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**Lawrence Johnson Productions  
West Office Exhibition Design  
National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame**

**"REEL COWGIRLS "**  
**Starring Katharine Ross**

Final Script

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Starring Katharine Ross

## VIDEO

## AUDIO

<p><b><u>FADE IN:</u></b></p> <p>1. <b><u>TITLE SEQUENCE:</u></b> A fun, rip-roarin' Title sequence blazes across the screen, in the style of the delightful trailers for 1950s Westerns. A fast-paced montage of exceptional clips from a diversity of films depicts cowgirls throughout movie history.</p>	<p><b><u>MUSIC:</u></b> Melodramatic old-Western-movie music UP AND UNDER</p> <p><b><u>MALE ANNOUNCER:</u></b> (VOICEOVER) <i>[dramatic intonation]</i></p> <p><b>Here they are! ... Thundering out of the blazing desert ...</b></p> <p><b>Those sharp-shootin', hard-ridin' spitfires of the wild west...</b></p> <p><b>Ready to corral any outlaw or take aim at any man ...</b></p> <p><b>... with a smoking six-gun ... or a sultry kiss ...</b> <b>... and she knows how to use them both!</b></p>
<p>2. The Title, <b>REEL COWGIRLS</b>, sweeps across the screen in old-Western-movie style type, big bold letters, in sync with the announcer.</p>	<p><b>Introducing ... the stars of the silver screen: REEL COWGIRLS!</b></p>
<p>3. The last clip in the sequence "irises" down to a circle. Around it is a "frame" of a black/white photograph of a 1920's theater curtain. The circle opens, revealing a montage of scenes from the 1920's.</p>	<p><b><u>MUSIC:</u></b> Silent-film-style organ or piano music UP AND UNDER</p>
<p><b><u>dissolve to:</u></b></p> <p>4. A sequence of terrific black and white action-packed scenes from the</p>	<p><b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u></b> (voice over)</p> <p><b>From its beginnings, the Western</b></p>

earliest silent films.	<b>movie captured America's dreams and fantasies.</b>
For example: 5. -- "The Sheriff of Stone Gulch" 6. -- A William S. Hart film	
7. -- In "Faro Nell," a caricature "villain" sweeps across the screen.	<b>Borrowing its heroes and villains from melodrama, Westerns painted a world of passion and violence.</b>
8. -- "Sheriff of Stone Gulch" 9. -- "Faro Nell"	<b>While American women were still wearing corsets and bustles, Cowgirls in the movies wildly galloped across the screen, six-shooters blazing ...</b>
10. -- An edited sequence from the climax of "Girl of the Rancho," where the bad guys kidnap a girl and the cowgirl heroine climbs up a tree, lassos the girl below and pulls her up to rescue her.	<b>... as raw and romantic as the landscape, as skilled and courageous as the cowboys.</b>  <b><u>MUSIC UP AND OUT</u></b>
<u>dissolve to:</u> 11. Camera moves on a photograph of the old "Ramona" theater, pulling back from a closeup of the doors to reveal the building and marquee.	<b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u> (voice over)</b>  <b>When I grew up in the 50s, we'd go to a theater called "The Ramona," that showed only Westerns.</b>
12. Katharine Ross today at a western ranch setting. She will be accompanied by her horse, Miss Kitty, and wearing casual, contemporary clothes that she would ride in.	<b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u> (on camera)</b>  <b>Afterwards we'd come home and play Cowboys and Indians. It didn't matter if we were girls or boys, we could do anything those Western heroes could do.</b>
<u>dissolve to:</u> 14. A clip from <i>Butch Cassidy and the</i>	<b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u> (voice over)</b>

<p><i>Sundance Kid</i> , the most fabulous selection that we find with Katharine Ross as Etta Place. Perhaps where she's sitting on the bicycle handlebars as Paul Newman pedals. She takes a bite on a apple and gives it to him. The shot focuses on Etta.</p>	<p><b>When I got the chance to play Etta Place, the wife of the Sundance Kid, it was like living a fantasy, with all the costumes and the props. It was like going back in time.</b></p>
<p>15. -- A clip from <i>Conagher</i>, where she's in a gunfight with Indians, shooting a rifle through the window of her house.</p> <p>16. -- A clip from <i>Rodeo Girl</i>, where Katharine Ross is riding a bronc.</p>	<p><b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u></b></p> <p><b>The Western is the only truly American film genre. I admire the grit and tenacity of the pioneers who moved into the unknown. It was wonderful to be part of that tradition.</b></p>
<p>dissolve to:</p> <p>17. Scenes and poses of Louise Glaum in "Golden Rule Kate" and Texas Guinan in "Girl of the Rancho" illustrate these stars.</p> <p>18. Camera moves on still photographs of action stunts will supplement the motion picture images.</p>	<p><b>In the early days, real cowgirls and rodeo champions ... were the film stars and performed their own stunts ... like Louise Glaum and Texas Guinan.</b></p> <p><b>They were athletic and expert riders ...</b></p> <p><b>... and, like Barbara Stanwyck in "Annie Oakley" ... gutsy and straight-shooting.</b></p>
<p>19. An edited sequence from "Annie Oakley." She sasses back and forth with Frank Butler, who asks whether she shoots "doodlebugs" and comments that he'll "make a monkey out of that Oakley." She shoots right on target, and a man tells Frank, "There goes your championship." He grimaces.</p>	
<p>dissolve to:</p> <p>20. A cowboy serenades a blonde</p>	<p><b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u></b></p>

<p>cowgirl in "Roll Along Cowboy."</p>	<p><b>It wouldn't be long before the Hollywood studios put a little more emphasis on the 'girl' part of 'cowgirl.'</b></p>
<p>A brief sequence of "crinoline cowgirls" -- women dolled up in sexy fringed outfits with gobs of makeup.</p> <p>For example: 21. Short-skirted "cowgirls" prance about in a circle on silly-looking toy ponies.</p>	<p><u>MUSIC/LYRICS:</u> "I've got spurs that jingle, jangle, jingle, as I go riding merrily along..."</p>
<p>22. The poster, "Harlem on the Prairie," spins, with a PING, PING, PING of gunfire.</p>	
<p>23. A boogie-woogie dance of short-skirted cowgirls accompany a singing cowgirl.</p>	<p><u>MUSIC/LYRICS:</u> ("Cow Cow Boogie")</p>
<p>24. A Tex Avery cartoon with a cartoon cowgirl singing and shooting; the cowboy's eyeballs pop out and roll.</p>	
<p><u>dissolve to:</u> 25. A delightful montage of cowgirl scenes from B-Westerns -- batting eyelashes, grinning sheepishly, looking weak and defenseless, riding off into the sunset holding hands with hero.</p>	<p><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u> (VOICEOVER)</p> <p><b>Cowgirl characters were often relegated to supporting roles -- a pretty young thing, a prize for the hero.</b></p> <p><b>Sometimes the horse got higher billing.</b></p>
<p>26. The Credits for "A Home in</p>	

Oklahoma" that bill "Roy Rogers and Trigger" and then "Dale Evans."	
	<b>----- ASIDE FROM STAGE HORSE: "THAT'S BECAUSE I'M BETTER LOOKING" -----</b>
<u>continue with:</u> 27. A montage of "spunky and daring" examples, including -- "Slew Foot Sue" -- "Zorro's Black Whip"	<u><b>KATHARINE ROSS:</b></u> (VOICE OVER)  <b>But when these cowgirls got in trouble, they were as spunky and daring as anything to hit the silver screen.</b>
28. A cowgirls pulls out two guns and points them. ( <i>Maureen O'Hara, Comanche Territory, 1950</i> )	<b>Many were portrayed in Hollywood's B-Westerns ... low budget movies that accompanied major films as double features.</b>
29. A sequence from "Bad Girls," where a woman is about to be hanged and the man says, "This woman has brought forth bad fruit..." Then other women come charging in on horseback and in a wagon and upturn all the gathered people, knocking them over and running them down.	<b>Some proved that men weren't the only villains.</b>
30. -- "Destry Rides Again"  31. -- "The Dalton Girls"	<b>Hollywood cowgirls -- not bound by any laws -- stretched the limits of female behavior.</b>
32. In "Johnny Guitar," Joan Crawford faces off to an angry crowd from the staircase of her saloon, pointing a gun, saying "All you can buy up these stairs is a bullet in the head ..."	
<u>dissolve to:</u> 33. A montage of the most fabulous, daring, take-your-breath-away stunts (supplemented by still photos from the Roy Rogers Museum and Autry Museum) that depict the action-packed	<u><b>KATHARINE ROSS:</b></u> (VOICEOVER)  <b>Stunt doubles in Westerns were usually real cowgirls ...</b>  <b>... fearless and athletic.</b>

<p>roles that cowgirls performed in the movies (and some TV shows).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- "Ride 'Em Cowboy"</li> <li>-- "Barbara Stanwyck Show"</li> <li>-- "The Dalton Girls"</li> <li>-- "The Annie Oakley Show"</li> <li>-- "Zorro's Black Whip"</li> </ul> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- Leaping from a horse to a moving stage.</li> <li>-- Rescuing a cowboy from a raging flood.</li> <li>-- Hurdling off a waterfall</li> <li>-- Standing on a running horse while shooting a gun .</li> <li>-- Jumping off a four-story building or off a cliff</li> <li>-- Driving a stagecoach at breakneck speed, and so forth.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Stunt double Polly Burson has survived broken bones, concussions, dislocated joints and a near drowning.</b></p> <p><b>(or this anecdote:</b>  <b>Alice Van Springsteen was asked to go over a waterfall. "I didn't know how to swim, so I told the cameraman, 'If I don't come up, jump in after me.'"</b></p> <p><b>She hit her head on a submerged rock, but did come up, only to have the director ask her to go over the falls again, but 'slower.'</b>)</p> <p><b>And while they don't get top billing, stunt doubles create some of films' greatest moments.</b></p>
<p>34. The sequence ends with a dramatic scene from "Hearts Can't be Broken" where a horse runs up a ramp, a young woman jumps on him and dives off, falling, falling, into a swimming pool.</p>	
	<p><b>----- ASIDE FROM STAGE HORSE: "I DIDN'T NEED A STUNT DOUBLE FOR THAT ONE" -----</b></p>
<p>35. The cowgirl is talking to her horse. (<i>Louise Fazenda, Faro Nell, 1918</i>)</p> <p>36. Screen Credit: "Trigger. The smartest horse in the world." (<i>The Golden Stallion, 1949</i>)</p> <p>37. The animated horse crying. (<i>Pecos</i>)</p>	<p><b>[Katharine Ross to talk about her love of horses and riding today.]</b></p>

<i>Bill)</i>	
<p><u>dissolve to:</u> 38. A montage of scenes illustrating the paradoxical ways that women were portrayed in Westerns.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- "Annie Oakley"</li> <li>-- "The Redhead from Wyoming"</li> <li>-- "Calamity Jane"</li> <li>-- "Comanche Territory"</li> <li>-- "National Velvet"</li> <li>-- "Giant"</li> <li>-- "The Outlaw"</li> <li>-- "Red River"</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>KATHARINE ROSS: VOICEOVER)</u></b></p> <p><b>Over the decades, Hollywood Westerns vividly portrayed America's conflict over a woman's role.</b></p> <p><b>Cowgirl characters might be soft and feminine in one scene ... yet audacious, quick-witted and bold in another.</b></p>
<p>39. A scene from "Comanche Territory" where a cowgirl stops a fistfight among two men by pulling her gun on them, then prattles on about how they can do whatever they want.</p>	<p><b>Western heroes were often dreamers. It was the women who got things done.</b></p> <p><b>Women often mediated conflicts between trigger-happy men ... even if it meant pulling out a gun themselves.</b></p>
<p><u>dissolve to:</u> 40. A contemporary sequence of tough, powerful cowgirls.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-- "The Ballad of Little Jo"</li> <li>-- "Heartland"</li> <li>-- "The Quick and the Dead," where Sharon Stone as a gunslinger faces off in a duel.</li> </ul>	<p><b>More recently, Hollywood cowgirls could portray all the strength, toughness and orneriness of any cowboy character ever seen on the silver screen.</b></p>
<u>dissolve to:</u>	



41. The finale sequence [ <i>See Film Clip video for examples</i> ]	<b><u>MUSIC:</u> Exciting Western music UP AND UNDER</b>
<p>dissolve to: 42. Katharine Ross riding off into the sunset on her horse.</p>	<p><b><u>KATHARINE ROSS:</u> (VOICEOVER)</b></p> <p><b>I have always been inspired by Hollywood cowgirls -- Those formidable spitfires ... gorgeous ... spoke their own mind ... and they had heart.</b></p> <p><i>[to her horse ...]</i> <b>Come on, Miss Kitty. Let's go.</b></p>
	<b><u>MUSIC:</u> dramatic music flourish UP</b>

"THE END"