

Play Like a Girl



Logline

It's the spring of 1994 and all Robbie wants to do is play softball. When she moves from Oakland to a small farm town, it seems like the furthest thing from reality. After the baseball team won't let her play because she's a girl, she starts to lose hope. When a dynamic and rowdy group of girls enter her life, things start to look up. Little do they all know the obstacles that stand in their way on their journey to redefine what it means to "play like a girl".



Story

SYNOPSIS:

When 12-year-old Robbie Darrah moves from the big city of Oakland to a quiet Central Valley farm town, she struggles to find her place. Her late father raised her on softball—it's the one thing that's always made her feel grounded. To her dismay, there's no team for her to join in her new town.

Her disappointment fades when she meets Jasmine and a group of girls who secretly love the game just as much as she does. Inspired by their hidden talent and passion, Robbie sets out to start a team on her own.

Standing in her way is the musty, old middle school head coach, Bullock, who doesn't believe girls should play. When a petition fails to make an impact, Robbie decides there's only one way to get the town's attention: challenge the boys' baseball team, head-on.

What comes next is a comical, heartwarming journey as the girls band together to prove that girls' sports are more than an afterthought. Along the way, they discover the true meaning of friendship, courage, and following your heart, on and off the field.



Readers at The Black List had this to say about PLAY LIKE A GIRL:

“[It] stands among other popular coming-of-age sports movies, from RUDY to THE SANDLOT to BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM, made for a contemporary audience while evoking a strong sense of nostalgia.”

“[The girls] empathy and understanding of each other, as well as them embracing their quirks and passions, make them relatable and easy to root for... PLAY LIKE A GIRL is THE SANDLOT for a modern audience, and it succeeds in celebrating the under appreciated sport of softball.”



★ **Plaintree Middle school Girls
Softball Petition** ★

Sign my petition please.
Thanx ♡
Love, Chelsea

1. Over 75% of towns
2. in North America
3. have some access to
4. girls' softball, yet
5. there's no film out
6. there to celebrate
7. this sport.
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Writer's Statement



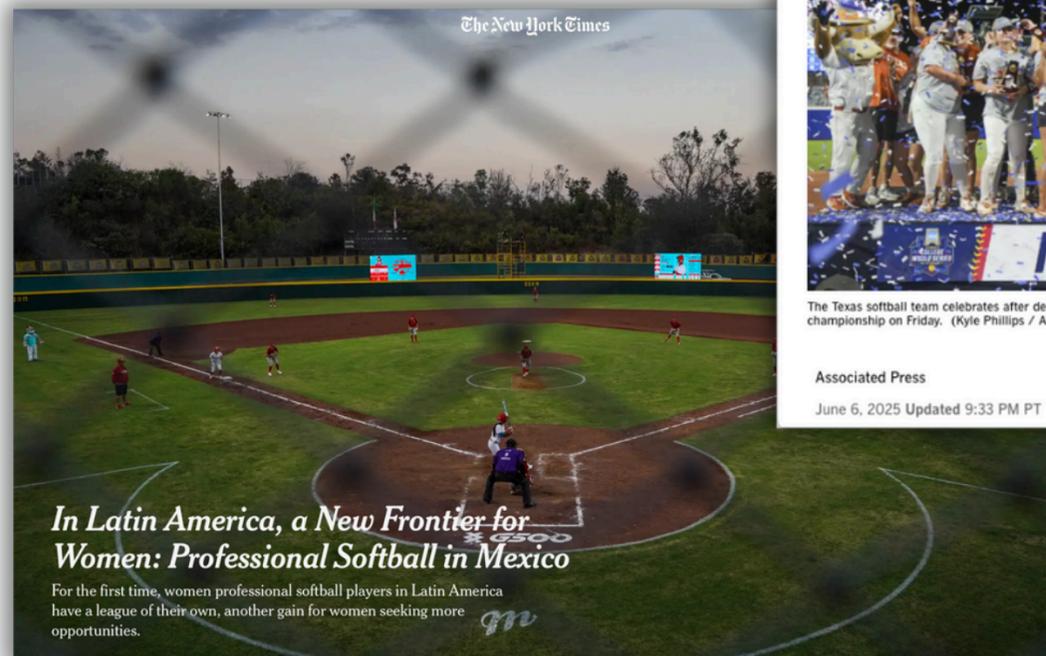
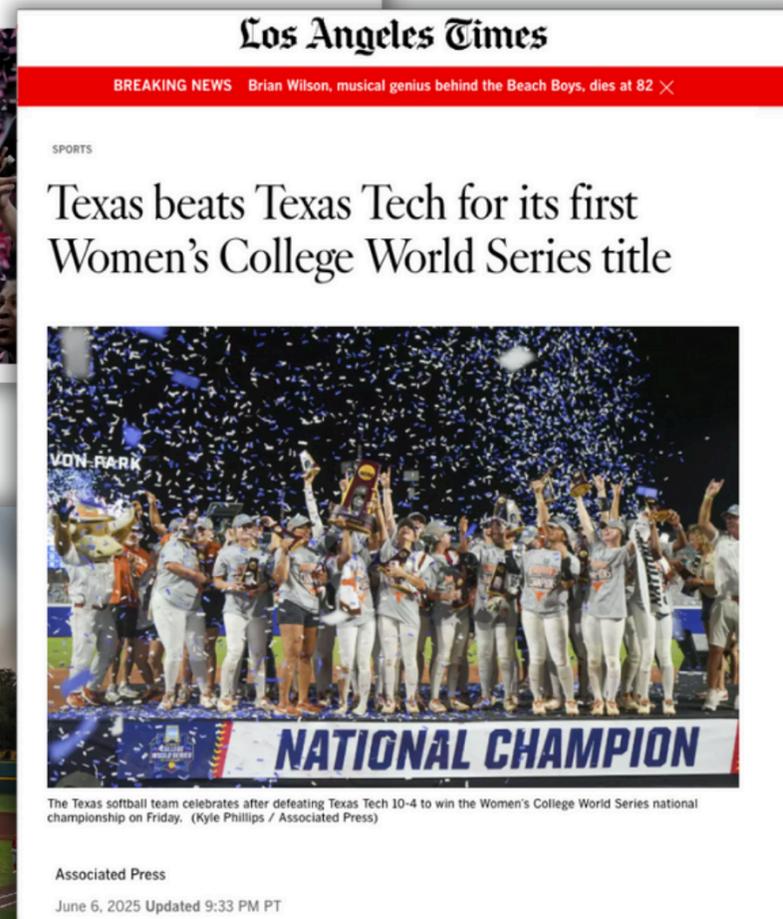
In the spring of 2021 we were still masked up, working from home, staying 6 feet apart and juggling at-home schooling. To keep our daughters active, my husband and I signed them up for softball. After a while, I couldn't wait to show them *The Sandlot* - but I paused: where's the girls' version?

Sadly, there isn't one. As a writer and a mom, this was extremely disappointing. I had to write this script—for my daughters, their teammates, the college players they admired, my cousins halfway across the country who've played their whole lives, and every other girl who found their identity with a bat and a ball.

My heart swells when I see girls and women lift each other on screen, instead of tearing each other down. That was my goal with this script. An unlikely group of young girls from all different backgrounds band together, fight for what they love, and learn that asking for help isn't weak—it's courageous.

Play Like a Girl is a feel-good family film that sends a strong feminist message and celebrates community and diversity, and discovering who we are through them. For every girl who's ever stepped into a space she was told she didn't belong, my hope is that this story makes the leap from page to screen—and inspires her to swing for the fences.

Why a film about softball?



📈 Media and Commercial Investment

Women's sports are gaining greater visibility in mainstream media, as outlets such as USA Today launch dedicated platforms like their Studio IX. ***In 2024, global revenue from women's sports surged to \$1.88 billion, a 300% increase from 2021.***

📺 Record-Breaking Viewership

In 2021, the Women's College World Series (WCWS) surpassed the men's in viewership by 60%. In 2024, the NCAA Division I WCWS Finals between Texas and Oklahoma averaged 2 million viewers. This made it the most-watched finals on record—a 24% increase from 2023.

🏟️ Rising Attendance and Revenue

The University of Oklahoma's softball program generated over \$2.6 million in ticket sales in 2024—***surpassing combined sales for men's and women's basketball.***

🌍 Global Expansion

The 2024 Women's Softball World Cup was hosted in ***Ireland and Spain***, with the finals in ***Italy***. The 2025 U-18 Women's Softball World Cup was hosted in Dallas, ***China, and Brazil***, marking the first time Brazil hosted a global softball event.

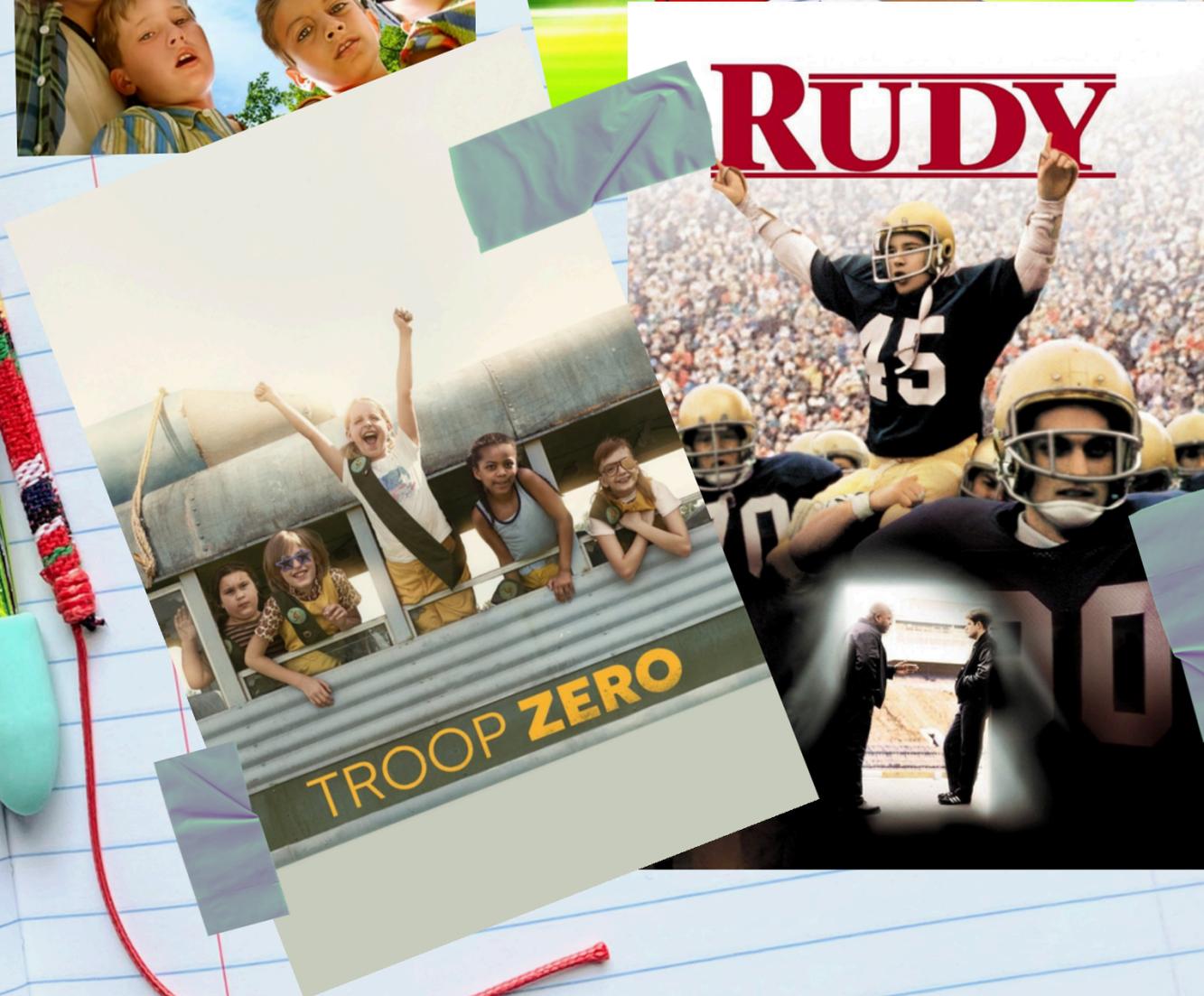
Comps

THEMES:

- Friendship and belonging
- Journey of the underdog
- Classic girls vs. boys rivalry
- Gaining strength and growing up

WHY IT WORKS:

- Universal, timeless story
- High quotability & cult status appeal
- Multi-generational resonance
- International appeal
- Classic underdog story with surprising ending
- Family-friendly with genuine emotional depth



The Look

Small Farm Town

EXT. THE SILOS - AN HOUR LATER

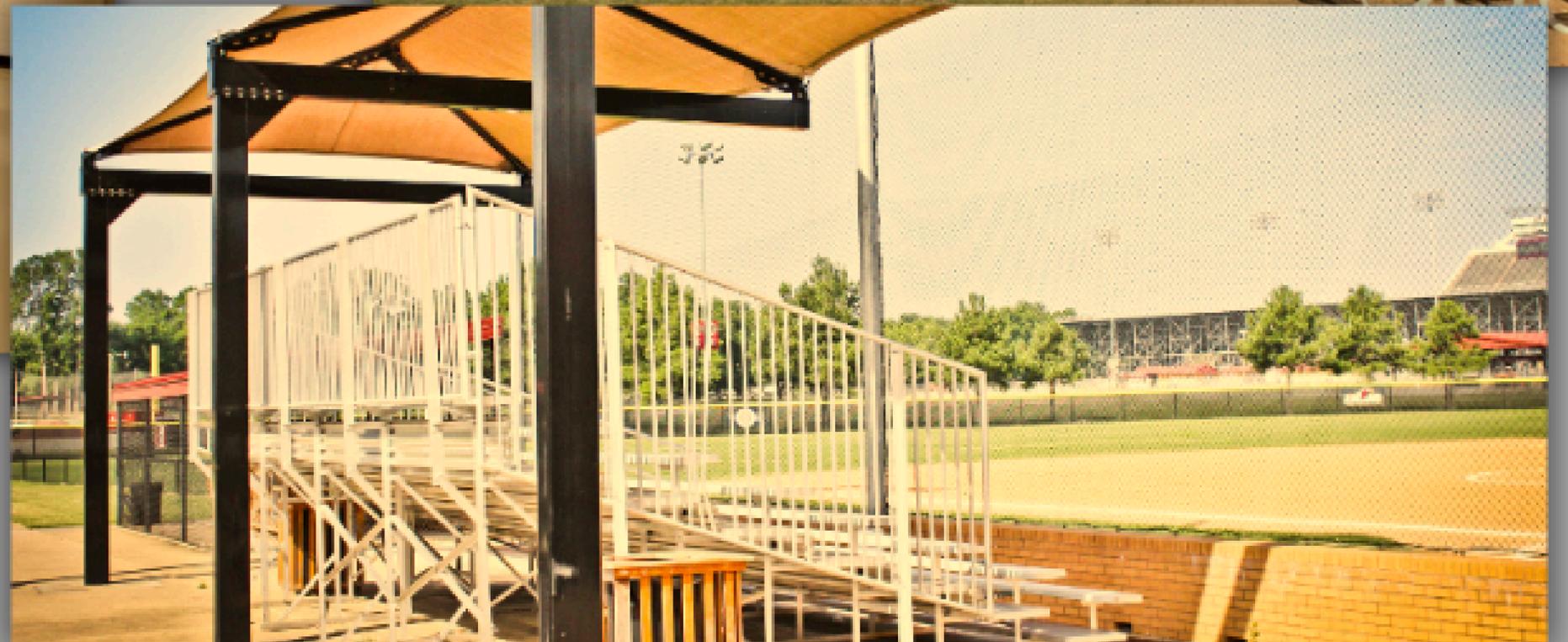
Robbie is riding her bike, she gets to the silos and stops short. The silos sit next to a large barn. The silos are no longer in use and a tree has grown up through one. A dairy farm now resides on the property.



The Look 1 of 6

Plaintree Middle School

Just then, an apple comes hurling across the courtyard at them. At that moment, Mackenzie walks by and reaches out with ease to catch the apple. All the girls look at her.



The Look 2 of 6

Robbie's World



EXT. LOCAL HEALTH FOOD STORE - DAY

The Girls' hands fly into the air. They disperse and pick up clipboards off a table. They take their places outside Janet's grocery store, ready to reach out to passers-by and get signatures.

The Look 3 of 6

Robbie

Robbie is a tenacious, spunky pre-teen who believes in girl power. The memory of her father keeps her confident and determined. She relies on herself most of the time, but she's learning it's okay to ask for help. Seeing others' potential is her gift.



ROBBIE

When I play. When I'm on the field. When I've got a bat in my hand. When I've got my glove on. That's when I can feel him. That's when he's right there.

The Look 4 of 6

Jasmine

Jasmine is Robbie's new best friend. She welcomes Robbie into the fold with little hesitation. She is strong and sees the world as a thing to be conquered. Her charisma and no-nonsense attitude are what makes her a natural born leader.



JASMINE

My ladies, we've been doing this our whole lives and now we get to play for real. Against some no good slacker scrubs who think they can play ball.

The Look 5 of 6

Sophia

Sophia does everything by the book. She is smart, determined and sometimes a little sassy. Unfortunately, she has to keep her love of softball a secret. Her immigrant parents want to see her succeed but, to them, her passion for sport is only a distraction.



SOPHIA

Oh, I'm sorry. My arm is a little off today. I meant to hit your head.

The Look 6 of 6

Production

Property of Robbie Darrak



IMPORTANT INFO.

PAGE COUNT: 108

LOCATION: SMALL TOWN,
USA

SHOOT DAYS: 40 TO 55

Girlz Rule



CAST COUNT:

15 speaking parts with
multiple scenes

College Girls Softball Team
Middle School Boys Baseball Team



Extras:

kids 12 - 16 for school scenes

Adults at 3 locations

All Ages for the big game



About me



After a single college assignment, I shifted my focus from acting to screenwriting — and never looked back. With over 25 years of experience, I've written original features, shorts, documentaries, corporate work, and recently completed a feature rewrite for Wave Films in Singapore. I also worked behind the scenes on major studio productions like *Flight*, *Looper*, *Star Trek*, and *Paranormal Activity*, with a deep understanding of both storytelling and visual effects.

Now based in Oakland, CA, I enjoy life with my husband, two daughters, eight chickens, loads of rabbits, countless bees and one dog. As Stephen King once said, "Having someone believe in you makes a lot of difference. They don't have to make speeches. Just believing is usually enough." They believe in me. They are why I keep writing.

Our final words come to you from the great Billie Jean King: “Use sports for social change...challenge stereotypes, inspire others, and pave the way for future generations”.



*Swing for the fences with us
and be a part of the revolution*