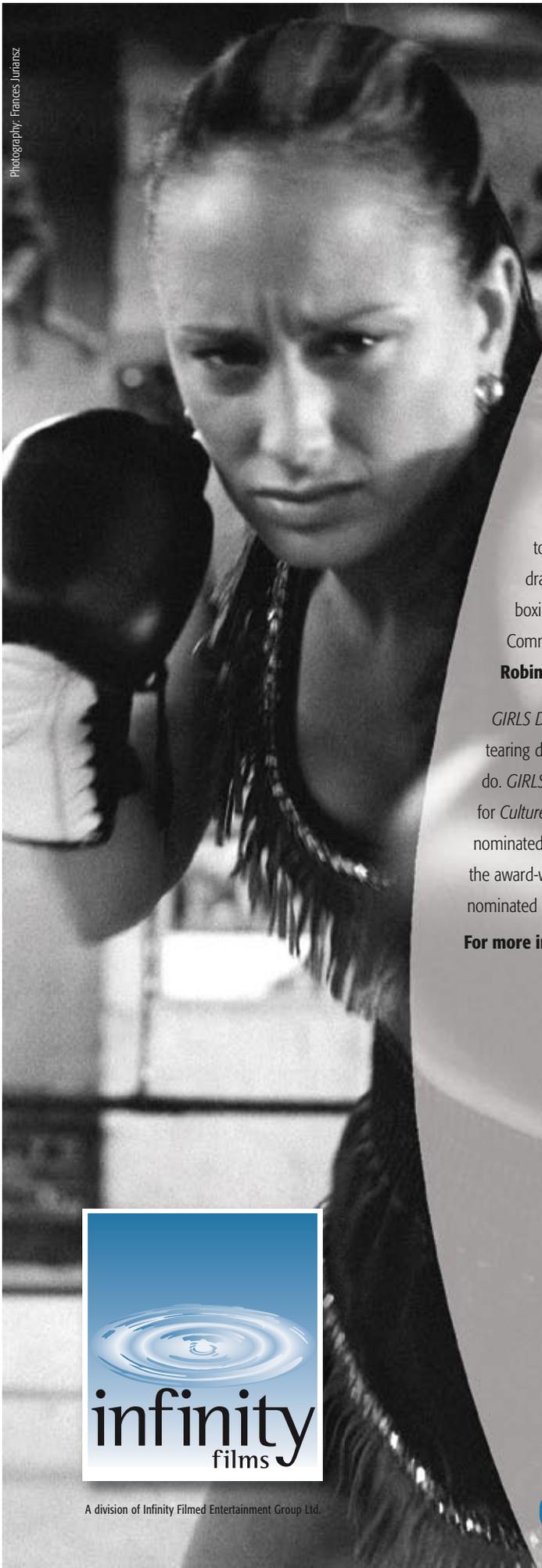


# GIRLS DON'T FIGHT

**Narrated by: Sandra Oh** 46:00 documentary

**GIRLS DON'T FIGHT** is a documentary that takes a playful look at the recent shift of women's roles in high-profile combative sports. The film follows the personal journey of boxer **Jessica Rakoczy** who fought her way off the tough streets of Hamilton to become the Women's Lightweight Champion of the World. In contrast to Jessica's gritty world of pro boxing the film also features wrestler **Lyndsay Belisle's** quest for gold at the 2004 Athens Games at the first women's freestyle wrestling competition in Olympic history. **Sandra Oh** (*Sideways*, *Grey's Anatomy*) narrates.

Lyndsay has something that Jessica has been denied – an Olympic opportunity. Female boxing is still not included at the Olympics. With no gold medal dream to follow, Jessica's only viable option was to turn pro which has a unique set of gender controversies. For a woman to have a profitable career in the media-driven world of boxing she must be "marketable", she must have sex appeal. This often relegates female boxing to being a circus sideshow on men's boxing cards, a trend that Jessica and other true fighters are trying to buck. This film captures Jessica training through a severe ankle injury to defend her world title, revealing the dedication, athletic skill, and iron-will it takes to be a champion. It is women like her who have made it possible for the next wave of female boxers to be accorded the respect they deserve. This film reveals the Olympic Committee's decision on the most recent petition for women's boxing to be included at the 2008 Olympics.



The idea of women competing in violent sports seems novel but Jessica and Lyndsay are part of a long history of women who have fought the age-old taboo that girls don't fight. We trace the evolution of female combatants from the Ancient Greek female wrestler Atalanta to a rebellious female boxing pioneer from the 1950's, **Barbara Buttrick**, to the present day contemporaries of Jessica and Lyndsay. With provocative interview montages set against hilarious women's etiquette film clips from the 1950's, this documentary tackles the gender issues in violent sport with irony and humour.

What is it like for a woman to enter a boxing gym for the first time? How does it feel to hit or be hit? How do people react to a woman with a cauliflower ear or a black eye?

*GIRLS DON'T FIGHT* was filmed on location at the 2004 Olympic Summer Games in Athens, Greece, under the neon lights of Las Vegas in the America's boxing belt, and in the tough working-class neighborhood in Hamilton where Jessica grew up. The documentary draws opinions from a diverse group of on-camera subjects including the now 70-year-old boxing legend Barbara Buttrick, the first female Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee **Anita Defrantz**, Olympic gold medalist **Daniel Igali**, sports sociologist **Laura Robinson** and boxers **Muhammad Ali** and **Joe Frazier**.

*GIRLS DON'T FIGHT* is human drama played on the world stage. It's about two powerful women tearing down stereotypes and overcoming enormous challenges to become the best at what they do. *GIRLS DON'T FIGHT* is directed by **Jill Sharpe** (Leo Award-winning and Gemini-nominated for *Culture Jam: Hijacking Commercial Culture*), written and produced by **Ken Crow** (Leo Award-nominated for *Ben Johnson, Drugs & the Quest for Gold*), and also produced by **Shel Piercy** and the award-winning team at **Infinity Films** (*Ben Johnson, Drugs and the Quest for Gold*; Gemini-nominated and Leo Award-winning *Guinea Pig Club*).

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NARRATED BY SANDRA OH PRODUCED BY KEN CRAW SHEL PIERCY

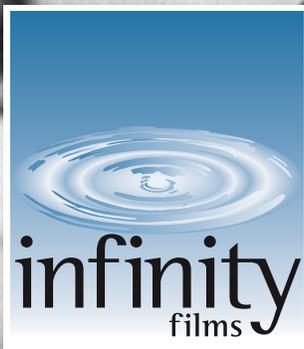
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAN CARRIERE JILL FAIRCLOUGH DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KIRK TOUGAS

EDITORS BONNI DEVLIN DEBRA RURAK ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSED BY DOUG BLACKLEY

WRITTEN BY KEN CRAW DIRECTED BY JILL SHARPE



GIRLS DON'T FIGHT IS AN INFINITY FILMS PRODUCTION, PRODUCED AND DEVELOPED IN ASSOCIATION WITH CTV, AND WITH THE FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF ROGERS DOCUMENTARY FUND, THE CANWEST WESTERN INDEPENDENT PRODUCERS FUND, THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM INCENTIVE BC, AND THE CANADIAN FILM OR VIDEO PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM. ALSO DEVELOPED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FILM AND THE CANADIAN TELEVISION FUND CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND THE CANADIAN CABLE INDUSTRY, TELEFILM CANADA: EQUITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMME. DISTRIBUTED BY CTV.



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