The 3rd Edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games opened in Buenos Aires in a spectacular ceremony on the streets of the Argentine capital.

For the first time in modern Olympic history, the opening ceremony didn’t take place in a stadium, instead one of the widest avenues in the world, Avenida 9 de Julio, hosted a giant street party. Hundreds of thousands of members of the public surrounded the Obelisk, that played a central role in the ceremony, and millions more watched around the world online.

Almost 4,000 athletes between the ages of 15 & 18 from 206 countries are taking part in the Games, and they entered the ceremony together, rather than in the traditional parade.

For the first time in Olympic history the sports programme at Buenos Aires 2018 has a complete 50-50 gender balance, and in keeping with that the Torch Relay concluded with two legends of Argentinian sport – Paula Pareto and Santiago Lange. They had the honour of lighting the cauldron with the Youth Olympic flame, after Argentine President Mauricio Macri had declared the Games officially “open.” The flame will now be moved to the Youth Olympic Park venue, where it will continue to burn until the end of the Games on 18 October.

The Thai Boys’ football team, the Young Boars, who were rescued from a cave earlier this year after being trapped for two weeks were special guests at the ceremony. IOC President Thomas Bach commended them for their spirit and demonstrating the importance of sporting values.

2,000 people were involved in the show - including 350 performers, technicians and musicians from Argentine theatre company Fuerza Bruta. Moving stages brought the performance closer to the crowds in the streets, the 71,5 metre high Obelisk had sports displays up and down it, and, of course, there was a scintillating Argentine Tango routine.
SHOTLIST:

00:00  Wide shot of Avenida 9 de Julio
00:08  Argentine Athlete’s taking selfies

**00:12 SOUNDbite: Jessica Kahara, Finland, Athlete (Finnish Language)**
"Tosi kiva tää ympäristö ja kaikki ihmiset. Ja tällä on niin paljon eri maista ihmisistä ja eri urheilulajeja. Tää on tosi siistää."
The ambience and all the people are really nice. There are plenty of people from different countries and a lot of different sports. It's so nice in here

00:23  Athletes holding flags

**00:29 SOUNDbite: Tayamika Chang Anamuno, Malawi, Athlete (Chichewa Language)**
"Ndine wokondwa kwambiri kukhala pano ndikumva izi"
I am very excited to be here and have this experience.

**00:35 SOUNDbite: Oscar Chelimo, Uganda, Athlete (English Language)**
"I'm very happy. It's my first time to be in an Olympic event so I am very happy and I like the place of Argentina."

00:43  Wide shot of the crowd

**00:46 SOUNDbite: (English Language)**
"Yeah I'm so excited. I prefer martial arts and boxing."

**00:57 SOUNDbite: (Spanish Language)**
"Es una fiesta. una fiesta! Y eso es muy importante para el pais."
It's a big party and it's very important for the country.

01:01 Pan of crowd and athletes
01:08 Countdown on Obelisk into opening of ceremony
01:38 Wide of crowd
01:41 Athletes entering together
02:14 IOC President Thomas Bach in stands
02:18 Various of Argentine national anthem
02:49 Mobile stage moves through crowd
03:02 Olympic rings suspended above crowd and lit by pyrotechnics
03:19 Kirsty Coventry and Zimbabwean athletes in crowd
03:24 BMX display on the side of the Obelisk
03:37 Olympic flag enters ceremony
03:48 Various Argentine Tango display
04:08 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language)
“These Games are your Games. Every athlete is different. We all come from different parts of the world and have different cultures. But we are all united by the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect.”

04:29 Wide of stage

04:32 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (Spanish Language)
“Recordamos al grupo de valientes jóvenes tailandeses que estuvo atrapado durante diecisiete días en una cueva, los miembros del equipo de Fútbol "Jabalíes Salvajes" – "The Wild Boars". Demostraron la importancia de estos valores deportivos.”

We remember the group of youngsters who stayed trapped for 17 days in a cave, the members of the football team, the Wild Boars. They demonstrate the importance of those sports values.

05:01 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (Spanish Language)
“Viva Argentina, Viva Buenos Aires.”
Viva Argentina, Viva Buenos Aires.

05:10 SOUNDBITE: Mauricio Macri, President of the Republic of Argentina (Spanish Language)
“Con emoción y alegría declaro abierta la tercera edición de los Juegos Olímpicos de la Juventud en Buenos Aires 2018.”

With emotions and joy, I declare open the 3rd edition of the Youth Olympic Games Buenos Aires 2018.

05:20 Various of torch moving through crowd
05:38 Paula Pareto and Santiago Lange receive torch and light cauldron into various of firework display

-- ENDS --

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