



Rise

a documentary film by Bobbi Jo Hart

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RISE is a film about the underdog. It is a story of humiliation, trust and the resiliency of the human spirit. All of these universal human characteristics are played out behind-the-scenes and on the world stage with the Canadian women's national soccer team, who captured the hearts of the nation during the 2012 London Olympics. Over one third of Canada watched the team make history by winning the bronze, the first Olympic medal brought home by a Canadian team since 1936.

But millions also witnessed intense controversy that plagued the team's chances for a gold medal during the heartbreaking Olympic semi-final match against the USA, which fiercely ignited the usually understated national pride of Canadians in the process.

Only 9 months earlier, this same team experienced its most humiliating moment ever... placing last in the World Cup. After years of fighting for respect in a country obsessed with hockey, many of the players were about to quit. Enter the team's new, young coach John Herdman -- whose inspired humanity, infectious love of the game and impassioned leadership quickly earned the trust and respect of the broken team -- who not only re-discovered their passion for the sport, but also a newfound belief in themselves and each other.

RISE is an intimate film about an incredible group of young women who dare to dream big, which in turn inspires a nation to rise up and believe in itself... not to mention a generation of young girls who finally have strong female role models to look up to -- something most of the national team players never had while they were growing up.



With the 2015 Women's World Cup to be hosted on Canadian soil for the very first time, the team is now making radical changes in their ambitious quest to win gold. Coach Herdman has asked the girls to shed their old skins in order to build a new DNA for Canadian soccer... to leave a legacy for Canada... by learning the Tiki Taka playing method made famous by the world's best soccer team -- Barcelona. Many think they are mad to even think of trying to attempt this highly-skilled style of possession soccer, but the team has a vision to change the face of soccer in Canada... forever.

Filmed in cinéma vérité style leading up to and during the 2015 World Cup, the cameras venture from snowy fields, painful ice baths and long bus rides to intense pre-match locker room huddles and lonely hotel rooms. The film dramatically reveals the injuries, conflict, and innovative strategy-making, but also the joy, passion, laughter and lifelong bonds created when a group of people have faith in a dream, inspiring each other to rise up and make it happen... together. RISE is ultimately a celebration of determination, love, friendship, family, identity and the vital importance of failure in life... to find the true meaning of success.

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