

OPEN FIELD

Press release

October 19, 2020

New documentary film OPEN FIELD profiles the hard-hitting world champions of women's football and their drive to earn greatness, recognition and respect.

Austin, TX, October 22, 2020 --The Austin Film Festival's virtual filmgoers will soon feel the impact of OPEN FIELD, an unforgettable journey into the heart of American women's football as told through the eyes of legendary quarterback Sami Grisafe, San Francisco 49ers Assistant Coach Katie Sowers and other pioneering women of the gridiron.

Top coaches and players who champion a more inclusive future for football also appear, including Kyle Shanahan, Head Coach of the San Francisco 49ers; Franco Harris, the legendary Pittsburgh Steeler and Hall of Famer; and John Konecki, Head Coach of Team USA and the Chicago Force.

Winning world championships by NFL rules in NFL stadiums.

Growing up, Sami Grisafe was captain and first female quarterback of her Division 1 high school football team. Then she was three-time champion and MVP quarterback of the Team USA. Winning came easy to Sami. Opening the field to a new generation of female players was a whole different ballgame.

OPEN FIELD follows Sami and her hard-hitting teammates as they rack up championship after championship. Yet even at the top of their game, they hit obstacles no male NFL players have ever faced. Gender stereotypes. Lack of funding and sponsorships. No unified league. And no awareness or recognition in an otherwise football-obsessed nation.

These women carved out a path that didn't exist and built a movement, of both women and men, who are reframing the conversation and rewriting the playbook to integrate women into the game. Their inspiring story will change the way you view professional football and how you define a champion.

A project of passion and grit.

"We knew this incredible story had to be told," explains Director and Producer Kathy Kuras of Vanguard Muse. "These women not only won US championships, they went on to conquer the world, despite the hurdles and the setbacks." Shot on location over six years with full access to practice sessions, games, locker rooms, private team conversations and off-the-field activities, OPEN FIELD documents multiple seasons of the Chicago Force and three world championships of Team USA (in Sweden, Finland and Canada). The film also draws upon home-video footage and archival images to bring to life the compelling journey of Sami Grisafe through youth league

and high school competition. “We’re thrilled that our story will be told at the Austin Film Festival,” says Sami. “We hope it’s an inspiration to countless women and girls out there who love the game of football and strikes a chord with anyone who has had the privilege to play.”

Vanguard Muse is an independent music and film production company with a mission to ignite social progress through music, film and creative experiences. It is based in Los Angeles, CA and Arlington, TX.

Crook & Nanny Productions makes independent films and offers production and post-production services for narrative, documentary, and commercial projects. The company is based in Los Angeles, CA and Asheville, NC.

The OPEN FIELD soundtrack features music performed by Sami Grisafe, star of the film and also an award-winning performer and written by Sami Grisafe, KOIL PreAmp (Timbaland, Diddy, Mos Def, Will Smith), and Emmy Award winner Eren Cannata (Timbaland, Nina Sky) who co-wrote Demi Lovato’s newest release, “Commander in Chief.”

The Playbook:

OPEN FIELD will be screened beginning October 22 at the 2020 virtual Austin Film Festival and beginning October 23 at the 2020 virtual Tallgrass Film Festival.

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URL address for OPEN FIELD: <https://openfieldmovie.com>

URL address for EPK: <https://openfieldepk.com>

URL address for Austin Film Festival: <https://austinfilmfestival.com>

URL address for Tallgrass Film Festival: <https://tallgrassfilm.org>

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