

Granny's Got Game



Tagline: We don't stop playing because we grow old. We grow old because we stop playing

Logline: Six fiercely competitive women in their seventies battle physical limitations and skepticism to compete for another national senior games basketball championship. After two decades together, they are more than a team – they are a family.

Contact: Angela Gorsica Alford – Director/Producer

Email: angela.alford@gmail.com

Phone: (919) 848-1415

Mailing Address: 6001 Allsdale Dr, Raleigh, NC 27617

Running Time: 73 minutes

Exhibition Format: DVD, Blu-Ray, HD Cam, DigiBeta

Aspect Ratio: 16:9

Shooting Format: HDV

Language: English

Filmed in: North Carolina and Texas

Produced in: North Carolina

Synopsis

Granny's Got Game is a documentary film about a senior women's basketball team in North Carolina. These six fiercely competitive women in their seventies battle physical limitations and social stigma to keep doing what they love. They started playing 6-on-6 basketball in the 1950s but stopped after high school as there were no opportunities to keep playing in those pre-Title IX days. Now they must learn a new, physical style of play while overcoming the skepticism of their peers. The team has had great success together over the last two decades, winning a multitude of medals in senior games tournaments across the country. Just like so many younger sports teams, this one includes a bossy captain, a guard who never runs the plays correctly, a tentative post-player, and a benchwarmer who wants to play more than anyone. As teammates and friends, they support each other off the court through the difficulties that accompany aging, such as breast cancer and widowhood. These women are more than a team...they are a family. The film follows them for a yearlong season culminating in a nearly disastrous trip to the National Senior Games Championship in Houston, Texas.



The Fabulous Seventies Team



Judy



Liz



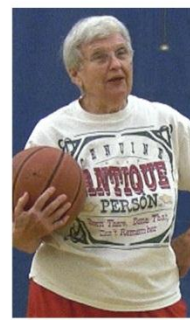
Sarah



Mary



Shirley



Jo

Judy (age 75) is the team captain. The other members appreciate her keeping the team organized, but at times resent her bossiness. They blame it on her being the lone “Yankee” on the team as she still has the swagger of her Brooklyn birthplace. Judy is a natural leader and fiercely competitive. When she battled breast cancer, she scheduled her chemotherapy treatments so she could still play in the state tournament games. She simply wore a hat to cover her hair loss.

Liz (74) plays basketball with the agility of a teenager. She is amazingly fast and has absolutely no health problems. Because of her speed, Liz is able to score many points, but her teammates complain that she never runs the plays correctly. The team never openly argues, but this creates underlying tension. Liz enjoys playing defense, but wonders if she will ever master the offensive side of the game.

Sarah (72) and Mary (73) were high school teammates and are longtime friends. Sarah has a beautiful outside shot and Mary has a wicked left hook. Sarah’s husband, Twig, is responsible for getting the team started in 1994 and has coached them off and on. Unlike Twig, who has played and coached basketball all his life, these women had an almost 40-year break where they had no opportunities to play. Their resulting lack of fundamental skills often frustrates Twig and causes him to argue with Sarah during practice. Mary has always been a scoring machine, even in high school where she scored 53 points in a single game. The team depends upon her left hook and height (5’10”) under the basket, but Mary is the least aggressive member of the team. Twig says he must make Mary mad before she will play well.

Shirley (74) has the most basketball knowledge on the team. She had a very good coach in high school where her team won an amazing 68 games in a row. Shirley’s family life has always revolved around sports. When she is not playing basketball herself, she is attending her grandchildren’s games or caring for her 95-year-old mother – who also played basketball. Shirley is recently widowed and has a genetic heart problem. If she moves her left arm the wrong way, her heart will get out of rhythm. She stubbornly stays in the game when this happens until she thinks she is going to pass out.

Jo (76) was a lonely child who spent hours shooting and dribbling at her family’s dairy. Even today, the basketball team is her primary social outlet. She is no longer able to play after a broken ankle triggered post-polio syndrome, which affects her strength and balance. The team is so important to her that she still attends every practice and game, sitting on the bench visiting with her teammates and keeping statistics.

Production Team



Director/Producer/Editor/Cinematographer – Angela Gorsica Alford

Angela started editing video in high school where she was lucky enough to have access to an editing suite at the vocational school. Her interest in the technical aspects of video led her to study electrical engineering and computer science at Vanderbilt University. While at Vanderbilt, Angela played a key role for the top-ranked women's basketball team from 1994-1997. She was selected to play for USA Basketball representing the United States in international tournaments, winning a gold medal in 1994 and a bronze medal in 1995. Angela turned down a position in the WNBA to start her career as a software engineer for Motorola and Sony-Ericsson, where she was a technical team leader coordinating international projects.

After a motherhood sabbatical, Angela started her own video production company in 2007. Her love of telling personal narratives led her into documentary work. Angela has recently graduated from Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies. This is her first film.



Narrator – Debbie Antonelli

[Debbie Antonelli](#) is one of the nation's most esteemed women's basketball analysts averaging 80 college basketball games a season, while working in the top five women's basketball conferences. She is widely considered an expert on women's basketball, both collegiate and professional. Entering her 23rd year in broadcasting, Antonelli covers college basketball for ESPN, CBS, Fox Sports Net and Westwood One. She has also broadcasted in the WNBA since its inception in 1996, including the last ten years with the Indiana Fever. It's a steady year round diet of basketball; if it's hoops, she's involved.



Original Score – Fred Story

Fred Story is based in Charlotte, NC. Originally working in radio, he left the broadcasting industry in 1990 to formally launch his scoring career by forming [Concentrix Music](#). Story is the winner of Five Regional Emmy Awards, most recently for his score to the documentary *North Carolina's World War II Experience* for North Carolina Public Television. He has also won three Telly Awards, over 20 Addy Awards, a New York Festivals Award and dozens of Silver Microphone Awards. He has contributed original music to such TV programs as *Red October* for Discovery, *Pope John Paul II - A Light For The Nations* originally for ABC Network, seven seasons of *Food Finds* for Food Network, and for the PBS

programs *Thank You Eddie Hart*, *Marching Once More* and *Laugh At Us*. Story has also contributed the scores to a number of feature and documentary films, including *A Man Named Pearl*, *Children of All Ages*, *Redneck Roots*, *Among Brothers*, *Fudgie and Jane*, *Liberating Jesse*, *Saying Goodbye* and *Margaret Mitchell: American Rebel*.



Sound Mix – Bill Jackson

[Bill Jackson](#) has been mixing records, film, and television most of his life, and has earned an Emmy Award for outstanding Sound Mixing for HBO's *Entourage*. His other recent credits include *Supernatural*, *Rescue Me*, and *Drop Dead Diva*. Jackson was a musician in his youth and spent much of his early career as a recording engineer in the record industry. He has engineered a number of gold and platinum records for such artists as Los Lobos and Sheila E, and was introduced to film work through composer Danny Elfman, with whom he had worked on several album projects for the band Oingo Boingo.

Director's Statement

I was lucky enough to have a successful basketball career playing for USA Basketball and Vanderbilt University in the 1990s. With my glory days long gone, I thought I was finished playing basketball. Then I met this team at the local YMCA. Suddenly, my outlook on things changed. The women helped me to remember how much I loved to play and how much I enjoyed being part of a team. I have spent the last year and half with these women, documenting their journeys, and even doing a little coaching. The experience has changed me and I hope the film will inspire you.

My goals for *Granny's Got Game* are to...

- honor and celebrate these amazing women.
- inspire people of all ages to stay active.
- change perceptions of the capabilities of the elderly and contest negative stereotypes.
- highlight the support and encouragement the women get from being part of a team.
- give younger viewers a sense of perspective so they can appreciate today's sports opportunities.
- illustrate the competitive and ambitious nature of female athletes of all ages.

-Angela Gorsica Alford

Press Coverage

- [ESPN.com](#) - *Who's got next? 'Granny's Got Game'*
- [The Huffington Post](#) - *'Granny's Got Game,' Angela Alford Documentary, ...*
- [Women's Sports Foundation](#) - *Granny's Got Game*
- [Indiewire](#) - *Project of the Day: The Gray-Haired Alley-Oop in 'Granny's Got Game'*
- [AARP Blog](#) - *Granny's Got Game Documentary Project*
- [The Daily](#) - *Their game is old school*
- [BuzzFeed](#) - *Look Out NBA: Here Comes The Grandma Basketball League*
- [WRAL Tarheel Traveler](#) - *Grannies got game on senior basketball team (video)*
- [Raleigh News&Observer](#) - *Granny's got game*
- [Movies.com](#) - *Morning Watch: 'Granny's Got Game' Trailer...*
- [The Daily What](#) - *Movie Trailer of the Day*
- [Take Part](#) - *Clip of the Day: Granny's Got Game*
- [Women's Sports Central Radio Show](#) - *Brenda and Mechelle ... (starts at 10:20)*
- [Staunton News Leader](#) - *Basketball film has local ties*
- [Women's Hoops Blog](#) - *Granny's Got Game's got Debbie*
- [YMCA of the Triangle Blog](#) - *A.E. FINLEY YMCA SPOTLIGHT: GRANNY'S GOT GAME*
- [Sabrina's Crossing](#) - *Granny's Got Game: The Fabulous Seventies*
- [The Kindness Kronicles](#) - *Granny's Got Game*
- [The FW](#) - *Grannies Playing Basketball Gets an Inspiring New Documentary*
- [The Life Files](#) - *Granny's Got Game*
- [Portland Pulp](#) and [Seattle Pulp](#) - *A new documentary to make you feel like a loser*
- [Right This Minute](#) - *Senior League's Basketball Glory Told in Documentary*
- [WorldStarHipHop](#) - *Granny's Got Game*
- [Take Over the Game](#) - *Potentially One of the Coolest Sports Documentaries Ever...*
- [Crossover Online \(Germany\)](#) - *Omis habens drauf / Granny's Got Game*
- [E-Magazino \(Greece\)](#) - *NBA tremble, grandmothers are formidable ...(translated from Greek)*

Movie Poster

Granny's Got Game

We don't stop playing because we grow old.
We grow old because we stop playing.



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY **ANGELA ALFORD** NARRATED BY **DEBBIE ANTONELLI** "GRANNY'S GOT GAME"

FEATURING **THE FABULOUS 70s WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM** ORIGINAL MUSIC BY **FRED STORY**

SOUND MIX BY **BILL JACKSON** EDITED, PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY **ANGELA ALFORD**

www.grannysgotgame.com

www.facebook.com/grannysgotgame