BASED ON A TRUE STORY

E A T U R E F I L M

WRITTEN BY

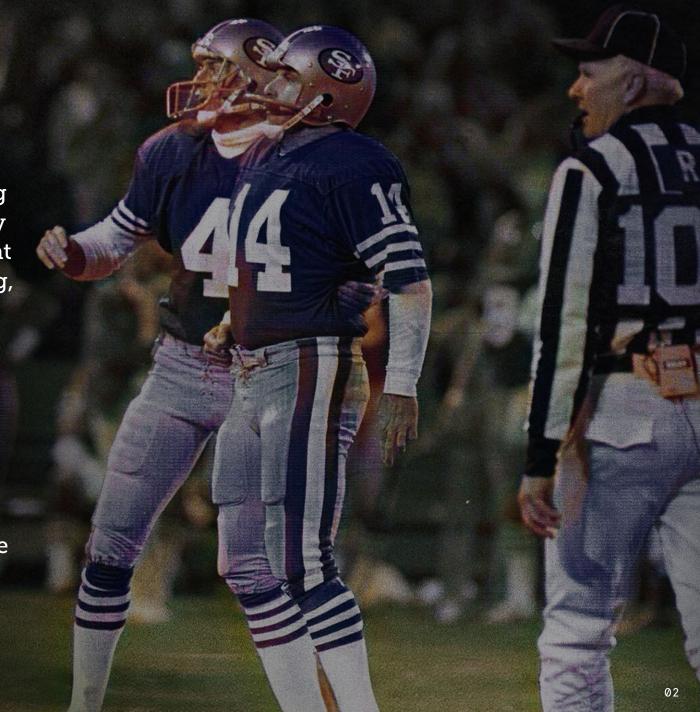
KOLBY RUNAGER

WRITER'S NOTE

When I began writing Real Men Play Football, I desired to honor my father's legacy by telling an honest, intimate, and deeply personal story of the man I idolized. I believe I have done that with this script and done so in an entertaining, unconventional and at times, humorous way.

What I didn't expect was that in my desire to share my father's story, I would feel compelled to make a film that speaks to the greater danger of CTE caused by football. This film speaks to that as well.

Beyond being a tribute to my father, Real Men Play Football can hopefully help comfort those in similar circumstances and encourage a safer approach to the American institution that is football. That is the power of film.



In 2017, Dr. Ann McKee, chief neurologist and director of the Boston **University CTE Center,** studied the brains of 111 deceased former NFL football players. 110 of those were found to have CTE.

44 Linemen
20 Running Backs
17 Defensive Backs
13 Linebackers
7 Quarterbacks
5 Wide Receivers
2 Tight Ends
1 Kicker...

... and 1 Punter

Logline

Real Men Play Football is a satirical dramedy based on the life and death of Super Bowlwinning NFL punter Max Runager who died in 2017 with Stage II CTE.

After his passing, a determined Philadelphia journalist and Max's reluctant southern son embark on an investigative journey to discover how this beloved punter developed a degenerative brain disease and how it led to his untimely death.

Along the way, they learn this game is far more corrupt than they imagined and that Max's love of football came at a price... the ultimate price.



PLOTSUMMARY

Kramer Runager is a grieving bartender trapped in his father's hometown of Orangeburg, South Carolina who can't seem to move past his father's death.

When Sue Coffey - a resolute Philadelphia journalist with a profound attachment to Max Runager from her childhood as the daughter of die-hard Eagles fans - learns of his passing, she can't comprehend how an NFL punter happened to succumb to CTE; a degenerative brain disease predominantly reserved for hard-hitting football players. Her quest brings her to Orangeburg where she is dead-set on discovering how this debilitating disease brought Max to an early grave.

A fish out of water, Sue soon learns that this tight-lipped, small town, southern community isn't too keen on sharing intimate details about the demise of their golden son with a reporter from the North. Ever resilient, Sue reaches out to Kramer for help to access those that were closest to Max. Kramer, drowning in the guilt he carries for not being able to somehow rescue his father, is quick to reject her.

It isn't until his fiancée, Rachael, leaves him that Kramer decides to face his unresolved resentment and assist Sue in telling the heartbreaking story of Max's decline. With the help of personal accounts from friends and family, Sue and Kramer learn about the circumstances that led to Max's last days and beyond that, the fact that Max is not the only victim of football tragedy.

Through Bubba Duke, a former teammate and lifelong friend, they learn about the countless other football players who have suffered and continue to suffer from CTE and the failure of the NFL to take the proper preventative measures to ensure player safety.

Kramer, at first skeptical and at odds with Sue and her intentions, not only learns to heal along their journey but to forgive. And Sue not only gains a friend in Kramer, but maybe something more.



CHARACTERS



MAX RUNAGER

THE PUNTER

"I loved football, K.
It was ingrained in my spirit.
It's what I was put on earth to do."

KRAMER RUNAGER

THE SON

"At the end of the day, people love football and no one gives a shit about CTE and no one gives a shit about what you have to say."





GRANDDAD

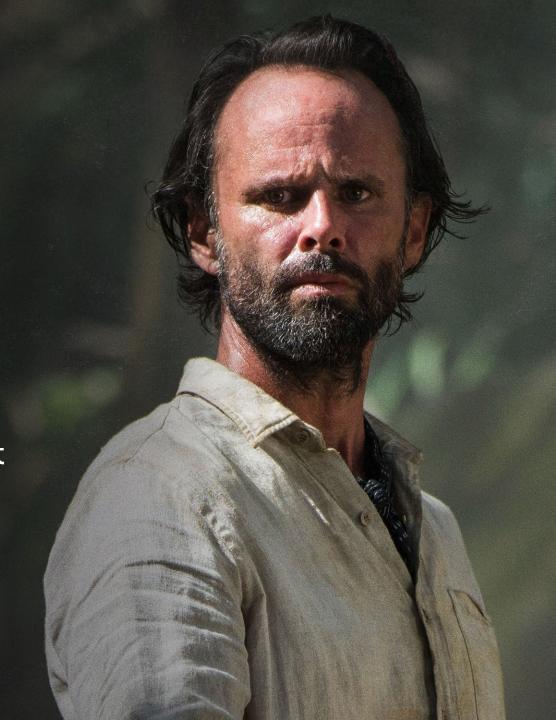
"You can't drive down the highway with your eyes in the rear view mirror the whole time."



UNCLECLARK

THE LOYAL UNCLE

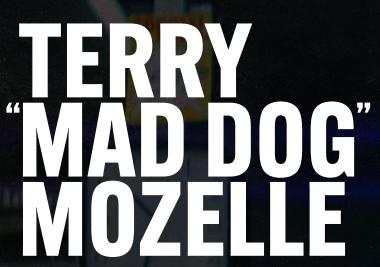
"Football ain't a game down here. It ain't even a religion. It's life."





THE EX-WIFE

"One thing you have to learn the hard way when you are married to a football player, you're always gonna come in second."



THE UNPREDICTABLE COACH

"I've had more concussions than a crash test dummy and look at me? I'm fine!"



BUBBA DUKE

THE TEAMMATE

"There was no concussions back then. You got your bell rung, that was it."



COMPARABLE FILMS

THE BIG SHORT (2015)

Similar in tone and style to the storytelling techniques used in The Big Short. Kramer at times breaks the fourth wall and certain scenes will weave in archival footage.



COMPARABLE FILMS

SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (2012)

The relationship between Kramer and Sue is similar to that of the characters of Pat and Tiffany in Silver Linings Playbook. What begins as a clash of personalities gradually blossoms into an unexpected attraction.



COMPARABLE FILMS

FIELD OF DREAMS (1989)

Kramer's ultimate quest is to find catharsis following the death of his father, much like Ray Kinsella in Field of Dreams.

