

# He named me Malala

Cert PG

USA 2015

88 mins

## Crew

Director	Davis Guggenheim
Cinematography	Erich Roland
Film Editing	Greg Finton Brad Fuller Brian Johnson
Original music	Thomas Newman

## Cast

Malala Yousafzai	Herself
Ziauddin Yousafzai	Himself
Toor Pekai Yousafzai	Herself
Khushal Yousafzai	Himself
Atal Yousafzai	Himself
Mobin Khan	ER Doctor

## Synopsis

A documentary about Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani activist for female education and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who in 2012 survived a near-fatal assassination attempt by the Taliban.

The film follows Malala as she and her family adapt to a new life in the UK.

We learn about her ongoing international activism, while animated reconstructions chronicle her earlier life in Pakistan's Swat Valley.



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** New Wave Films

**DVD bookings:**

**CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme**

see page 8 for more information

0114 221 0314 info@cinemaforall.org.uk

[www.cinemaforall.org.uk](http://www.cinemaforall.org.uk)

**Available:** Now



## Reviews

The "he" of the title is Ziauddin Yousafzai, father of Pakistan's teenage Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai. He named her after the Afghan folk heroine Malalai - a Joan of Arc figure who rallied Pashtun fighters against the British in 1880. So perhaps defiance was her birthright.

Part of the many pleasures of Davis Guggenheim's outstanding documentary tribute is the light it casts on her relationship with her father, as well as on the nuances of history, on the British, on the question of who the oppressors are now. Moral courage and moral heroism are rare enough, but Malala Yousafzai's story is especially moving.

...The film is incidentally valuable in showing that her campaigning identity did not begin with being shot, like some comic-book superheroine. What will she not achieve? She has the natural leadership and presence of a young Aung Sun Suu Kyi; I found myself thinking of Samira Makhmalbaf's 2003 film *At Five in the Afternoon*, about a young woman's plan to be president of Afghanistan. Here is someone who has taken a bullet for values that she believes in. No squeamish cultural relativism: women's education is a must in Muslim countries, non-Muslim countries, everywhere, non-negotiable. Guggenheim's film is inspiring.

*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, November 2015*

...Malala herself - her beguiling mix of bashfulness and confidence - keeps pulling you back in. Guggenheim makes her blush and cover her mouth with his Oprah-ish probing about her favourite sportsmen - Roger Federer does well - and the idea of her having a boyfriend, which she thinks isn't possible yet.

These are crude tactics, but the personality they uncover is something to be protected and cherished. At times, *He Named Me Malala* may feel more like a rousing campaign video than a film with its own distinctive point of view, but the validity of her vital crusade - and by extension, the film's practically short-circuit appeal to your heart and gut - is tough to argue with.

*Tim Robey, Daily Telegraph, November 2015*

## FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival 2015, and was also shown at the London Film Festival 2015. It was nominated for the BAFTA Best Documentary Film 2016, but lost out to *Amy* (shown at our Autumn Viewings)
- ☆ National Geographic have acquired broadcasting rights to the film, and will air it in 171 countries in 45 languages.