

## Billy Elliot Response

In the film "Billy Elliot" Stephen Daldry discusses the themes of facing adversity, the pursuit of dreams and the search for identity by using the characters, music and camera angles. One example of Billy's struggle with adversity is the struggle of Billy starting the ballet and being very far behind the others in terms of skill level. One example of the pursuit of dreams is when Mrs Wilkinson pushes Billy to try for the royal ballet school and Billy's community all chip in, Jackie even helps by selling Billy's mother's jewellery. An example of the search for identity is when Michael is struggling with his sexuality within the film.

The film Billy Elliot discusses the theme of the struggle with adversity, one example of adversity in the film is Billy's struggle to get his dad on his side in terms of ballet. In one scene Jackie and Billy are sitting opposite across a table arguing after Jackie has just found out Billy is doing ballet. The director uses closeup shots of each person staring at the camera in order to show the emotion in their faces, Billy uses rebellious language such as "I hate you", "it's perfectly normal" and "you're a bastard", and Jackie uses language such as "do you know who I am" "boys do boxing or football or wrestling, not f\*\*king ballet" in order say that he thoroughly disapproves of Billy doing ballet. Another example of Billy's struggle with adversity is his struggle with learning ballet while being so far behind all the others. The director uses shots of Billy at ballet and shots of Billy at home practising out of a book, and falling over and failing, in order to convey how hard he is trying to learn and how much work he is putting in in order to catch up with the others in the film.

Within the film the theme of the pursuit of dreams is explored thoroughly. One example of the pursuit of dreams within the film is how Billy continues to practise ballet in secret, having one on one lessons with Mrs Wilkinson. the director uses low lighting to reflect the secretive nature of the film, and the single lines of light coming from the window provide a focal point for the viewer to focus on Billy. Another example of the pursuit of dreams within the film is when Billy leaves his family and everything, he knows in order to go to the royal ballet school. The director conveys this in the scene with Billy about to do auditions and him telling his father that he doesn't want to do the ballet anymore to which Jackie tells him to "go back to inside."

The film Billy Elliot explores the theme of the search for identity in depth. One example of the search for identity within the film is Michael's struggle with being gay and hiding it from the community. The director expresses this whenever Michael suggests he is gay, or a gay connotation comes to light but he refuses it and he comes up with an excuse for what he says. Such as when he and Billy are underneath the bridge and he talks about Billy wearing a tutu, and says he just thinks it would be cute. Another example in the film is Billy hiding his love for ballet and his true personality from Jackie and Tony, the director shows this in the film by showing Billy practising in secret and hiding his ballet shoes underneath his bed, and when Jackie finds out and tells Billy to get out of the ballet hall, Billy feels ashamed and tells Mrs Wilkinson not to say anything or do anything.

In this film the director thoroughly explores the human experiences of the characters through the themes of the pursuit of dreams, through Billy moving to the royal ballet school in London to pursue his dream. The struggle with adversity through Billy being so far behind everyone else when he starts doing ballet. The search for identity through Billy hiding his true personality and passion for ballet from his family. In conclusion the film Billy Elliot extensively explores the human experiences to do with Billy's story.