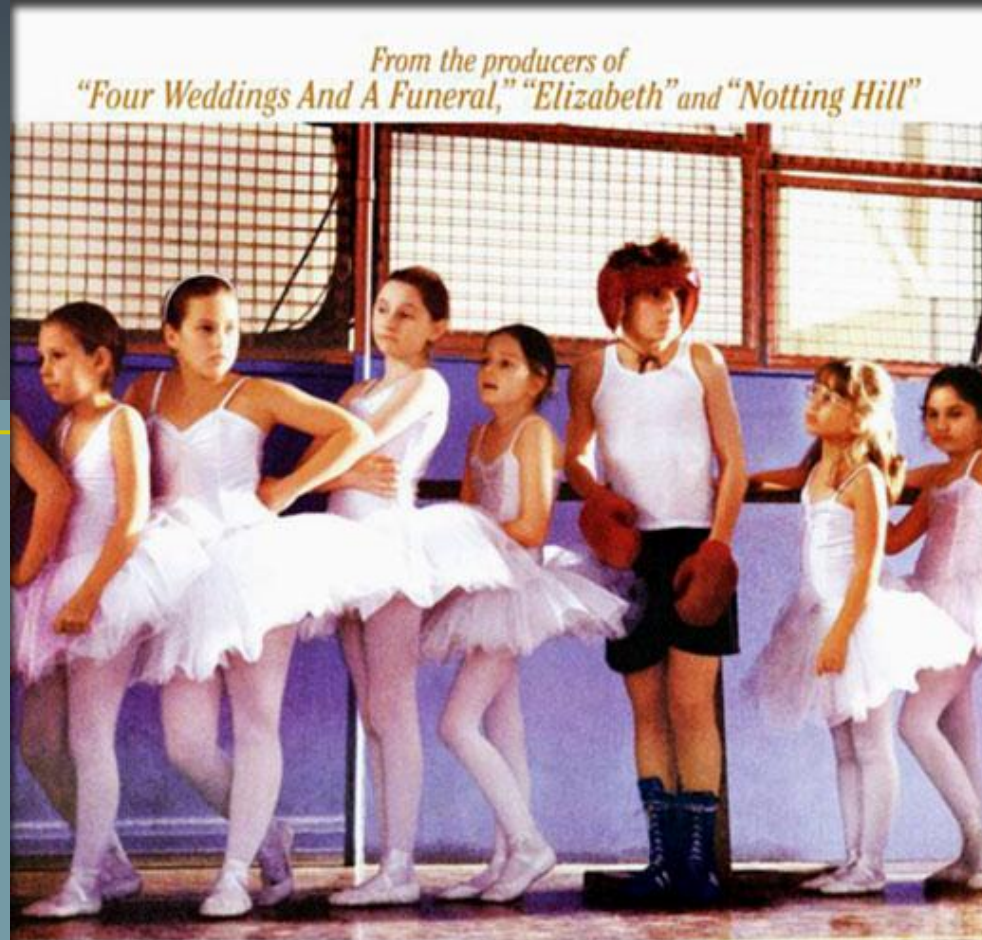


Billy Elliot

Exploring Transitions: Ms Taoube



From the producers of
"Four Weddings And A Funeral," "Elizabeth" and "Notting Hill"

OFFICIAL SELECTION
TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL 2000
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Billy Elliot

WORKING TITLE FILMS and BBC FILMS in association with THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND present A TIGER ASPECT PICTURES production in association with WTC "BILLY ELLIOT" ILEE WALTERS
GARY LEWIS JAMIE BELL JAMIE DRIVEN ADAM COOPER COSTUME DESIGNER PETER DARLING EDITOR TORI PARRY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEPHEN WARESCA JUSTUS STEWART MEACRAN PRODUCED BY JOHN WILSON
WRITTEN BY NAJIBA DUKICOVIC DIRECTED BY JULIAN JARROLD CASTING BY CHARLES BRAND DAVID H. THOMPSON TESSA ROSE PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAVID HALL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW HAYES
PRODUCED BY ANDREW HAYES AND ANDREW HAYES
CASTING BY CHARLES BRAND DAVID H. THOMPSON TESSA ROSE PRODUCTION DESIGNER DAVID HALL EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW HAYES AND ANDREW HAYES
www.billythefilm.com AFSI Screened BFI Edition

THIS FALL

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EXPLORING TRANSITIONS: RUBRIC

- In this elective, students explore and analyse a variety of texts that portray the ways in which individuals experience transitions into new phases of life and social contexts. These transitions may be challenging, confronting, exciting or transformative and may result in growth, change and a range of consequences for the individual and others.

EXPLORING TRANSITIONS: RUBRIC

- Through exploring their prescribed text and other related texts of their own choosing, students consider how transitions can result in new knowledge and ideas, shifts in attitudes and beliefs, and a deepened understanding of the self and others. Students respond to and compose a range of texts that expand our understanding of the experience of venturing into new worlds.

Ways Individuals Experience Transitions

Billy

- ❑ **Accidentally** – supposed to pass on the keys
- ❑ **Voluntarily** – makes the decision to continue ballet despite disapproval
- ❑ **Independently** – seeks out knowledge on ballet and practises his skills
- ❑ **Bravely** – confronts the father and the unknown

Jackie

- ❑ **Accidentally** – discovers that Billy is undertaking ballet
- ❑ **Resistance** – attempts to thwart Billy's plans
- ❑ **Growing weariness** – matched with Billy's determination
- ❑ **Acceptance** – of his role as father which is to push Billy to his potential and recognises awareness of Billy's growing independence

Challenging or Confronting Transitions

Billy

- **Risking disapproval of father figure** – Billy commences with fear of disappointing father but realises that he cannot resist his natural talent. Does he have a choice?
- **Risking humiliation** – there is no certainty that he will succeed so transgressing could have dire consequences

Billy

- **Inciting more conflict** – Billy realises that his desires may not be a priority given the parallel conflict of miner's strike
- **Understanding others and the world** – the high brow culture of ballet confronts with his working class background

Challenging or Confronting Transitions

Jackie

- **Sole parent** – he is forced to be the moral, emotional and physical support for his sons in a time of economic crisis
- **Coping with grief** – he is forced to deal with the loss of his wife and she appears to have been a key figure in all their lives

Jackie

- **Coming to terms with a new world order** – the mining industry is facing collapse and failure and that has been all he has ever known
- **Acceptance of son's choices** – parents have plans for sons and when that is challenged it may feel that the son is rejecting what they stand for.

Exciting or Transformative

Billy

- ✓ **Sense of achievement** – Billy's persistence and resilience in the face of disapproval. Changing a community's perspective?
- ✓ **Difference/Individuality** – recognising that different could mean 'special' and not necessarily negative

Jackie

- ✓ **Strengthening relationship with his sons** – acceptance of Billy's decision drew the family and community together.
- ✓ **Empowering oneself through change** – loss of control in family and job has now turned into empowerment on one level.

Growth/Change for Self and/or Others

BILLY

- ❑ Moved from dependence to independence
- ❑ Moved from uncertainty to a state of certainty about his passions and desires
- ❑ Instigated the change in his family and broader society

JACKIE

- Moved from a state of powerlessness to a state of empowerment
- Developed awareness of his son as an independent person
- Recognised that he does not want to pass on the struggles of his world to his sons

Transitions result in new knowledge and ideas

- ✓ Knowledge of ballet – the development of skills brings with a sense of confidence and a reinvigoration of purpose – this is what I was meant to do!
- ✓ Knowledge of father's love – emotional- the father's sacrifice and consequently Tony's assistance, reinforces the awareness that this used to be a tight-knit family and that support can restore this familial harmony
- ✓ Knowledge of the threat of economic change – the town and its inhabitants learn that they are not protected/sheltered from the broader governmental and societal reforms and that if they do not adapt they will become metaphorical 'dinosaurs'

Transitions result in shifts in attitudes and beliefs

- ❑ Gender expectations – ‘only girls do ballet’ and Michael’s cross-dressing
- ❑ Ballet dancers can originate from hyper-masculine contexts and do not have to originate from high brow environments
- ❑ Independence does not have to threaten a family or a relationship; it can create pathways for growth and bonding.
- ❑ Society changes when an individual tests the limit

Transitions result in deepened understanding of self and others

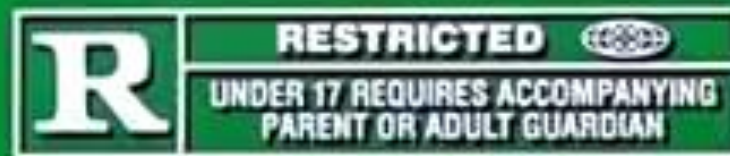
- ❖ Individuals do have the strength to persist in the face of insurmountable obstacles
- ❖ People are resistant to change because they fear leaving their comfort zones and the uncertainty that change brings.
- ❖ People want to conform because they believe that brings them safety/protection; sometimes we need to rebel to instigate transformation in others and aspire to our dreams
- ❖ Unconditional support does not always come easily; sometimes we have to create avenues/opportunities for people to extend their support to our dreams/aspirations

Feature Film Trailer

THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
ALL AUDIENCES

BY THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE FILM ADVERTISED HAS BEEN RATED



Billy is forced into boxing – expectation of family and community



Billy is caught between the world he is curious to enter and world of expectation



Billy makes a bold move and jumps in feet first



Billy realises that his decision needs to be hidden – approval of family important



Billy is not fully immersed in his decision at this point – Well...what are you going to do?



Billy is foreground here – it is not just about personal challenges but societal too - gender



The surrogate mother – she tells him stories but doesn't tell him how to interpret them



Swan Lake – intertextual connection



Billy has become her 'project' and his determination matches her will



What I swing around my neck is what I believe in!
You can tell a lot about a man by his shoes! 😊



Parallel narrative and conflict – why the decision is not easy for Billy



Twin Peaks – Billy frustration rises because of pressure at home and pressure to perform



Protest and Art – similar? Forms of expression.



Express yourself and release the tension

The reassurance of the maternal figure



Tandem dancing – unity of purpose- starting again. We bond when we share.



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Rejection of female – sexual immaturity – maturity
in all spheres of growing up is not consistent.



Acceptance of Michael – maturity in that Billy shows awareness that Michael is facing a similar battle with society – expectation



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From up here, I can see what the future holds
if...



Montage of Expression – I can't say what I feel so let me dance it for you



The metaphorical wall – the family has to transition before the society can transition



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Childhood play – continuing to break barriers Passing on the ‘knowledge’ to be yourself



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CH8HV5qXQB>

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Challenging patriarchy even when you are uncertain of consequences – growing up



You force others to transition with you – they are forced out of their comfort zones – growth does not have an age limit



Girl, symbolic of society, watches uncertainly as Billy lays one on Michael



Liberation and gratification in a time of restriction and grief – role reversal



Leap of faith and leap into achievement – the consequences of transitions are not always evident



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PAST HSC QUESTIONS

2014

Individuals venturing into new experiences struggle to balance their personal values with the expectations of the broader world. In what ways is this struggle explored in your prescribed text and ONE other related text?

2013

Explain how moving into the world opens up new phases of life and influences the ways people interact with one another. In your response, refer to your prescribed text and ONE other related text of your own choosing.

Related Texts

- *Boris the Riverbank Artist* – picture book
- *The Peasant Prince* – picture book
- *The Red Piano* – picture book
- Feature articles on refugee journeys
- *Australian Story* – Matthew Reilly – video or transcript
- *World's Strictest Parents* – TV show
- *Only Ten* by Alan Baillie (short story)

Connections to Elliot: connecting a thesis

Through the process of transitioning from one state to another, an individual can experience a shift in attitude which may promote new ways of thinking about self and/or the environment.

- a) **Billy Elliot – uncertainty-** stages of transition – confidence and independence
- b) **Boris (pic book)** – desire to move away from his predictable rural world and gain wealth – stages of transition – returns to the ordinary world realising that he values his ‘ordinary’ world.