

Radio interview (Assessment task) by Nghi Dong

Theme music of "Swan Lake" is played.

Introduction:

Happy Saturday! Hello, my name is Nghi Dong from Radiosun program and we are bringing you two stories of two people about their amazing journeys of discoveries. Even though they are much different about age, occupations and their standings in life, their experiences throughout will help us gain insight into the discoveries they have made. Billy Elliot is a famous 15-year-old English boy who has achieved his success as a ballet dancer; and Joan Waters who is an Australian woman in her 40s who had a trip to China, which was very brave of her since it was known that Decade of Chaos was happening there, especially in Tiananmen.

Nghi: Welcome, Mrs. Waters and Billy. It's a big pleasure to have the both of you here tonight on the program.

Joan: Thank you, Nghi. It is also our honour to be able to share our stories.

Billy: Thanks, we would love to be here.

Nghi: First of all, what had inspired the both of you to start your own discovery?

Mrs. Waters: Billy, would you like to start first?

Billy: Yes, thank you. Well I can say this is my biggest discovery ever. It helps to discover who I am and what I really want to do which is ballet – something is against the stereotyped expectations for boys like me. I've always loved music as I find it relaxing and it has been my closest friend during my family's hard times. I play the piano as well.

Nghi: So you have shown your response to music since very early?

Billy: Yes, but the root of my discovery is, I guess, when there was a very big scab strike of miners who wanted higher salary at where I live, Everington Village (England), therefore my boxing class which was usually downstairs had to share one hall with the ballet class. Consequently, all my attention was diverted to the sound of the piano keys being played for the dancers and without me noticing, my body responded to it as I moved to the rhythm hearing the teacher's instructions. I lifted my right leg up when she said: "Lift!"

Nghi: What an interesting story! As if fate has come and you just can't resist. Did you decide to do ballet right away?

Billy: No. the feelings were strange but I still had this controversy in my head debating whether to actually learn or not. But I stood close to them and watched. I asked Mrs, Wilkinson who was the ballet teacher for some keys but was replied by another question instead which was: "What size of shoes do you wear?" I was taken aback as if she had been observing me watching them.

Mrs. Waters: She just asked that out of the blue?

Billy: Yes. I don't know, maybe I had been too obvious (laugh it off). So I changed from boxing shoes to those ballet ones which I felt fit me better. A friend of mine, Debbie, who was also in that ballet class invited me to join which made me feel more confident even though it took me a lot to finally made the decision.

Joan: Did you do well at your first time?

Billy: That was the most important reason that strengthened my choice of doing ballet. Mrs. Wilkinson instructed and I did as I was told to without protesting back, and guess what? Who would have thought that I was actually praised for my good control of leg lift?

Nghi and Joan laugh at his remark.

Billy: She asked if I enjoyed the lesson, but I kept quiet, since I hesitated. It was too true to deny, however, I couldn't bring myself to do something I wasn't supposed to. However, I met Debbie after the class and we had a little discussion about boys doing ballet. She showed her support and was willing to advise me about ballet. At that moment, I set my mind that I would join the class, despite what might happen in the future,

Joan: It was amazing how he courageously followed what his heart told him to. I simply could not. I tend to make decision logically, with my head more than my heart, and that's also how my trip to China started. My husband died after months of fighting cancer, I wanted my daughter, Leah and I to forget so I tried to free my minds by booking tickets to China.

Nghi: Did you also tell your daughter about your intention of visiting China?

Joan: No, I just couldn't. That decision was also the root of the so many problems that occurred later. My first discovery of the trip was how big the distance between Leah and I was, ever since I acted tough and preferred to be called Joan instead of Mom after my husband's death.

Billy: Well that was really too much for a young girl like Leah to handle. From a teenager's perspective, I would like my parents to open up to me, to share problems together.

Joan: Too bad I only realised it after. I could just sense her question me on rushing to China, and I know she wasn't interested in a country which was much different from hers. She found it hard to adapt to a new environment where the society was complicated, where was always crowded and packed with people who seemed to be aliens to her.

Nghi: Were that all your purposes of coming to China?

Joan: Not exactly. Part of that was to find my long lost family, part was to solve the secret of the half coin which was left by my father that also fulfil my husband's wish.

Nghi: The discovery you made would soon be acknowledged by the people around you. What was their reaction to this?

Billy: My mom passed away very early so I have my nanna, my father Jacky and older brother Tony as my relatives. My dad was the most affected one by my discovery as he expected me to do well in boxing classes. When he found me wearing ballet clothes in ballet class, he could only shout: "YOU!

OUT! NOW!", but enough to show how shocked it was for him. Just like normal people, he had this stereotyped expectation that "bloody ballet" is not for lads, while boxing, football and wrestling are.

Nghi: Did your dad call it "bloody ballet"?

Billy: Yes, he was in such fury that he even shut my nanna down while raising his voice, which I found offended. Under no circumstances do you treat elders that way. Therefore it led me to protest back: "I hate you. You're a bastard" that I soon regretted. He pushed me against my house door and we had good chase and fight.

Joan: I completely understand you, how it can happen when the conflict is unbearable. During the trip, Leah and I also had a big fight that I could never imagine of since we've been so close before. It happened in Shanghai when Leah got lost after we separated due to a very massive strike of thousands of students fighting for democracy. I remember trying to keep her close by my side but she kept blending in and acting like she's one of the students which may cause disadvantage for her.

Nghi: That sounds dangerous. Getting lost in a crowd without understanding the language they speak is actually scary, thus China was in such a chaos.

Joan: I know, right? Seeing her across the lane this minute and next, she was just nowhere to be found, disappeared completely in the crowd. Fear got over me; I was so confused and scared that the past was coming back again. I thought the mob had got her.

Joan said while sobbing and Nghi offered her some tissue on the table.

Joan: Sorry. I looked here and there, still no trace of her. Next thing I knew, I was back to the hotel's lobby, hoping the little chance that she might remember her way back. And she did, came back looking so calm while I was on the verge of breaking down, anger washed over me and I said harsh words towards her. Things actually came to a point where I said: "Should have left you in Chatswood!" and she replied that she didn't want to come to my "rotten China". Next thing I knew, my hand slapped across her face and we stopped talking for a few days.

Nghi: Neither of you were at fault for it. I guess the conflict that wasn't solved exploded and both of you lost control. **So how was the discovery of confrontation made where Leah finally understood your side of story?**

Joan: Every problem needs to be solved. Later when I found the right time to seriously talk through it, I explained the rush to China, from the fear of experiencing the mob when I was just eight in Penang to how I was scared they might get Leah when she got lost. They came attack my neighbours with machetes, clubs and torches. My parents ran rushing down the street and...

Tears escape her eyes once again and tissue is given to her.

Nghi: You can take your time and calm yourself down before continuing.

Joan: My apology. I told her that I wanted to keep moving on and not looking back at things that happened. At first she took my words for me wanting to forget totally about her dad, but I emphasised: "I don't want to forget him. Ever" however, after some time, she came to me unexpectedly and squeezed my hand while saying: "It's over" So I just took it as she understood

what I had been through. After that we got back to normal and I was glad it was actually over, our misunderstanding.

Nghi: I am also glad that the hard times were over for you and Leah. What about you, Billy?

Billy: Mine was a bit different. It wasn't me who confronted but my dad did. As best as I remember, it was a day when I took my friend, Michael, who admitted to me he was a "poof" to the hall where I usually practised ballet with the girls. I gave him a small lesson of ballet and we were having fun when he came. Jacky appeared at the door. His face didn't show any anger or shock, I guess just mere curiosity and it urged me to confidently show off my talents. Something told me to dance, and I did, dance my best in front of him, came closer to him with a slight braveness I had in me. Part of the reason was to ask for understanding, part was to tell him: "Dad, you should be proud of me". No words were heard from him after that, and he didn't disapprove of me joining classes anymore. So in the end I took it as a yes from him.

Nghi: It was nice to have conflict and tried to solve them later as I think it helps improving your relationship even more, bringing you closer and the bond becomes stronger, based on these two stories. **Was there any other discovery emerged from the process without you expecting it?**

Joan: There was one incident at Good Field where my father's brother's family lived. It was the first village we found thinking it was our ancestors' village, only turned out not. It was later figured out by Leah that father's brother only kept us there for him thinking that we are responsible for his second storey to be built up, to pay up the loss that my father brought to the family before. However, Jade who was married into the family as daughter in law, showed her disapproval of the idea as she wanted to do so with their own earned money. The fact that he purposely concealed his zero knowledge about the coin as he had such an ulterior motive disappointed me. First we have found the wrong village and second, our own relatives had taken us for granted.

Billy: Then how did you get information about the actual village that you would find out later?

Joan: He was persuaded by Jade and decided to tell us the truth, give us the details about Turtle Land, which was our ancestors' village.

Billy: In my story, I experienced a similar incident where I found out how short of money our family was, but still my dad sacrificed for my own sake. This happened after my dad had realised my talent and decided to support my major study in ballet. We were advised by Mrs. Wilkinson to send me to audition for Royal Ballet School in London which needed money to travel. Without discussing with other family members, my dad who was one of the strikers gave up on strike and went back being a scab to afford the trip. This was found out by Tony and both of them had an angry talk but somehow, Tony succeeded in drop the idea off my dad's mind.

Nghi: If not then how did you get the chance to audition for the school and become famous like now?

Billy: Thanks for your compliment. The only solution my dad could think of was selling my mom's jewellery which he had been keeping for so long. At that moment, I just realised how much he loved me and wanted the best for me, not caring what people had to say about me doing ballet. As you said, our bond had really become stronger.

Nghi: There is a similarity in the two discoveries that was just made, where the second person's expectations are against the first person's idea whose were Joan's father's brother's and Billy's dad's. **Lastly, what did you think was the emotionally attached discovery throughout?**

Joan: Between Leah and I, I think Leah was the one who found the emotion before I did even though she started later. There was always coldness in her voice mentioning China and her too many questions about the differences China were from Australia. Being born and brought up in Australia had her denying her Chinese self, as if we had been westernised. However, to my surprise, she caught feelings better than I did and became attracted to the country. I think she had loosened herself after us staying at father's brother's house, and befriended with Swallow who she still keeps in contact even now.

Nghi: That's really nice how she grew feelings with China. It shows that some part of her was Chinese which she can adapt to the environment really well.

Joan: Yes. We witnessed so many strikes on the street which I felt Leah was attracted to as she blended herself in. I still remember she put up a 'V' sign in return to a student which got me so angry and slapped her hands off. But not until had we found the right village which was Turtle Land where she made friends with Ke – one of our relatives in the family who also participated in the strike did she fully open up herself and allow the emotions to be attached. She seemed to have understood the students and realised their great aim of bringing democracy back through Ke, so said she wanted to be a part of them. My most memorable time in China was our last day when there was "a wild storm of grey birds outside the window", when the army was about to take over Tiananmen with men came attack with sticks, and guns. Dead bodies were seen all over the place. Since we were originally Australians who were protected by Australia Government, we were informed to be taken back to Australia, leaving China behind. Leah was hesitant about leaving, which I knew she was emotionally attached to the place.

Billy: The emotional discovery was made by both my dad and I. Like I said, we became closer and felt the empathy between us. The scene on the my audition day is still on my head when the fear of not being accepted came across me, I pointed at the boxing class and told him I would join that, which was reacted by him closing the door in my face and told me not to change my mind. I always thought he would prefer the idea of me doing boxing, but that action had told me that he finally felt me and most importantly, he was proud of me.

Nghi: So did you do well for the audition?

Billy: I didn't think so since there was short of excitement or encouragement shown on the examiners' faces. I had the energy needed but my skills were too little compared to other contestants. I was disappointed in myself as I knew I let my dad down, therefore I angrily punched a boy who just tried to comfort me which led me to be called back to the examination room with dad. But the chance was there when my answer was just what they were looking for.

Joan: What did they ask and what did you answer?

Billy: They questioned me how I felt when I danced. I didn't think much and answered with honest: "Sort of disappearing, flying like electricity."

Nghi: Sometimes all you need is honesty. It was mainly what helped you to pass the audition and become a professional ballet dancer now. After all, that was such a beautiful time with our guests, full of laughter and moments of sorrow. Moreover, we have listened to amazing discoveries that had us gained insight into other countries apart from Australia. Thank you for joining the show, Billy and Joan.

Joan: You're welcome.

Billy: We had a great time.

Nghi: Thanks for listening. We'll see you next week with many other interesting stories. Have a good night.

Name : Emma Tran

ASSESSMENT TASK: ESL

TASK: Write a radio interview with the presenter asking 2 characters from Billy Elliot and The China Coin, to discuss the insights they have gained from their experience of discovery.

INTERVIEWER: (Background music). Good afternoon and welcome back to 'The Australian Radio' at 3pm every Sunday.

I: My name is Emma and today, 21st of March 2016, we will talk about discovery. Discovery can be experienced through unexpected or sudden events. Have you guys ever had discovery on something for the first time, in either physical or spiritual ways? A discovery can be affected by an individual's own cultural, historical, personal and social contexts. Today, I'm very honour to sitting here with our two special guests and listen to their discovery stories. We have Billy Elliot, who has achieved many noble awards and very successful as a ballet dancer in London and the other is an Australian girl who witnesses a massacre in Tiananmen Square, China: Leah Waters. So I've heard Billy, you just finished your ballet performance in Australia yesterday and Leah is also come back from China weeks ago. How do you feel to be in Australia?

Billy: Thanks Emma for having me today and yes, yesterday was an incredible show for me. I love my Australian audiences and thank you for your support. It means a lot to me.

Leah: Hello Emma and everyone who is listening to "The Australian Radio". With me, it's good to be back and sitting here talking with you guys. Especially when I just head back from a terrible massacre in my second homeland.

I: Why did you go to China at that dangerous time, Leah?

L: My mom and I went to China to do our father's last aspirations. My grandfather sent mom a half ancient Chinese coin and a letter tell us to find the other half which it belonged to our lost relatives.

I: *When and what were you first feeling of being connected to ballet for Billy and China for Leah?*

B: I just accidentally found out that I love doing and learning ballet. My father wanted me to learn boxing so he sent me to a boxing class which I felt not interested at all. My class was sharing a hall with a ballet class. One day, I was practiced boxing and then suddenly heard the music come out from the ballet class. I didn't know why but I kept following the ballet teacher instruction, and I decided to join them. While everyone looked so nice in their tutus in ballet shoes, I was the only one dancing with boxing boots.

I: (Laugh). It must be hard.

B: It was but I enjoyed it very much. I still remembered that feeling. It felt so right for me, like, I was doing what I was good at, it's in my body and this was who I am. So, the next day, I decided to do the ballet, until now.

I: How about you Leah?

L: Mom and I found out our lost relative's village after a several days in China. I had to admit that I had a wonderful time in the village with our relatives. I was selfish to think mom is getting unfamiliar when she kept changing to Chinese everyday and I used to hate the concept that mom and I are Chinese and be called Chinese. I got scared, about couldn't understand mom, and about losing her as if she wasn't my mom anymore. But at the time living in the same roof with our relatives made me realize that "Ah. So this is who she is. Mom just being herself. This is her family. And mine too." We prepared and had dinner together. We walked through the bamboo forest together to visit our great grandparent's cemeteries, talked about the old memories.

I: Just like a family, right?

L: Yes. After my dad's death, I was her only family. But now, she had another one, who have been welcomed us with their open arms. I didn't expect that one day I would seem my mom's family is MY family. I was very grateful for what they've done for us.

I: Do you guys have any barrier when studying ballet and being in China?

L: Actually I had relationship problem with mom. I confronted mom because I thought mom tried to bury dad's memory and forcing me to be a part her family. I hated to see mom changing from Mrs. Waters to Mrs. Ji. She just kept changing continuously, from a stranger to an ally, then an enemy, a sister, sometimes as a mother. There was once time I accidentally have been lost in Shanghai because of a chaos mob. When I got back, we had a big fight and mom slapped me.

I: Really? Just because she got angry at you?

L: Because I said something that I shouldn't. Mom said she should have left me at home when she saw me got back to the hotel and I said: "Why didn't you? I didn't ask to come! It's your rotten China". I wish I haven't said that to mom and I'm regretting until now. I could not forgive her for a long time but then I realised that she was worried for me, she thought that I was gone like her mom, dad and her dear husband, that the mob had me, took me away from her.

I: I have heard that when you guys were in China, there were student protest about democracy. Apparently, this incident had made China is one of an unsafe place. There was even a massacre in Tiananmen Square so I bet now you can understand and sympathize for what she had worried about. Do you have any problem Billy?

B: A lot actually. My family is miners. Maybe that's why dad and my older brother could not accept a man doing ballet. I had studied ballet behind him, practiced ballet in our bathroom, and hide my ballet shoes under my shirt every time I got home. I did all the sneaky things so that I can learn ballet. I even stole a ballet book from a library van in my village (Billy and Interviewer laugh) because people didn't let junior rent that book.

I: Interesting.

B: My dad had to confront with the fact that I'm different with other boys at the same age and the truth that I love doing ballet. He did not get used to it very well. I still remember dad said: "Lads do football or boxing, not F—king ballet" after he caught me in the ballet class. I could understand why he got angry with me. We had a tough time because the strike was happening in my village. My brother, Tony, and dad was also in the strike. We did not have enough money to cover life but dad still tried to pay 50 pences for me to learn boxing and of course, he did not expect me to skip

the class. The strike not only drank up my family's energy but also ruined my opportunity to be in the Royal Ballet School audition. Polices caught Tony once and he had to attend to a court. Unexpectedly, the day Tony went to the court is the day my ballet audition start. So yeah I missed it.

I: How can you still get into the school?

B: My dad finally accepted me to follow my dream and he tried to work out how to make money for me to go for another audition which was very far away from home.

I: I can tell that not only Billy's and Leah's mother but also every parent is always wants the best thing for their children. *Can you guys tell me what have you discovered about your parent through those hard times?*

B: I discovered that my dad had to sell my mom's jewellerys and especially he joined scabs to make money for my audition trip. It must be the hardest decision he ever made. I could not help but kept imaging dad sitting on the bus and people kept throwing eggs and stones into. Because of me, dad had to make many hard decisions to give me a chance to following my dream. He seemed to be gruff but his love was show up by his actions and the sacrifice for me. This is really means a lot to me and I truly appreciate everything that he has done for me.

L: I also want to thanks my mom and sorry for what I did to her. After a long time wondering why everyone could understand her better than me, her daughter, I suddenly found out that I have never thought about her feelings that she had been through. Her mother, then father, then husband, they are all gone. Everything was happened too fast for her. I wish I had asked my self how she could handle everything or at least talk to her instead of put the blame on her for dragging me to China and trying to make me as a part of her family.

I: *Besides mom and dad, who else had been helping you to overcome challenges?*

B: Luckily, when I had confronted with my dad about I doing ballet, Mrs. Wilkinson, my first ballet teacher, had helped and encouraged me a lot. I must say that Mrs. W was the earliest person discovered my talent and she was the one who persuaded me to do the audition. Billy wouldn't have today without Mrs. W's helps. She encouraged me every time I want to give up my dream, worried about me, taught me everything but didn't require anything from me. She even wanted to pay for my audition trip. Mrs's a strict person in teaching but sentimental when needed. For me, she's my second mom who I could lean on when I felt the most desperate and exhausted.

I: It is hard to deal with life without mom. Who else help you, Leah?

L: When mom and I tried to find the half coin in different village, we have met more our lost relatives. I met my cousin Ke, his mother – Li Nan, and uncle Tong. They helped me to take care of mom when she was in hospital because of a car accident. Especially, they were the one gave me the missing part of the coin. They've kept the missing piece all the time but no one knew it. We just found it out unexpectedly when Li Nan unpacked her husband trunk. The coin was in a bamboo cylinder and it was plugged with wax at both ends. When Li Nan gave me the cylinder, we could feel something in side so we decide to open it and the result it just unimaginable. (Leah laughs)

I: Oh wow! Unexpected things are always the best right? Now tell me, what is your best memory of you two during these discovery process?

L: My best memory while I was in China properly the time when I discovered that Heng, a village party official, tried to corrupt 10 fertilizer bags on his motorbike while everyone in the village only had 2 and they had to make manure because the fertilizers were not enough. Uncle Tong, Li Nan and I made a perfect plan to get those fertilizers. We tell the villagers go to Heng's house and then Tong pretended to say thank you Heng for taking risk for the fertilizer for all the villagers. (Everyone laughs). Heng could not say anything but sadly watched those fertilizer bags brought away.

I: What a brilliant plan, Leah! (Interviewer laughs). Now it's your turn Mr. Elliot:

B: The best event that ever happened in my life was when I received an accepted letter from the Royal Ballet School. I just got home from school and saw the letter on the dinner table. My dad, brother and nanna were expecting a lot from me. They kept looking at me incessantly which made me way frighten out. (Billy laughs). And I kept holding the letter on my hands, too scared to open it. Finally, I decided to see it and suddenly I cried and I could not stop. My tears were streaming out continuously.

I: It's happy tear, isn't it? Discovery can be experienced in many ways and aspects. You can discover something for the first time or sometimes you just rediscovering things that has been forgotten or concealed, sudden and even emotional discovery. I hope that through our guests' stories today, the audience can understand and relate to the concept of discovery which can lead you to a whole new world, new values, and allow individuals to speculate future possibilities.

I: Thanks Billy and Leah for the interesting talk and I'm very appreciate that you've came the show. I hope you guys can achieve great success in the future. Good bye everyone and don't forget to catch up our next interview on Sunday. (Background music).

RADIO INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

**Khoi Tang interviews Billy Elliot and Leah Waters, ABC Local Radio Broadcast, 702 ABC Sydney
March 23, 2016**

Presenter: Welcome to abc local radio interview broadcast, I'm Khoi and tonight we gonna have a talk with two special guests about their inspiration life stories. Please welcome Billy Elliot and Leah Waters, and thanks very much for being here tonight.

Leah: Oh, it's also a pleasure for me to be here, too

Billy: It's great to be here.

P: So, it seems that you guys had experience a big change in your life which lead you to become what is now, please tell us more about it. Let's tell us about your background, what start your trip or what start your change?

L: Well it's all began when me and my mum Joan got a trip to China after she received a letter from her father's last letter with an ancient china coin and it's only a half of it make it very mysterious. As far as I know, the reason mum want to go there is because she want to meet her family while in that time the only thing that drag me to China is to fulfill my father last adventure, to solve the half-coin mystery that he cannot make it himself.

B: For me, it was the tension days of coal miner strike; and I was just a kid, I like dancing, I dance whenever I has a chance to with music, I also taking care of my grandma every morning while my brother and dad on the strike. My family generation s all do boxing so same as I being force to do it even when I don't like it. Even though I did try but I more likely to get hit more than hitting. But when the ballet class move to the gym that is when thing suddenly changed when I heard the piano music, it's like I can naturally feel the music and respond with movement. When I hesitated join in with the ballet class, my teacher Mrs. Wilkinson told me that I got a good control of leg lift, that is when I started to realized something, something to think "is ballet is what I am really good at?"

P: So you suddenly realized that you have a feeling for ballet, right? And how does it's like I mean what is your reaction when you found out you might me a ballet dancer?

B: I mean I'm little bit confused and hesitated at the first time, but it's also kinda obviously because I do like to respond to music by dancing, like I do that for every morning using my

brother record player, even though I'm not allowed to. Because I can feel something when I dancing that make me just want to dance all the way out. But the only thing that drag me from doing it is about my dad, I just worried that he will not accept it, and at the result yeah he did not like it at first, he said "f*cking ballet". Sorry for that.

P: Right, seem like you have strong argument with your father I suppose. And how about you Leah, how do you feel of your trip to China?

L: At first honestly I really hate China, sorry no offence, but what I imagine China is a dull, a corrupted and hostile country, a place where I never wish to go. But after I found mum's family I started to have connection, like people their all welcome me as part of their family. And when we found "the turtle land" village, I met a great guy Ke, he showed me a lot, taught me many things and also a nearest friend to me at that time.

P: Wow.. it's like you got a very connection with that boy Ke. So what happen with your relationship between you and your mum, Leah? I notice that there is something irritated between you two at the start of the trip but somehow you can manage it at the end.

L: Well it's not that much but because it just happen so soon, after my father funeral, few days day later Joan want to go to China immediately, it just like she not really sad about dad has gone.

I was so angry about it, about her emotionless, I mean how could she just said "He died" like that when talk to a stranger. That make me feel like mum is a different person more like a stranger, not a mother and a David's wife that I used to know. And... sometime honestly that's somewhat frighten me too cause I thought I lost my mum, that she turn into a completely "Chinese" not an "Australian Suburban woman". It's just weird that before the China trip I knew Joan like my mother, but when in China I knew nothing at all. It's when the angry and fear action make me curious about her terrified of the mob and when she explained to me about her when she was eight, she saw what the mob did, it was unpleasant and violent. I then understand more about mum and emphasize of her and why she acted like that. And that's how I started to rebuilt our connection.

P: And how about you Billy, what about you and your father?

B: Well, I could understand that dad has been different since my mom was gone and he also worried about earning money for family because of the coal miner strike. I mean he was stress out, our family not used to be as close as before, my brother bashed me, well yeah, and dad yelling at me. When dad saw me in ballet class, he forbidden me for doing it cause it's wasting money and I'm really angry at him. But at Christmas night when he saw me in boxing hall doing dancing with my friend Michael, that moment when I brave up and dance up to him, I want to

show him what I can do. That's when I knew it's work because I can see it through his eyes, even brother change too, he said "mom would've let you". I was so excited about the audition and after I am accept into the school dad was so happy and glad about me. Happiness has come to our family and that's the first time I saw him smile after a long time.

P: From your entire story, what is your biggest discovery?

B: I would say it's probably it's when I's been asked "what's it feel like when you dancing", I was hesitated for a while but then I replied through my own emotion "It feel sort like stiff, at first, then I sort of disappear...fly...like a bird. It's like electricity... Yeah, like electricity". That's when I saw their face got kind of surprise. I guess that's probably the right answer.

L: When me and mum finally found the right village we looking for, it was like we're on top of the world, that make all the terrors, the long journeys, noisy hotel, dirty restaurant were worth it. Just suddenly we found our ancestral village and the home of the last half-coin. That just makes a big triumph for our closer step to finish our journey.

P: Lastly, how do feel about your China trip Leah?

L: I just say it was a worth journey for me where I just learn a lot about many things from my long lost related family to the sorrow experience in Tiananmen Square and my lovely friend Ke.

P: And you Billy, how do you feel when you watch back to where you started?

B: I want to say that I very miss my dad and my brother, and Mrs. Wilkinson after many years I go away to London to learn ballet, thanks to Mrs. Wilkinson for acknowledge my skill and help me practice ballet, she like a light in my dark time. Thanks for my dad and brother as they supported me for my future in the end. I really appreciate all of that.

P: Well Leah and Billy, it's been a pleasure to have you guys on the show tonight and I hope that you'll come back again.

B: Thanks a lot, I'm looking to see you again soon, too

L: Well many thanks Khoi and I would love to see you again, thank you.

Thuan Le

RADIO Interview

Thuan : Hello everyone, now is the interview you don't want to miss. Today we got Billy Elliot the boy who overcame all difficulties to pursue their dreams and Leah who travels to China with her mother Joan in search of the other half of a broken coin, which Joan's father sent her before he died.

Billy and Leah: Thanks you. How are you doing Thuan

Thuan: Thanks you. I'm well. Look this is the radio interview. Can you guys tell us about the difficulties in the family when you encounter.

Billy: You know, when my father wanted me to learn boxing but I don't like it because I'm not good at it. Then I meet Mrs Wilkinson who was teach me about ballet and I love it but my father is not. He tell me to do football or wrestling not bloody ballet. He is don't want me learn it.

Thuan: Oh!! How about you Leah?

Leah: When my father lost my relationship of I with my mother is very bad because This is mainly due to the resentment I feels towards my mother for taking me to China so quickly after my father's death. I'm reluctant to go to china. The conflict between us continues travel through China. it is heightened at times when there is student unrest and protests.

Thuan: that really bad. What about your challenge?

Billy: I had to sneak my dad ballet because I know he does not want me to learn it. That was a bad period. I had to hide the ballet socks under the bed, at once I lied that boxing school when I learn ballet. I was very scared when hiding it. but finally my father saw me learn ballet.

Leah: Initially, I faces culture shock as the place is so different from Sydney with cramped houses and a dirty river. It is also confronting for her to see beggars, as well as dirty restaurants and domestic animals on sale at a market

butcher. i finally reacts negatively to all this with the statement. hate it. I hate China.

Thuan: Did you guys hate about your family?

Billy: At one time i was yelled to my father "i hate you. you're bastard". I was try to show my father about ballet try, try and try. Then the Christmas day he watch me dance a hornpipe. i know one thing is he was accept me. He took me home and watch me on the beds. On next day he was joins the scabs. I was shock at it but i know he want to find the money of himself to help us family. And I know I love my father love my family.

Leah: Although I have a lot of trouble but I will say no. i know my immaturity and lack of knowledge about china lead to a conflict with my mother. At china through travelling and meeting different people. i begins to understand the history, culture and lifestyle of the Chinese and then i was learn to accept my mother, i gradually grows to accept my Chinese heritage and extended Chinese family

Thuan: Oh! Very hard to try to understand the family, right. And how do you guys feel to understand family or they understand you?

Billy: I really feel great when my father accepted i learn ballet. he try to understand me, know what i want to do and what i like. Support me and help me pursue my dream.

Leah: It's really great to learn about the family,it will help me matures and gains a deeper knowledge of China, my family and my mom.

Thuan: Can you guys share us about the experience when you guys got on your live.

Billy: Try to help your family to understand more about you. show them what you want to do and try explain to them if you want to following your dreams. Do your best as you can in your dream and show them what you got or what you can do the best, let them trust what you said by show them what you can.

Leah: Don't show everybody about your immaturity and lack of knowledge by see things from one side. put yourself in their position to try understand

them and show them what you can to help. it will help you gradually grows
of your life and your relationship of the family.

