

WRESTLING FOR HOPE

WJTZ FILMS


RESPECT THE ROBE
LET'S GO STALLIONS
GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
WRESTLING FOR HOPE
#yestothemat
A viral social media series draws a former reporter turned podcaster into controversy—both on and off the mat.
WJTZ FILMS
BASED ON REAL STORIES
SPRING 2027

MAIN CHARACTERS



DR. MARVELLA CANTAVESPRE

DR. WENDY ZITO



HOPE SIMMONS

ALI FAITH SMITH



"MC CRIME BEAT" MILO CARRAWAY

JEREMIAH CLEMMONS



ROSIE BADHAM

PENELOPE JETT

MAIN SUPPORTING CAST



COACH
JAKE SIMMONS

STEWART HOLT



LIBRARIAN
RESA MONTCLAIR

PEYTON NEWSOME



PODCAST PRODUCER
TONY ANTONIO

DR. TJ ZITO, JR



TEAM MOM
BECKY RUFFNER

ALLIE BICE



STACY BADHAM

SAMANTHA FARMER



LEAD REF

LENA JOHANSSON





CASSIDY WORTHINGTON

MARIAH JOHANSSON



STRATFORD BROOKS STALLIONS

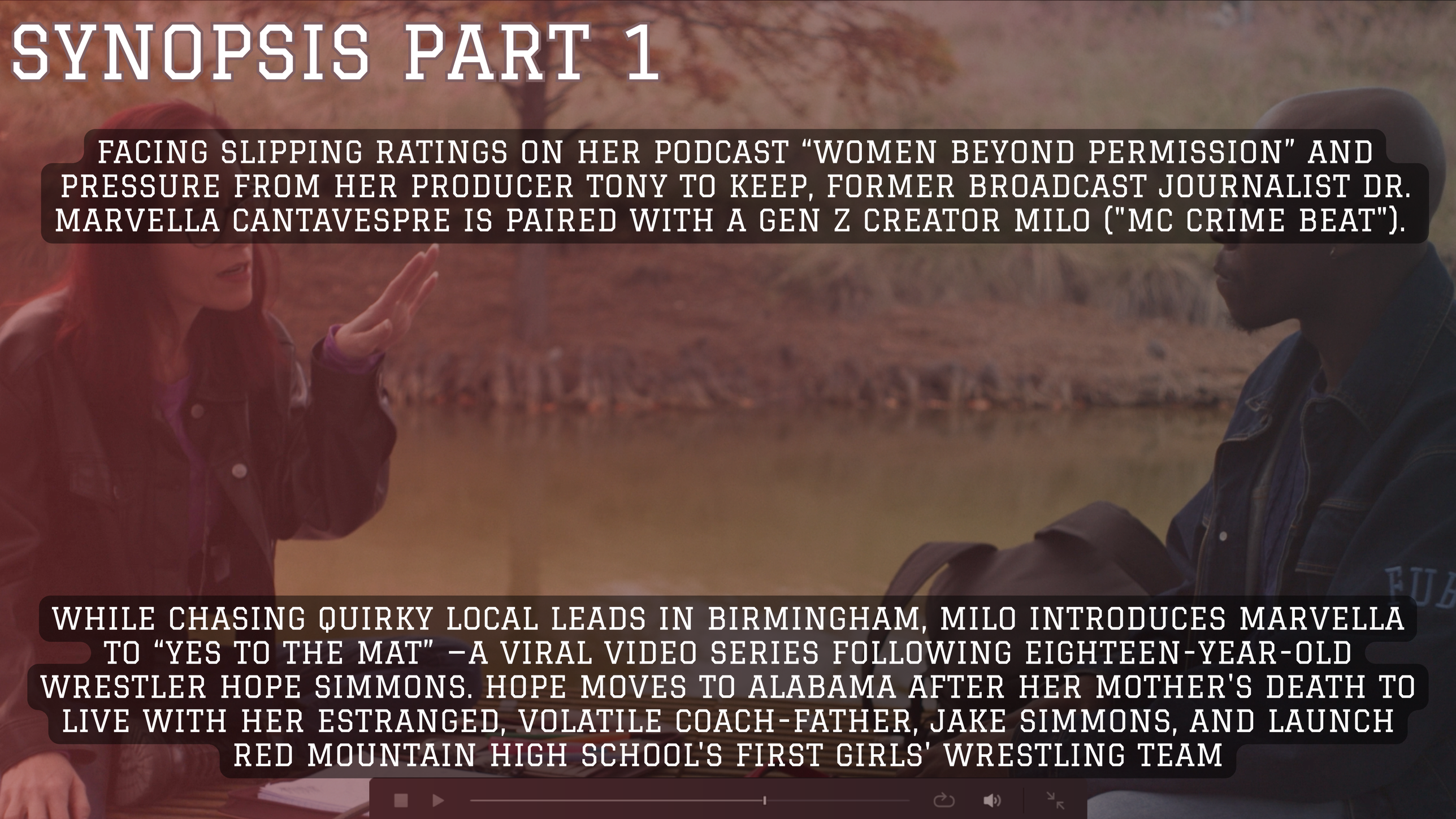
LOGLINE

AFTER HER MOTHER'S SUDDEN DEATH, TEENAGE WRESTLER HOPE SIMMONS MOVES IN WITH HER ESTRANGED WRESTLING COACH FATHER, JAKE SIMMONS, AS SHE BUILDS THE SCHOOL'S FIRST GIRLS' WRESTLING TEAM

FORMER BROADCAST JOURNALIST DR. MARVELLA CANTAVESPRE INVESTIGATES HOPE'S VIRAL “YES TO THE MAT” SOCIAL MEDIA CLIPS AND GIRLS' WRESTLING IS PUT UNDER AN INVESTIGATIVE MICROSCOPE TO UNDERSTAND ITS GROWING PAINS AND NATIONAL EXPANSION.

SYNOPSIS PART 1

FACING SLIPPING RATINGS ON HER PODCAST “WOMEN BEYOND PERMISSION” AND PRESSURE FROM HER PRODUCER TONY TO KEEP, FORMER BROADCAST JOURNALIST DR. MARVELLA CANTAVESPRE IS PAIRED WITH A GEN Z CREATOR MILO ("MC CRIME BEAT").



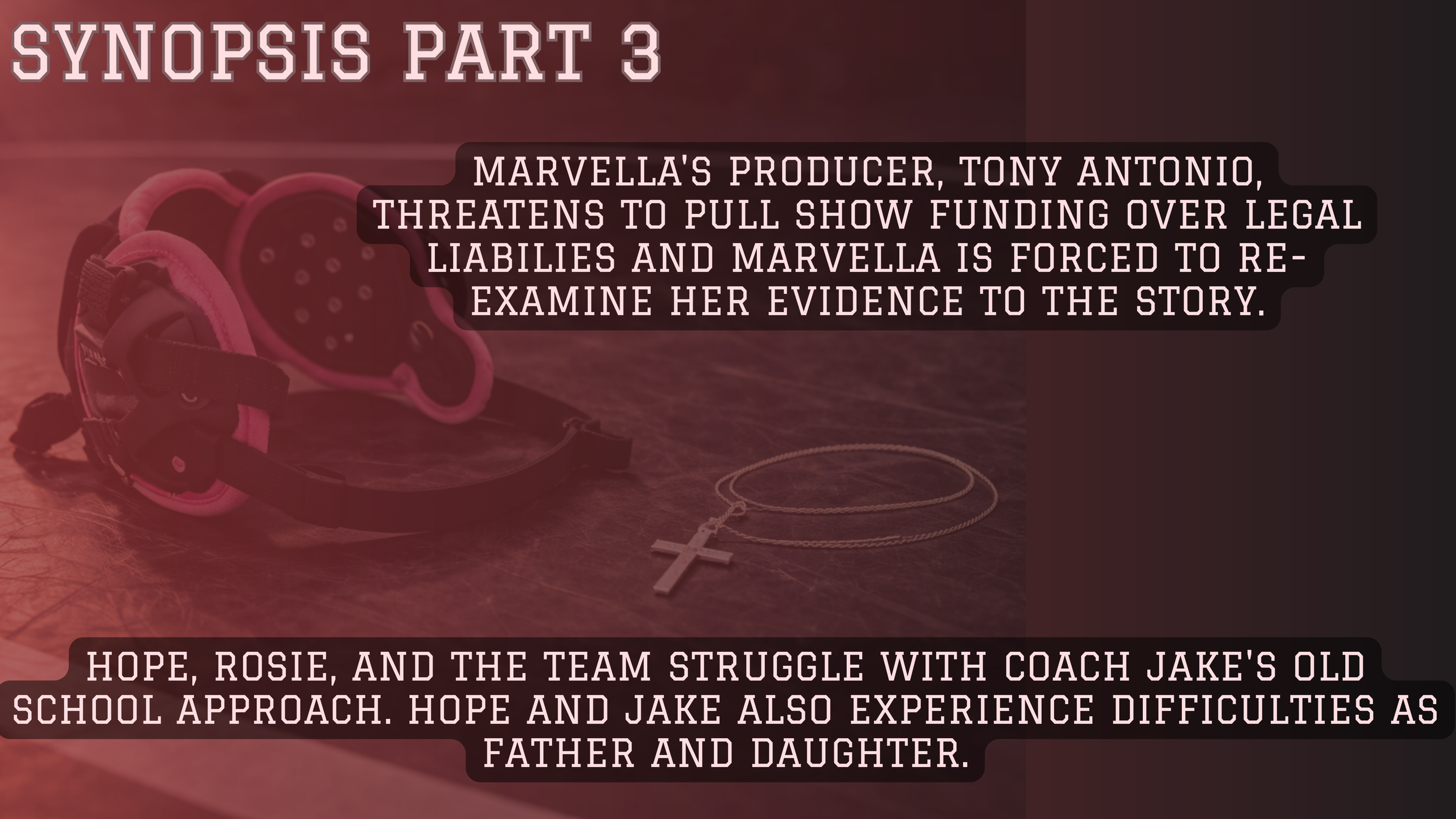
WHILE CHASING QUIRKY LOCAL LEADS IN BIRMINGHAM, MILO INTRODUCES MARVELLA TO “YES TO THE MAT” —A VIRAL VIDEO SERIES FOLLOWING EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD WRESTLER HOPE SIMMONS. HOPE MOVES TO ALABAMA AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH TO LIVE WITH HER ESTRANGED, VOLATILE COACH-FATHER, JAKE SIMMONS, AND LAUNCH RED MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST GIRLS' WRESTLING TEAM

SYNOPSIS PART 2

REFUSING TO REPORT ON UNVERIFIED SOCIAL MEDIACLIPS, MARVELLA INVESTIGATES THE TRUTH BEHIND THE CLIPS. SHE CONFRONTS EVASIVE STATE ATHLETIC OFFICIALS, DIGS THROUGH BIRMINGHAM NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES, AND MEETS AN OFF-THE-RECORD MEDICAL SOURCE.

MARVELLA UNCOVERS A DISMISSED 1990S WRESTLING TRAGEDY TIED TO COACH JAKE SIMMONS' LATE FATHER. SHE ALSO DISCOVERS A BITTER RIVALRY WITH STRATFORD BROOKS COACH MARSHALL WORTHINGTONM AND DANGEROUS WEIGHT-CUTTING PRESSURES THAT HAVE A RED MOUNTAIN WRESTLER BREAKING THE RULES TO MAKE 152 POUNDS.

SYNOPSIS PART 3



MARVELLA'S PRODUCER, TONY ANTONIO, THREATENS TO PULL SHOW FUNDING OVER LEGAL LIABILIES AND MARVELLA IS FORCED TO RE-EXAMINE HER EVIDENCE TO THE STORY.

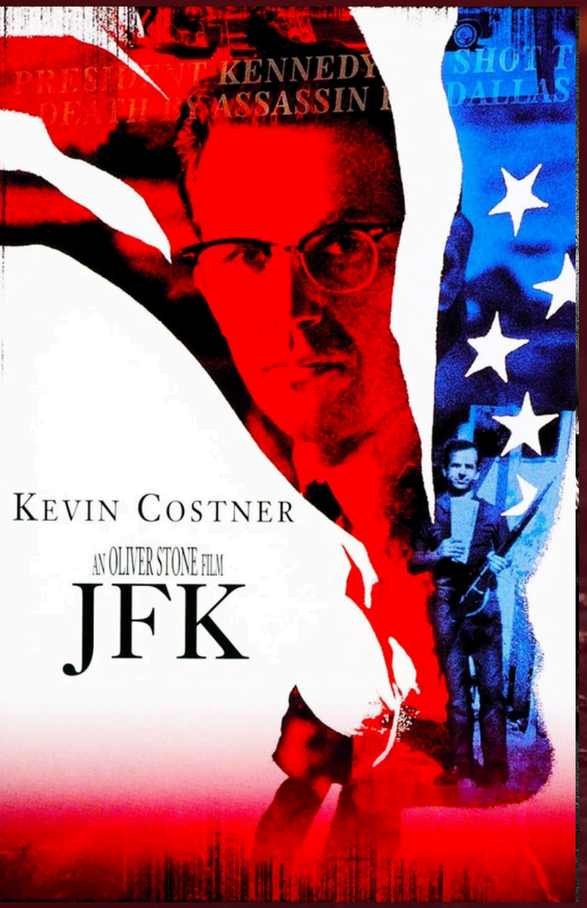
HOPE, ROSIE, AND THE TEAM STRUGGLE WITH COACH JAKE'S OLD SCHOOL APPROACH. HOPE AND JAKE ALSO EXPERIENCE DIFFICULTIES AS FATHER AND DAUGHTER.

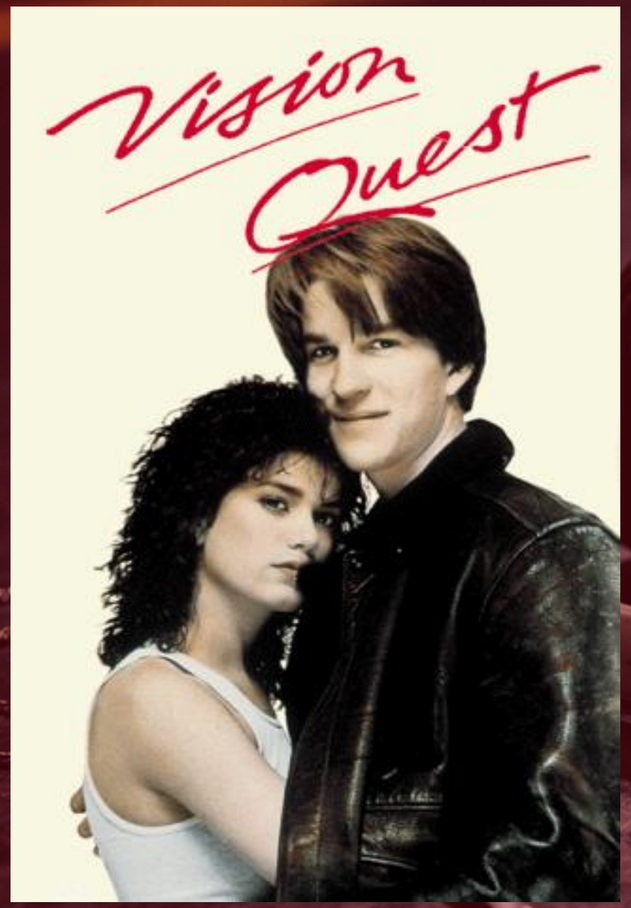
SYNOPSIS PART 4

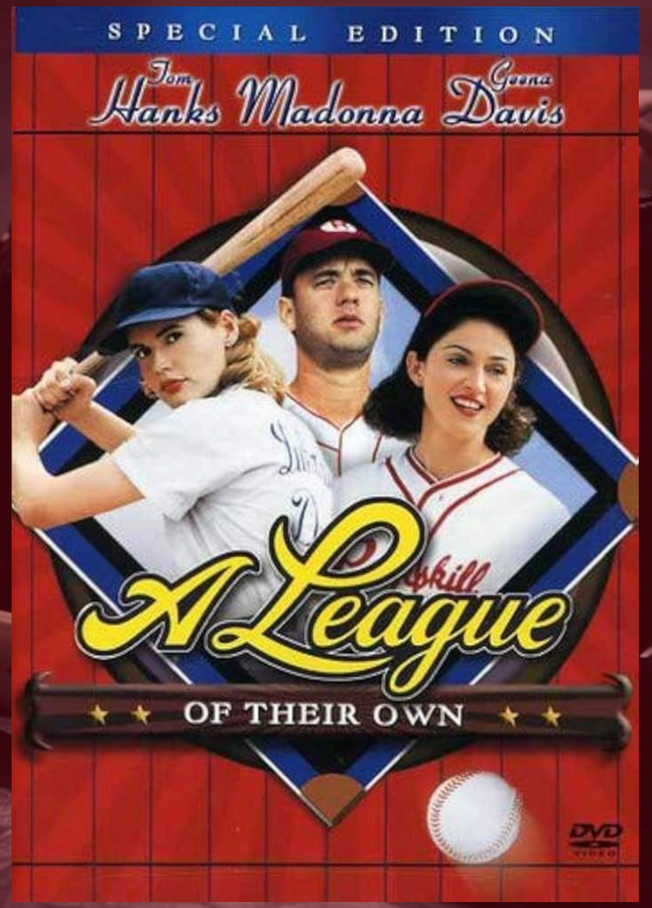
HOPE AND HER TEAM WRESTLE AGAINST RIVALS IN THE FIRST GIRLS' STATE TOURNAMENT.

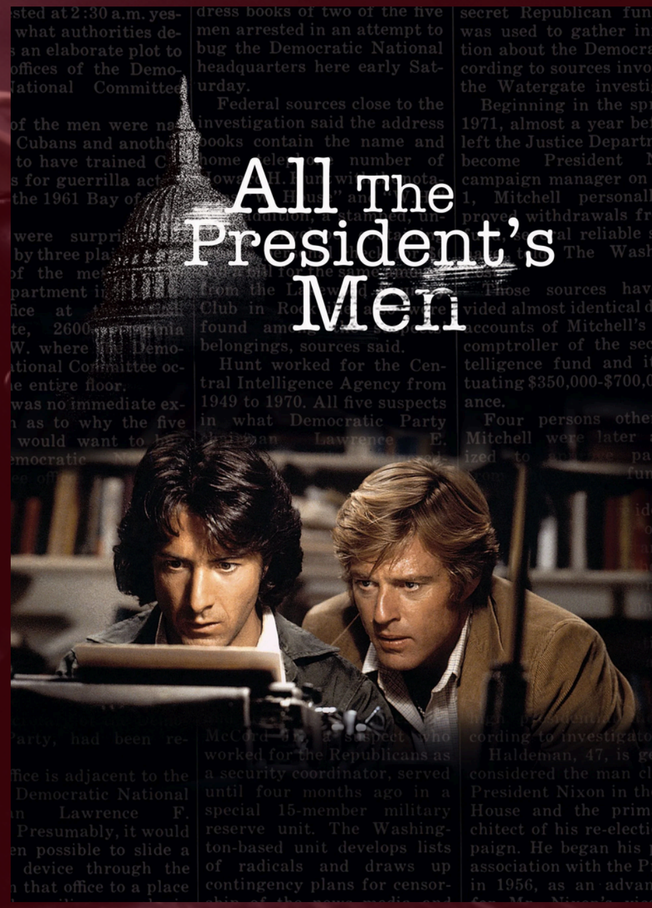
MARVELLA WORKS TO GET HER INVESTIGATIVE STORY APPROVED AFTER FINDING HARD DATA, CONDUCTING PERSONAL INTERVIEWS, AND PRESENTING COMPELLING HISTORICAL EVIDENCE.

COMPARABLES









DR. TJ ZITO, JR., PH.D., & DR. WENDY ZITO, PH.D.

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COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSORS, MEDIA PRODUCERS, BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, AND PERFORMING ARTS PROFESSIONALS BASED IN BIRMINGHAM, AL.

DR. TJ HOLDS A PH.D. IN COMMUNICATIONS, AN MBA, A MASTER'S DEGREE IN COMMUNICATIONS, AND A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FILM.

DR. WENDY HOLDS A PH.D. IN COMMUNICATIONS ALONG WITH SEVERAL MASTER'S DEGREES, INCLUDING HUMAN SERVICES COUNSELING AND COMMUNICATIONS, AND HAS COMPLETED ADDITIONAL GRADUATE WORK IN SCRIPTWRITING AND FEATURE FILMS.

THROUGH THEIR PRODUCTION COMPANY, WJTZ MEDIA, THEY PRODUCE INDEPENDENT FILMS, DIGITAL CONTENT, AND BUSINESS MEDIA PROGRAMMING. THEY HAVE APPEARED ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TELEVISION AND RADIO, INCLUDING FOOD NETWORK, CBS, ABC, AND BIRMINGHAM AFFILIATES. RETIRED PROFESSIONAL BALLROOM DANCE COMPETITORS AND NATIONAL JUDGES HAVE PRODUCED AND EMCEED MAJOR LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTING EVENTS ACROSS ALABAMA.

AS LONGTIME HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING COACHES, THEY HELPED PROMOTE AND ORGANIZE THE OFFICIAL SANCTIONING OF GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING IN ALABAMA. DR. WENDY IS THE FOUNDER AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALABAMA GIRLS WRESTLING ALLIANCE, AND BOTH HAVE SERVED AS DIRECTORS AND EMCEES OF THE INAUGURAL ALABAMA GIRLS STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT.MENT.

TOURNAMENT TRUCK



FILM BIRMINGHAM
an initiative of CREATE BIRMINGHAM