

## Doc Edge Film Reviews

# No Tears on the Field

**Dir. Lisa Burd**

**Review by Hannah Crisp (she/her)**

‘No Tears on the Field’, directed by Lisa Burd, is a heartwarming story of the world of Women’s Rugby in Taranaki, Aotearoa. This powerful documentary follows a selection of incredible women as we explore their personal journeys and the role Rugby has played in their lives.

Historically, Rugby has been seen exclusively as a ‘man's sport.’ That was until the push from a remarkable group of women demanded that women should be allowed to play, too. This film recognises the important history of women’s rugby and the work that went into getting women on the field.

This is not just a sports film. The vulnerability shared throughout this film is a standout. These women are very open and unfiltered about their struggles and how they found a sense of whanau, power, and self within Rugby. They are an incredibly aspirational and inspirational group of wahine. This film is also a beautiful portrait of Taranaki. With its scenic views and stunning nature, Taranaki becomes a character in its own right.

Stories about women in sport are few and far between, especially in New Zealand. This film encourages young girls and women to take up space on the field, in the gym and on the court. Seeing these women play is just remarkable. The strength and power they bring to the field is unbelievable.

‘No Tears on the Fields’ is a beautiful story of family, community and womanhood. With its mix of emotional and hilarious moments, stand-out characters, picturesque visuals, sport, and captivating storylines, there is something in this film for everyone.

This is such an incredible film and is absolutely worth watching.