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1TITLE: MACK HOUSE

SUBJECT: SCRIPT LOGLINE & SYNOPSIS

STORY BY: LEJON LOGGINS

WRITTEN BY: BRYAN FARRELL & LEJON LOGGINS

GENRE: DRAMA/COMING OF AGE/DANCE

FORMAT: FEATURE

SETTING: McCLYMONDS HIGH SCHOOL (OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA) -- PRESENT DAY



LOGLINE: Two girls brought together by their love for music and dance as teens are divided by the same interests once they reach high school, as one becomes head cheerleader and the other forms "Dance Squad" - a sexier, hipper style of dance that creates controversy among students, staff and parents.

SYNOPSIS: Two young girls are first introduced to each other during dance class through a mutual male friend. One is shy, a sensitive introvert, while the other is confident and outgoing. Despite the different personality types, the girls immediately form a bond, learning they share the same musical interests and dreams of becoming professional dancers. But when the shy girl moves away the friends lose touch. It's not until the shy girl's family moves back to Oakland when she's a teen that the

two meet again, at a tryout for a dance video. The girls pick up where they left off, becoming good friends again, as their mutual male friend had hoped for when he invited both to the tryout, and the friends put on dance shows at the mall.

But when the shy girl attends high school, the friendship becomes divided by dance. When rehearsing for the Cheerleader Team, the confident, more popular girl can't convince her cheerleader friends to accept her friend and she's cut from the team. The girls swear to remain friends but soon find the climate at school an ever increasing challenge.

The young man tries to help the girls remain close. He's a DJ, school band drummer, and aspiring music producer. He understands they have equal but different talents. He sees the shy girl is heartbroken and that she even considers dropping out of school. She can only open up to him about her feelings, and the young man tells her family about her situation.



At home, the shy girl's visiting Auntie talks to her about her troubles and shares a story about her younger days. In her college days in Georgia, her Auntie tells her, there was a long-time tradition of Dance Girl teams who entertain crowds during football games. The girl dance teams had a more modern dance style, flashier and more provocative. As an example, the girl's Mother and Auntie perform an old routine of theirs, making the girl laugh, picking up her spirits and lighting a spark in her.

The shy girl returns to school with new energy and a plan. She holds tryouts of her own. She creates Dance Girls Squad, based on the idea of having more flash, style and fun while entertaining football crowds. But this is not Georgia and the girl has no idea how the team will² be perceived. No matter, she's determined to compete with the cheerleaders, even if her idea seems like a joke to the cheerleading squad. And when game time comes, the performance put on by Dance Girls

Squad opens eyes, creates a buzz, grabs attention away from the cheerleaders, and stirs controversy within the school and community.

³As a greater divide and fiercer competition forms between the two girls, as the young man tries his best to sooth feelings and patch up the split. He believes there's room for both teams during the games, yet he's accused by the Head Cheerleader of being a traitor because of the music he creates and plays for Dance Girls Squad. When he tries to explain his position to Head Cheerleader, they unexpectedly come together romantically, and he's automatically viewed as a traitor in the eyes of the shy girl - who he feels true love for.

Now things are worse than ever. The three friends don't talk or even look at one another anymore. At school, games and parties, they try to bury one another by outperforming and making fun of each other. And



when the Cheerleader Team finally get their wish and Dance Girls Squad get suspended for being too sexy amongst parents and students, all seems completely lost in regard to a continued friendship and any dance dreams the shy girl once had. Only the young man still believes all things can be overcome, and he talks to the Principal about helping find a solution.

The Principal, his staff and his wife agree that such a fierce competition and divide cannot be good for the students and they come up with an idea. They travel with students, including both the Cheerleading Team and Dance Squad Girls, to visit historic Black female colleges in the South. There the girls experience a different world of sisterhood and togetherness, learning about what being a strong Black female in this age means. Spirited competition amongst the ladies is healthy and good, but not if division, anger and rejection are the final results. To be strong and to thrive as women

and as a culture, togetherness, acceptance, support and love must be the goal.

Even though the friends say they'll put their lesson to good use, once they return home they find coming together difficult and they find the same division arising. But during their time away, they see the young man has been stricken with cancer, becoming seriously ill and in need of an operation for a brain tumor. They see the young man's family doesn't have the money to pay for such a procedure in the time doctors say it must be performed. And suddenly the girls are forced to see how petty their differences have been and realize they only want one thing: to see their best friend get well again.

The girls come up with a solution through music and dance. They see how they can use the controversy created by varied styles to their advantage. They create an event between the Cheerleading Team and Dance Squad Girls to determine who will win the rights to cheer at the upcoming State Championship game. But the bigger goal is to draw attention to their cause and raise money for the young man.

With both teams going full-out to outdo each other, the event brings a wide range of communities together and raises money to help the young man receive the medical attention he needs. The Principal and his staff agree both teams can cheer at the upcoming State Championship football game. And the friends plan their academic and artistic future together for college and beyond, knowing nothing will separate them now.