

Pickleballs!



Chip Cox driving with a statue of his younger self when he was a tennis champ

Pickleballs!

- The Movie

When a disgraced former tennis champ loses his job, home, and his mother on the same day, he must travel the country in an old RV, hustling for enough cash to pay off gambling debts by playing in Pickleball tournaments.

Overview

Pickleballs! - The Movie

- ▶ Genre: Feature Film, Buddy Comedy

Comparable Movies

- ▶ **Blades of Glory** Gross Revenue \$147.5 million
- ▶ **Talladega Nights** Gross Revenue \$163.4 million
- ▶ **Wedding Crashers** Gross revenue \$288.5 million
- ▶ **Step-Brothers** Gross revenue \$167.8 million

What in the Heck is Pickleball?

- ▶ Pickleball is a sport combining many aspects of tennis and Ping Pong, played on a court the size of a badminton court.
- ▶ USA Pickleball has had a 650% membership increase in the past 6 years alone.
- ▶ Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country with 4.9 million players.
- ▶ In 2021/2, the sport grew over 39%.
- ▶ According to IFP, it is also played in at least 70+ different countries.
- ▶ There are 3 professional tours (PPA, APP and MLP) with 40+ tournaments and \$4+ million in purses.
- ▶ Pickleball also has a very silly name and lots of interesting, quirky personalities, making it ripe for comedy.

How Pickleball Won Over Everyone From Leonardo DiCaprio to Your Grandparents

“Out of nowhere, Pickleball is everywhere. This sneaky-fast amalgam of tennis, badminton, and Ping-Pong has been embraced by Larry David, Melinda Gates, Jamie Foxx, the Kardashians, Owen Wilson, Jillian Michaels, Zach Braff, and Giuliana Rancic. Pro athletes from Russell Wilson to Annika Sörenstam have mastered the dink and drive. Games break out in the Chicago Cubs bullpen. Reese Witherspoon mentioned Pickleball in a birthday post to husband Jim Toth. George Clooney says his wife, Amal, routinely torches him on their home court in L.A. Joel Silver prefers to just watch. *Survivor* winner Tyson Apostol has parlayed his reality-TV fame into a career as a Pickleball influencer.”

- by Craig Coyne, *Vanity Fair*



Synopsis

A cocky ex-tennis champion, Chip Cox has seen the rise of pickleball on the courts where he taught tennis at his country club. His once flowing blond hair is now replaced by a receding hairline that he attempts to hide with hats and wigs. He lives in a run-down RV in his mothers' driveway. He has just been fired as a teaching pro at his local club and his mom just died and willed her house to her church.

Desperate for money, Chip decides to recruit the brooding Boris Baryshnikov, his old, singles nemesis and doubles partner, to travel with him competing in pickleball tournaments. One problem: they haven't talked in nearly 40 years and still detest each other. But the about to be evicted from his failing, marijuana-growing commune, Boris, has little choice but to join his old nemesis.

They live together in the RV, learning from each other, traveling to compete in tournaments across the country. In the end, they find the happiness they were seeking was the opposite of what they thought it would be.



Story Behind the Story

- ▶ The backstory and philosophical underpinning that drives the narrative comes from the ideological differences between the protagonists:
- ▶ Chip, the capitalist is selfish.
- ▶ Boris, the communist is selfless.
- ▶ Capitalism, unchecked, puts the priorities of the individual over others.
- ▶ Communism, in the purest form, puts the needs of others before the self.
- ▶ Chip's gluttonous greed and arrogance led to a gambling problem that left him morally and financially bankrupt and alone.
- ▶ Boris's naïve ideology left him alone and broke because he gave away everything he had. He thought that others would reciprocate his unconditional giving. They didn't. The commune was failing because he didn't understand how to get staff to work hard or compete in a capitalistic society.

- ▶ Both Chip and Boris thought their way of living was the right way and stubbornly stuck to their individual ideas about how to live. Both were wrong. Both were alone.
- ▶ These themes are woven into the story through the two men who are coming to terms with their eventual mortality and realization that they were stubborn and wrong.
- ▶ They eventually discover that understanding the other and working together is the best way to achieve success and happiness...And true success and happiness are different from what they thought it would be.
- ▶ Boris, the communist becomes a capitalist as the GM for the new Margaritaville Resort.
- ▶ And Chip, the capitalist, embraces communal living as a Pickleball teacher in exchange for room and board at Margaritaville.
- ▶ This is the real story we are telling that is buried subliminally to the humor of their adventures together both on and off the court.

Awards

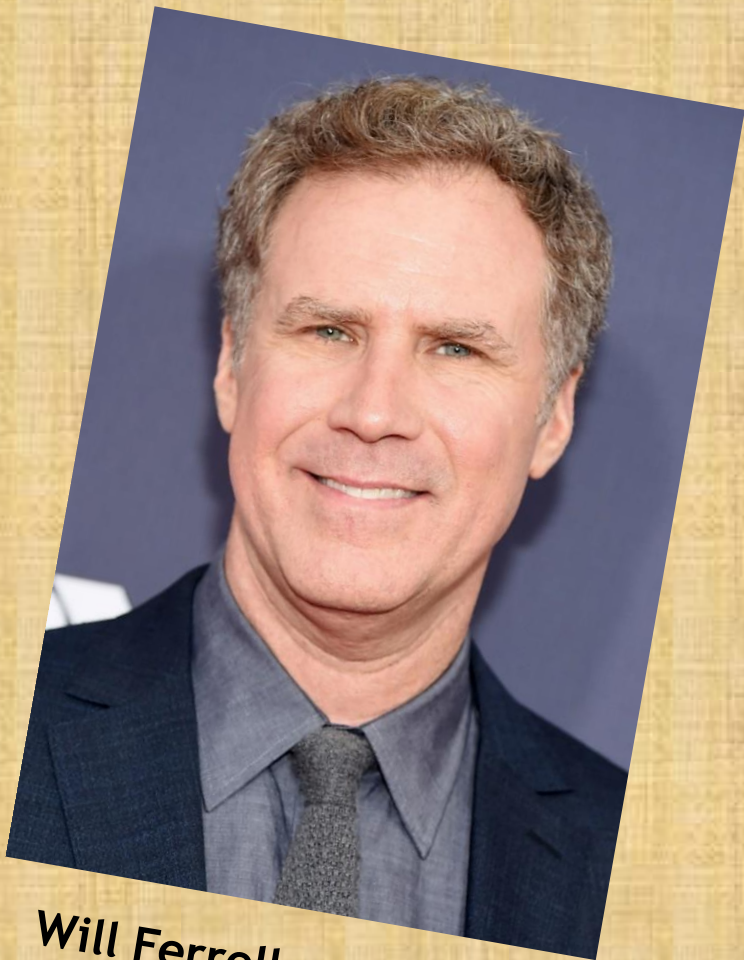


“The dry wit and humor in the narration and the somewhat over-the-top elements of the opening film reel depicting Chip’s and Boris’ upbringings and rise to stardom instantly made me think of Wes Anderson.

The brand of humor here is very similar to Anderson’s style and the eccentric characters and lavish story world play right into that same aesthetic. This made for a very entertaining and visual introduction to the players and set-up of the narrative and pulled me right into the script.

The fact that this is framed like a bio-pic while also being an entirely fictional scenario made for some fun moments that both affirmed and subverted similar sports-oriented films.” -Austin Film Festival Script Analysis

Potential Cast of Characters



Will Ferrell - Chip Cox



**Sacha Baron Cohen
- Boris Baryshnikov**

Chip Cox – Written for Will Ferrell

Other potential actors: Kevin Costner, Don Johnson, Brian Cranston, George Clooney
Leonardo DiCaprio, Woody Harrelson

Chip was a blend of a youthful John McEnroe and Andre Agassi with the style of Bjorn Borg. He was deeply tanned, heavily muscled, and a chick-magnet.

Now, he is pale, flabby, single, and a sex-craved gambling-addict. He is largely ignorant, and his maturity level and sense of humor remains adolescent. He talks a lot of trash to opponents,

Chip has tried to ignore but has seen the rise of Pickleball on the courts next to where he taught tennis at his country club. His once flowing blond hair is now replaced by a massively receding hairline that he desperately attempts to hide with hats and wigs. He has been living in Van Nuys, CA in an old, run-down RV in his mothers' driveway. He has just been fired as a teaching pro at his local club and his mom just died and willed her house to her church.

With no job, no money and no living family, Chip needs to reinvent and redeem himself.

Chip Cox - Continued

- ▶ He has an idea: recruit Boris, his old, singles nemesis and doubles partner, to travel with him across the country competing in Pickleball tournaments, while promoting his autobiography. One problem - they still detest each other.

Chip uses his Amazon Alexa device to find Boris living in a failed commune in upstate New York. He calls him and says he wants to help Boris fix his financial problems. Chip doesn't tell Boris that he, himself is broke.

He hopes they can recreate their magical tennis chemistry through pickleball as partners while redeeming their reputations and wiping out their debt, even though they have not spoken to each other in close to 40 years.

Boris Barishnikov – Written for Sascha Baron-Cohen

Other potential actors for this role: Brian Cranston, Jerry Seinfeld, Ben Stiller, Adam Sandler, Daniel day Lewis, Jeff Goldblum, and Ben Affleck.

- ▶ Boris is a skinny, hairy, old school communist-loving Russian who loves to quote Karl Marx and Dostoyevsky. He came from nowhere to “win” the 1978 French Open singles due to a steroid drug test failure by Chip Cox (the reigning, six-time champion).
- ▶ Boris returned home after the French Open and promptly gave his winnings to the corrupt, communist party.
- ▶ He took orders to spread communism in America. He has been running a commune in Northern California for 30+ years.
- ▶ He is learning the marijuana-growing business while trying to manage and motivate a lazy staff.
- ▶ He struggles with the hypocrisy of his need to make a profit despite his antipathy for capitalism.
- ▶ He owes a lot of money in back taxes and is nearing eviction.
- ▶ Chip convinces Boris that they can play and win together on the Senior Pickleball Tour.
- ▶ Boris, the communist becomes a capitalist as the GM for the new Margaritaville Resort on the land of his former commune.

Referee Marcus Merriweather - TBD

- ▶ He starts off as the bag-boy assistant to Chip Cox as a youth after Chip thrashes him and embarrasses him with trash talk in a tennis tournament when they are both 10 years old.
- ▶ Later, Marcus becomes a prominent umpire and has run-ins with Chip at tournaments.
- ▶ He is head umpire at French Open and disqualifies Chip for a failed drug test.
- ▶ He strips Chip of his sponsorship in a scene at Tennis Club and fights over the oversized check with Lacey Underhill.
- ▶ He marries Lacey Underhill
- ▶ He is head referee of National Pickleball Championships

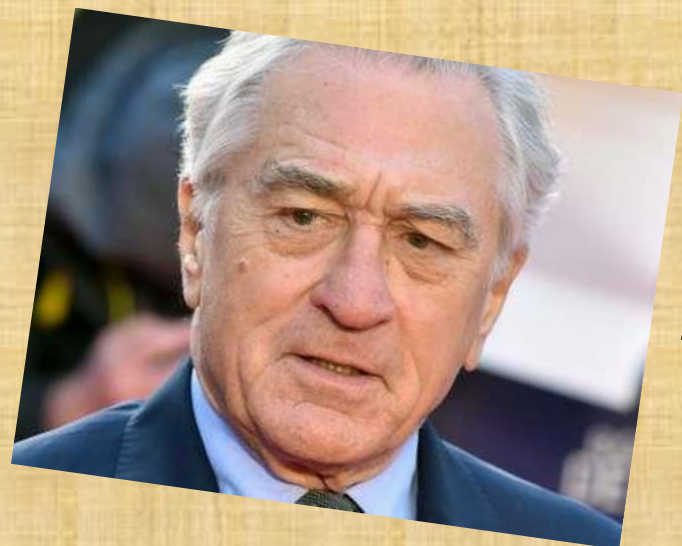
President Underhill - Written For Robert DeNiro/Chevy Chase

- ▶ Father of Lacey Underhill.
- ▶ No-nonsense former military Admiral and UN Ambassador who is the President of the club across the street from the home Chip Cox bought for his mom
- ▶ Built a statue for Chip in 1978 and put it at the entrance to the club.
- ▶ Hired Chip to teach tennis lessons after Chip is banned from playing professional tennis on the tour.
- ▶ Has put up with Chip for nearly 40 years since he felt bad for him since his daughter cancelled their engagement, his gambling losses, his losing sponsorship and being banned from competing again.

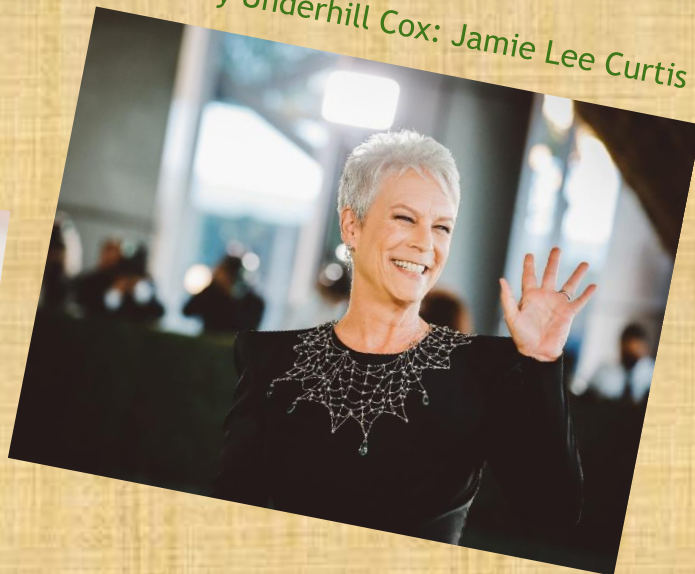
Lacey Underhill - Written for Jamie Lee Curtis

- ▶ Daughter of President Underhill.
- ▶ Was engaged to Chip Cox.
- ▶ Fought Marcus for the winner check after 1979 French Open Final.
- ▶ Gained worldwide recognition.
- ▶ Became a Playboy playmate.
- ▶ Married Marcus Merriweather in 1980.
- ▶ Got breast implants and plastic surgery.
- ▶ Became Playboy playmate again.
- ▶ Met up with Chip and Boris at end of movie.

Potential Supporting Characters



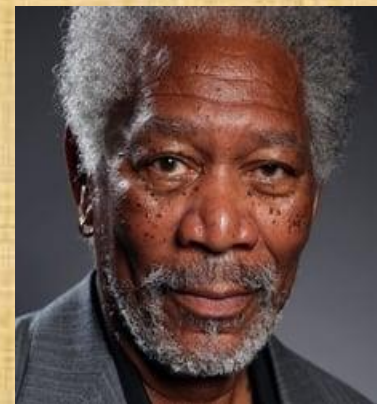
Woodrow (Woody) Cox: Robert De Niro



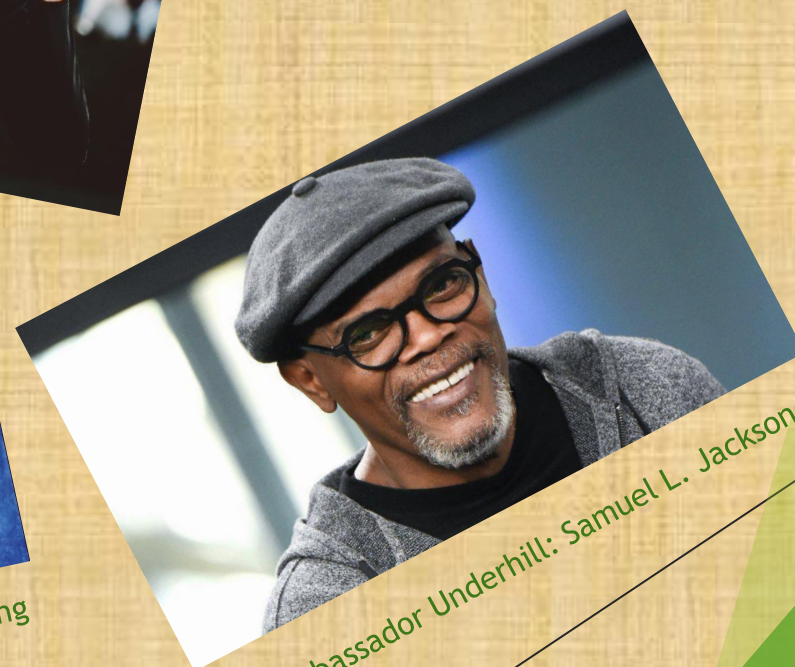
Lacey Underhill Cox: Jamie Lee Curtis



Otto the Referee: Ken Jeong



Narrator: Morgan Freeman



Ambassador Underhill: Samuel L. Jackson

About the Writer

At 50, after a successful career in sports marketing, Beeman decided to go back to school and get a graduate degree in hospitality. At about the same time, Beeman was involved in a major car accident and subsequently had a double fusion of his vertebrae in his back. While this traumatic event impacted his mobility, it also opened the door to a new passion.

One day after his gentle yoga at his rec center, he was walking past the gym and heard the laughter and the ubiquitous *pop, pop, pop* of the Pickleball play. He entered the gym. Despite his appearance and physical limitations, he was immediately, warmly welcomed and encouraged to join in the fun. Just like nearly everyone else who tries it, he was quickly addicted.

Just a few months later he was selected as a USA Pickleball ambassador and is now an International Pickleball Federation Ambassador and sponsored by Head/Penn.

Despite his limitations, Pickleball gave Beeman another shot at life.



The author as a pickle with balls is pictured above

About the Writer

Beeman began his writing “career” in graduate school where he earned his Master of Hospitality from UNLV when he wrote his final paper on the *Implications of Pickleball for the Hospitality Industry*.

This and an epiphany inspired him to write Pickleballs!

Since then, he has published two books:

Deep Dive: Existential Essays for Personal Transformation, Published 9/2020

This critically acclaimed book uses the lens of existentialism to follow a metaphoric flashlight beam underwater on a personal and philosophical deep dive into many important issues facing humanity.

Zeitgeist Chronicles: Essays on Issues in America, 2020 - 2021

This book of 20 essays, all written in 2020 about contemporary issues in America will challenge your thinking. It is a hard hitting, powerful book with strong opinions about power, disease, racism, guns, politics, wealth inequality, religion and more. It captures a year in history like no other.



The author as a pickle with balls is pictured above

Dan Beeman Contact Information

- ▶ Please contact me if you would like to read the script.
- ▶ debeeman@gmail.com
- ▶ **818-983-5700**