

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 4.2 million players.
- ▶ In 2021, the sport grew over 21% compared to an average growth of 10.5% the previous 3 years.
- ▶ According to IFP, it is also played in at least 68 different countries. Double the amount from the previous year.
- ▶ There are 3 professional tours (PPA, APP and MLP) with 50 plus tournaments and \$5 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 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 across the country 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.

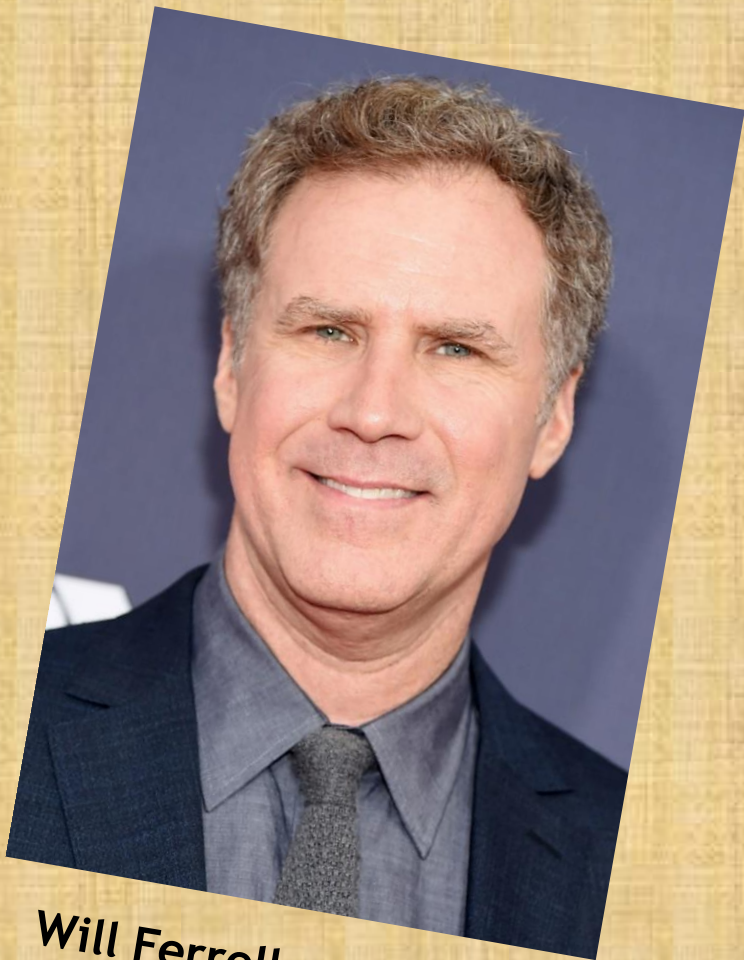
- ▶ Both Chip and Boris thought their way of living was the right way and stubbornly stuck to their individual ideas about how to live. Both were wrong. Both were alone.
- ▶ These themes are woven into the story through the two men who are coming to terms with their eventual mortality and realization 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

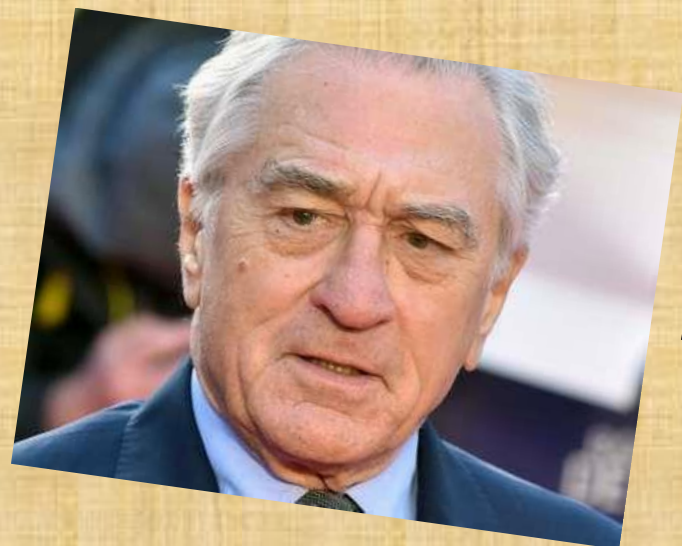


Will Ferrell - Chip Cox



**Sacha Baron Cohen
- Boris Baryshnikov**

Potential Supporting Characters



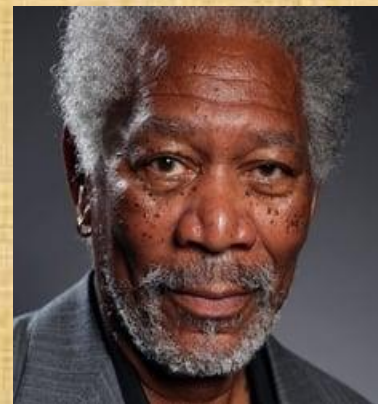
Woodrow (Woody) Cox: Robert De Niro



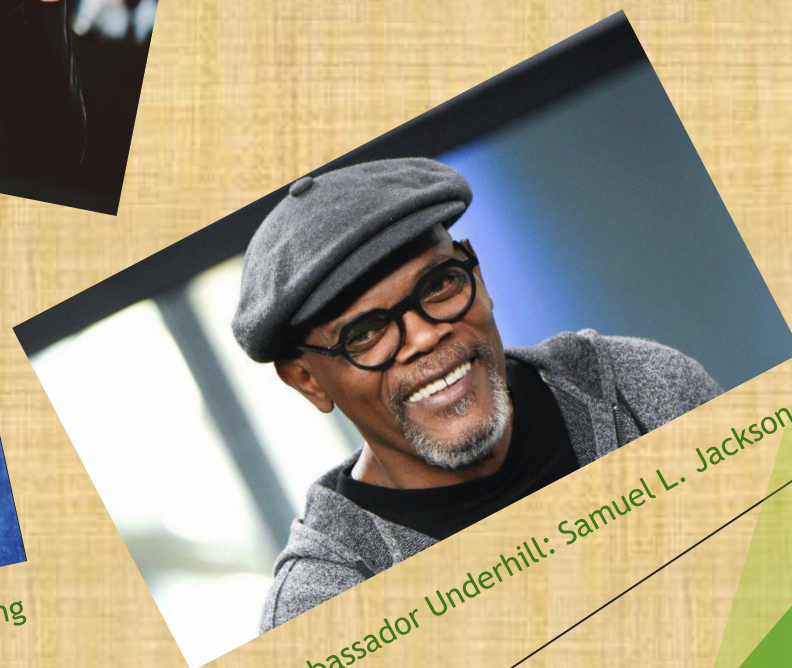
Lacey Underhill Cox: Jamie Lee Curtis



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.



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