parents, his wife, and children offer an intimate and revealing glance into the mind and motivations of a man for whom being the best is never enough.

Written, directed, and edited by award-winning filmmaker, Daniel Fenech, *The Blind Sea* combines intimate portrait with epic action to produce a film that has to be heard every bit as much as seen.

On his decision to take on *Nazaré* and the film, Matt Formston says: "To the people who have a disability, I want to show them some of the processes I use to find a way through life's obstacles.

"And to the people who don't have a disability, I want to show them that having a disability doesn't mean accepting a lifetime of limitations. If I've been able to do the things I have with a disability, then maybe we're all capable of more than other people would like us to believe."

The Blind Sea will be in cinemas nationwide in Australia from August 15th.

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