

REVIEW

'Federer: Twelve Final Days' is captivating and emotional

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Now on Amazon Prime Video, 100-minute documentary "Federer: Twelve Final Days," made by Asif Kapadia and Joe Sabia, is so gripping that it is like watching a real match. Although the film confines itself to the last twelve days of his on-court life in 2022, before he walked into his final match at the Laver Cup in London, it does give us a good insight into Federer's

sporting persona. In the 1,500 matches he played over 24 years, he never ceased to be emotional. He quit at 41, when the going was good, with a trail of accolades and a whole lot of prize cups. The documentary explores the rivalry and friendship between Federer and Rafael Nadal, against whom he played his final emotional match.

The directors knew that this was perhaps the best way to keep viewers invested. Although



'Federer: Twelve Final Days' follows the tennis great's final days on court. Supplied

Kapadia is a veteran when it comes to immortalising greats on screen — Amy Winehouse (which fetched an Oscar), Ayrton Senna (which scored a BAFTA) and Diego Maradona (which played at the Cannes Film Festival) — his biopic on Roger Federer is very different. It is extremely moving largely because it is a tear-jerker and intimate.

However, the documentary does seem to focus too heavily on the

tennis giant himself. There is very little that it tells us about his wife, Mirka, whom he met during the 2000 summer Olympics in Sydney. What was her contribution to his career and growth? A little more insight into his family's contributions would have been interesting.

A brilliant piece of cinematography by Jess Dunlop and Avdesh Mohla's imaginative editing add so much to the movie that it bounces and flies along with the ball.