

# The Country Club



**Logline + Synopsis** 7

**Production Notes** 10

**Cast + Awards** 13

**The Company** 16

**Credits** 18





# Publicity

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## **Release Dates**

June 9<sup>th</sup> Limited Theatrical

June 23<sup>rd</sup> VOD

Comedy

89 Minutes

PG-13

US

English

Color

## Distribution

### **Domestic**

Good Deed Entertainment

Andy Myers

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### **International**

Archstone Entertainment

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## Logline + Synopsis

## Logline

*The Country Club* is a comedy centering on two young women (Fiona Robert and Sophia Robert) who hatch a plan to win a junior golf tournament prize at a prestigious Hamptons country club. But once they encounter the quirky, wealthy patrons at the club, they are thrust on an adventure of mistaken identity, love and finding friendship in the most unlikely of people.



## Synopsis

Elsa Cartwright, a precocious teen golfer who is working a summer job at a driving range mistakenly receives an invitation to play in a junior tournament at a prestigious east coast country club intended for a socialite who shares her name. Elsa and her sister hatch a plan to win the golf tournament and the prize money. Upon arrival at the club, the girl's plan quickly becomes derailed when they meet an eccentric member, Roger Kowalski (played by John Higgins) who is determined to befriend Elsa in order to distract her and take home the gold himself. Meanwhile, Elsa's sister becomes caught in a love triangle with a preppy heartthrob Marshall, and Roger's sweet and kind caddy, Lumer. The girl's plan is put to the test when Marshall discovers their true identity and betrays them. Through all the obstacles, the girls stick together finding romance, friendship and lots of laughs.

# Production Notes

## Production Notes

The Robert Sisters debut comedy is a colorful, laugh out loud romp. One of those rare gems with a childlike sense of play where it seems like anything could happen. At first *The Country Club* feels like an American teen comedy but it slowly spins off the handle into an unpredictable farce. “We had a lot of fun filming this movie and we just want audiences to be able to relax into a good time and know there’s a happy ending with us,” says director Fiona Robert.

The strong ensemble cast of New York comedians is led by Saturday Night Live’s John Higgins whose comedy writing trio “Please Don’t Destroy” has been the breakout star of the last two SNL seasons with their viral sketch videos. And The Robert Sisters have gifted Higgins with the perfect part to showcase his star qualities: Roger Kowalski, an overgrown manchild who marches around in a campy all pink ensemble having adult tantrums. The Robert Sisters discovered Higgins pre-SNL from his audition tape. “He just gave the best audition,” director Fiona Robert recalls, “he was hyperventilating and loud and just nailed it!” Elaine Hendrix, best known for *Dynasty* and the 1998 remake of *The Parent Trap*, plays Roger’s mother, a perfect foil with her crisp comedic timing. Hendrix has collaborated with The Robert Sisters twice now, and will appear in their second film *A View of the World from Fifth Avenue*, premiering this summer at Geena Davis’ Bentonville Film Festival June 2023.

The Robert Sisters clearly know their comedic history. Their diverse cast of memorable characters are drawn from the Italian tradition of commedia dell’arte, the absurd situations straight out of Molière, and throughout there are witty lines reminiscent of French New Wave filmmakers like Truffaut and Goddard. The characters are larger than life and yet, the campy humor and stylization gives it all a sense of self-awareness, the Robert Sisters are also in on the joke.

The film was initially inspired by an improvisational sketch by The Dark Day Players, an improv group that director Fiona Robert was a part of in her final year at New York University. Robert developed the sketch further at home with her sister and brought pages into a screenwriting class to perfect scenes. The Robert Sisters also drew inspiration from their childhood where they grew up going to a country club with their grandmother. A stroke left Grandma Robert able to golf with only one hand. There is a nod to their grandmother in the film, a sassy Betty White type member who coincidentally, also only golfs with one hand – and of course, is better than all the other players.

## Redefining a Genre

*The Country Club* is a fresh take on the golf comedy from the perspective of two female comedy writers. While comparisons to classics such as *Caddyshack* and *Happy Gilmore* are inevitable, an actual rewatch of those films may be a cringe worthy reminder that some jokes don’t age. *The Country Club* on the other hand, takes aim at many recognizable tropes, turning them on their heads to an original, entertaining effect.

A sports comedy is also rarely this beautiful. Each shot is perfectly curated, showcasing a distinct palette of pastel colors, native to the wallpaper and fabrics in East Coast country clubs. The filmmakers make sure to feature the sprawling greens of the golf course, and the small oddities of the Country Club world such as “Cellphone Rooms.” After everything is said and done, you’ll want to join this club.

# Production Notes

## Editing and Music

Bringing together the hilarious takes and working the comedic timing of the film fell to Editor Lucas Celler, who the Robert Sisters sat together with in the editing room. Celler had to navigate sometimes improvised takes, and time reaction shots down to the second to get the comedic moments exactly right.

The score was composed by Amit May Cohen, who created catchy themes to accentuate each character's personality. Amit's colorful melodies can also be heard in Disney Channel's *Zombies 2* scored with renowned composer George S. Clinton.

For everyone involved in *The Country Club*, the sheer fun of making the comedy translates into the final product: a lighthearted coming of age story that follows two sisters chasing the American Dream. One leaves with a sense of optimism and a smile. Says producer Sophia Robert "It's a fun experience for all ages! We had such fun on set, we had to wait for the crew to stop laughing between takes!"

## Cast + Awards

## Cast

### JOHN HIGGINS

is an American writer and comedian currently making a splash on *Saturday Night Live* with sketch videos from his comedy trio “Please Don’t Destroy” (alongside Martin Herlihy and Ben Marshall). John is set to star in a Judd Apatow-produced/Universal Studios comedy feature slated for August 2023 which he also penned with “Please Don’t Destroy.”

### ELAINE HENDRIX

is an American actress. She is known for her roles in *Dynasty*, *Superstar*, *Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion*, the 1995 *Get Smart* series, the 1998 remake of *The Parent Trap*, and *Inspector Gadget 2*.

### JAMES URBANIAK

is an American character actor known for *The Fabelmans* (2022), *The Venture Bros.* (2003) and *For All Mankind* (2019).

### AKONO DIXON

is an American actor known for his leading role in Hallmark’s 2023 *Spring Breakthrough* and the role of ‘Andre’ in the hit CW series, *All American*. Dixon’s breakout role was being cast opposite Eddie Murphy as Joshua/Agitated Young Man in the award winning film, *Dolemite is My Name*.

## Awards

### **Flicker's Rhode Island International Film Festival**

Marlyn Mason Award First Prize

*new voices, new perspectives by women in film*

### **Manhattan Film Festival**

Best Feature Comedy

### **New York City Independent Film Festival**

Best Actress | Fiona Robert

# The Company



# The Company

## ROBERT SISTERS PICTURES

is an award-winning film production company founded in 2018. Created by sisters Fiona and Sophia Robert, the team writes, produces, directs, and stars in their films. The company was founded with the goal of creating inclusive work which strives to uplift both its audience and its team. With dynamic female leads, they create intriguing narratives which do not feature violence toward women on screen. Their commitment to equity while simultaneously not compromising quality is what makes the Robert Sisters unique. All Robert Sisters productions aim to have an inclusive and gender-balanced crew behind the scenes, earning their second feature film *A View of the World from Fifth Avenue* the ReFrame stamp of approval. The Robert Sisters' first feature, *The Country Club* played five festivals taking home "Best Feature Comedy" upon its premiere at the Manhattan Film Festival and the "Marlyn Mason First Prize" at Flicker's Rhode Island Film Festival. The film was sold to Good Deed Entertainment for domestic distribution, and Archstone for International Sales. It will be released worldwide June 2023. The Robert Sisters' second feature, *A View of the World from Fifth Avenue* will world premiere as one of twelve films in Narrative Competition at Bentonville Film Festival June 2023, founded by Geena Davis. Robert Sisters Pictures are gearing up to produce their third feature, a Gosford Park style mystery set in the English Countryside.

# Credits

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### FIONA ROBERT

#### WRITER + DIRECTOR

Fiona Robert is an award-winning filmmaker, actress, and co-founder of Robert Sisters Pictures. Starting her career as an actress she was chosen by Philip Seymour Hoffman to play opposite Tom Hardy in the Goodman Theatre's *The Long Red Road*. Since then, she found herself in other engaging roles such as *Write When You Get Work* (SXSW Film Festival, 2018) *Chekhov* (Sundance Film Festival, 2016) and TV Land's *Younger*, among others. As a director, her second feature *A View of the World from Fifth Avenue* was a finalist for the Golden Script Competition and will world premiere as one of twelve films in the Narrative Competition at Bentonville Film Festival June 2023. Her first feature *The Country Club* she directed, starred in, co-wrote and co-produced with her sister Sophia Robert. *The Country Club* was an official selection for festivals including Flicker's Rhode Island Film Festival where it won the "Marlyn Mason First Prize," the Heartland Film Festival, the Manhattan Film Festival where it won "Best Feature Comedy", and New York City Indie Film Fest where Fiona was awarded "Best Actress." The film was sold to Good Deed Entertainment for domestic distribution and Archstone for International Sales. It will be released worldwide June 2023.

## Credits

### SOPHIA ROBERT

#### ACTRESS + WRITER

Sophia Robert is an award-winning producer, actress and writer and co-founder of Robert Sisters Pictures. Prior to her work in film, she studied to be a ballerina at the Staatliche Ballettschule und Schule für Artistik and performed with the Berlin State Ballet. She attended NYU Tisch School of the Arts and has a BFA in acting. The discipline she learned as a ballerina applies well to running a production company, acting and writing. She recently made her first feature film *The Country Club* which she starred in, co-wrote and co-produced with her sister Fiona. *The Country Club* went to five film festivals in 2022, including Flicker's Rhode Island Film Festival where it won the "Marlyn Mason First Prize," the Heartland Film Festival, the Manhattan Film Festival where it won "Best Feature Comedy," and New York City Indie Film Fest. The film was sold to Good Deed Entertainment for domestic distribution, and Archstone for international sales. The film will be released worldwide on June 23rd. The latest feature film from the Robert Sisters *A View of the World from Fifth Avenue* will world premiere as one of twelve films in the Narrative Competition at Bentonville Film Festival in June 2023.