

ANALYSIS OF A FILM SCRIPT :
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

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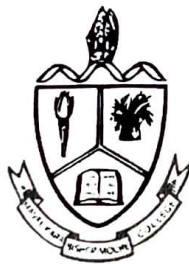
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ANALYSIS OF A FILM SCRIPT BASED ON *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS*

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PREFACE

“To make a great film you need three things-the script,the script and the script” - Alfred Hitchcock(English-born American director)

It is impossible to envision a film without a script ,as the script is the base for what appears on screen.By analysing the movie script of “*The Pursuit of Happiness*”,this project critically examines the importance of a script and its factors.*The Pursuit of Happiness* (2006),an American biographical drama film directed by Gabriel Muccino along with a production team including Steve Conrad (Screenplay) and Andrea Guerra (Composer) was successful in establishing a distinctive and original work while meeting the expectation of audience.

The title of the project is “ Analysis of film script” and it contains three chapters in which the first chapter gives introduction to the movie script,*The Pursuit of Happiness*. second chapter deals with analysis of the script.The final chapter sums up the findings of the analysis and evaluates the importance of script.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The Pursuit of Happyness is an American drama movie which is directed by Gabriele Muccino. The screenwriter is Steve Conrad and produced by Todd Back, James Blumenthal, Steve Tisch, James Lassiter, and Will Smith. It is distributed by Columbia Pictures. It is set in San Francisco in 1981. The duration is 117 minutes. The movie was released in USA on 15 December 2006. The movie is about the chance to get success and happiness.

Gabriele Muccino as movie director of *The Pursuit of Happyness* was born in Rome, Italy, on 20 May 1967. He is an Italian director; working in Europe was always easier than working in America. He began his film career as an assistant to Italian director's Pupi Avati ("The Story of Boy and Girls") and Marco Risi ("Steam: The Turkish Bath"). Muccino was directing his debut which earned him a spot in 1998 in the film festival and there he received a nomination for best direction. The film "The Last Kiss" pushed Muccino into the international spotlight. *The Pursuit of Happyness* was nominated for Oscar, wins 9 awards and 17 nominations.

The Pursuit of Happyness is a movie that motivates the viewers and tells about the chance of everybody to be successful and happy in his or her life. The protagonist of the movie is Chris Gardner, a smart and hardworking man. His wife's name is Linda and their son Christopher Gardner. Chris Gardner is a medical asset salesman. The movie is all about Chris's transition from a self-employed bone density scanner salesman to a stockbroker intern, as he struggles to keep a roof over his family's head. Bone-density scanners were taken from Chris's money infestation and his wife which appears very hard to sell. Chris Gardner tried to sell it from one hospital to another hospital, he had a target to sell the

bone-density scanners, at least two items as the expense for his necessity. Scanners played a vital role in Chris's life. Moreover, his wife, Linda, helped the family's finance matters by working as a hotel maid. After an all-time sale, low Chris saw someone driving up in a fancy car and he asked the man parking what his job is, as he wants to be like him eagerly. The man admits he is a stockbroker. Although he is able to sell most of the scanners, there was a time lag between the sale and his growing financial demands which ends up creating conflict among Chris and Linda. After the previous incident or occurrence, Chris begins his dream of getting into brokering, but his wife is not interested in his dreams, leaving Chris to look after his son, Christopher, on his own while he deals with the problem directly and goes for what he believes in. Linda has no faith in Chris. After moaning endlessly and trying to kill his dreams, Linda left Chris and Christopher to New York with a hope that she might get a job in her sister's boyfriend's restaurant. Gardner, without having a proper college education, enters an internship for stockbrokers at Dean Witter. He wants to change his struggling life to a successful one there. Gardner lives with his son in homeless shelters, subway station bathrooms and cheap hotel rooms. The struggle of Chris to get a job is very difficult and finally, Chris gets the opportunity of 6 months to apprentice without salary in the office. The struggle is not finished. He must compete with 20 people to get one job in the office. After all the hardships, Chris managed to get the job in the office.

The Pursuit of Happyness is a box office movie. The movie had a \$55,000,000 budget and it grossed \$307,077,295. It is successful because the film debuted as the first at the North America box office, earning \$27 million during its opening weekend. It was Will Smith's sixth consecutive at the first opening. The film grossed \$162 million in the US and Canada and a further \$141 million in other markets, for a total worldwide box office of \$304 million. Not only box office success, but the film industry also gives the movie a good level of

appreciation. Some awards and nominees have been received for the movie. Firstly, Academy awards popularly known as the Oscars, presented annually by the American Academy of motion picture arts and sciences to recognize the excellence of professionals in the film industry, including directors, actors, and writers. Will Smith is the nominee for best actor from “*The Pursuit of Happyness*” movie.

Secondly, The Golden Globe awards presented annually by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) to recognize outstanding achievements in the entertainment industry and to focus wide public attention upon the best in motion pictures. *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie gets some nominees. They are Will Smith for best actor - motion picture drama (nominee,) world and music by Seal for the best original song “A father’s way” (nominee).

Thirdly, The Black Reel awards began in 2000 were designed to annually recognize and celebrate the achievements of Black people in feature, independent and television films. *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie gets some nominees. They are *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie for best movie (nominee), Will Smith for best actor in a motion picture (nominee), Jaden Smith for best breakthrough performance (nominee).

Fourthly, The NAACP Image Award presented annually by the American National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to honour outstanding people of colour in film, television, music, and literature. The movie gets some winners and nominees. They are “*The Pursuit of Happyness*” for outstanding motion picture (winner), Jaden Smith for outstanding supporting actor in a motion picture (nominee), Thandie Newton for outstanding supporting actress in a motion picture (nominee).

Fifthly, The Screen Actors Guild Awards award given by the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) to recognize outstanding performance. Will Smith in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie for outstanding performance by a male actor in a leading role - motion picture (nominee).

Sixthly, the MTV movie award is presented annually on MTV (Music Television). The nominee is decided by a special panel. Winners are decided by the public. Jaden Smith in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie is a winner for best male performance.

Seventhly, the Broadcast Film Critics Association awards (BFCA), the largest film critic's organization in the U.S and Canada, representing 199 television, radio and online critics also paved the way for the achievement of the movie.. They are Will Smith for best actor (nominee) and Jaden Smith for best young Actor (nominee).

Eighthly, The Phoenix Film Critics Society (PFCS) is an organization of film reviewers from Phoenix-based publications. Jaden Smith in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie for best performance by youth in leading or supporting role male (winner).

Ninthly, The Annual Chicago Film Critics Association awards, located in Chicago, USA which provide achievements to the movie. Will Smith in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie for best actor (nominee).

There are five aspects or key elements for his film. They are theme, plot, character, casting, and mise-en-scene. The first appeal point is the theme aspect. The theme of this movie is highly inspiring which tells that everybody has a chance to be successful and be happy in life. No matter what all situations or struggles one has to go through, there will be a point in life where all the hard work pays off. *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie deals with the failure, success, happiness, hope and ambition.

Second, dealing with the plot. The plot dealt with the interesting conflicts that have happened in the movie. The conflicts are at the time Chris Gardner's wife Linda leaves him, he being a single dad; struggling in pain, trying hard to give quality life to Christopher and in between losses his house, his bank account, and credit cards.

The third is character. *The Pursuit of Happiness* portrays a wide variety of strong characters. The character of Chris Gardner as a major character is a man that has a unique personality and high responsibility to his family. The movie is fully revolving around his struggling life and ending with the hope note of his success.

The fourth is casting. Every actor and actress gets a balanced characterization. The final aspect is mise-en-scene. It includes lighting, costuming, composition, texture, art direction, make-up, and music. The lighting of this film gives a strong impression. Not only that, the costumes and make-up represent the characterization and are appropriate to the setting of place and time in the movie. This film has best-selected and composed music that carries the grief and joys that each of the characters endures from the screen to the audience.

Overall the movie is a complete package with the best script along with the best cast and crew connecting easily with the audience.

CHAPTER TWO

ANALYSIS OF THE SCRIPT BASED ON *THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS*

Major factors of a script are Setting, Story, Characters, Dialogue and Skillful visualization. The story being the first and most important factor is said to be the base stone of any script. Secondly, Dialogue is the soul of a script. It is a factor that exists inside the script. It is through the dialogues, the audience can pass through the movie, its situation primarily. Credible characters according to the circumstances discussed in the script is another factor that is one of the most influential parts of a movie. The structure is the arrangement of incidents and elements as well as the mode of arrangement and finally, Skillful visualisation is another factor that increases the brightness of a movie. The narrative techniques used or it is the activity of writing pictures to be visualised. So the most important thing inside this is writing. These are the factors to be examined while analysing a script and the findings are as follows:

The Setting

The movie is set in San Francisco in 1981. The setting in the film shows a time when Chris Gardner has poor finances, no house and job. He has a son whom he had to take care of. Chris Gardner gets an internship, which later gives him a permanent job. This makes the film seem more realistic. Will Smith doesn't seem the likeliest candidate to play a desperate, struggling man. Whatever the role (love coach, alien fighter, Ali), he projects speed and good times, an almost aerobic self-confidence. But in "*The Pursuit of Happiness*", which is set in

San Francisco, at the dawn of the age of go-go capitalism, Smith doesn't just wear a few flecks of gray in his hair. He slows himself down, playing a man who awakens to the reality that life is nickel-and-diming him to death. It's a beautiful and understated performance, one that hums with a richer, quieter music than Smith has mustered before. The screenplay by Steve Conrad presents a rather limited view of happiness by equating it with flashy cars, high-paying jobs, and luxurious homes. Chris who believe in capitalism play the competitive game very well. We have no other choice but to cheer him on as he overcomes one obstacle and setback after another. Certainly his son's trust and love helps carry him along, but the movie wants us to believe that anyone can break through to the big money if they only apply themselves. That may have been true 60 years ago but it is not true today as the gap between the rich and the poor has turned into an abyss.

Story

The first and most important factor behind the script of a particular movie is its Story. The script is based on a story and the story is a series of events or imaginary fiction portrayed in a senseful manner as like a script. Even though a script and a story are based on the same incident, there is a difference between them. A script has to be accepted as the written text of a play, film, or broadcast. So a script can be defined as the written text of a film. A script provides a detailed overview of each and every character. It allows the actor to comprehend the nature of the character, his likes and dislikes, personality, etc. Also, a script is written in dialogue form and is in the present tense. A script contains various scenes. In each scene, the climate is very well defined. The performance of the actor, his lines, and his movements are all elucidated clearly.

Unlike in the case of a story where a few are left to the imagination of the reader, in a script, everything has been declared. There is very little room for imagination. A script can be inspired by a story. In such an instance, the scriptwriter tries to capture the mood of the book through his script. In the production of films, the script acts as an outline since several mediums are intertwined. However, a story is quite contrasting from a script. Unlike a script, a story can be defined as an account of imaginary or real events. For example, let us take the novel *The Pursuit of Happyness* by Chris Gardner and Quincy Troupe and comprehend the elements that can be seen in a story. Story has a clear plot and maybe a few subplots as well. There are also chapters in a story. Through each chapter, the writer develops his story.

The story revolves around the life of Chris Gardner. In 1981, San Francisco salesman Chris Gardner invested his entire life savings in portable bone-density scanners, which he demonstrated to doctors as a handy improvement over standard X-rays. The scanners play a vital role in Chris's life. While he can sell most of them, the time lag between the sales and his growing financial demands enrage his already bitter and alienated wife Linda, who works as a hotel maid. The financial instability increasingly erodes their marriage, despite them caring for Christopher Jr., their soon-to-be five-year-old son.

While Gardner is trying to sell one of the scanners, he meets Jay Twistle, a lead manager and partner for Dean Witter Reynolds, and impresses him by solving a Rubik's Cube during a taxi ride. After Jay leaves, Gardner lacks the money to pay the fare and chooses to run instead, causing the driver to angrily chase him into a BART station. Gardner boards a train but loses one of his scanners in the process. His new relationship with Jay earns him the chance to become an intern stockbroker. The day before the interview, Gardner grudgingly agrees to paint his apartment to postpone being evicted due to his difficulty in paying the

rent. While painting, Gardner is greeted by two policemen at his doorstep, who take him to the station, stating he has to pay for the numerous parking tickets he has accumulated. As part of the sanction, Gardner is ordered to spend the night in jail instead, complicating his schedule for the interview the next morning. Gardner manages to arrive at Dean Witter's office on time, albeit still in his shabby clothes. Despite his appearance, he impresses the interviewers and lands an unpaid internship. He would be amongst 20 interns competing for a paid position as a stockbroker.

Gardner's unpaid internship does not please Linda, who eventually leaves for New York with the hope that she might get a job at her sister's boyfriend's new restaurant. After Gardner bluntly says she is incapable of being a single parent, she agrees that Christopher will remain with his dad. Gardner is further set back when his bank account is garnished by the IRS for unpaid income taxes, and he and Christopher are evicted. He ends up with less than \$22, resulting in them being homeless, and they are forced at one point to stay in a restroom at a BART station. Other days, he and Christopher spend nights at a homeless shelter, in BART, or, if he manages to procure sufficient cash, at a hotel. Later, Gardner finds the bone scanner that he lost in the BART station earlier and, after repairing it, sells it to a physician, thus completing all sales of his scanners.

Disadvantaged by his limited work hours, and knowing that maximizing his client contacts and profits is the only way to earn the broker position, Gardner develops many ways to make phone sales calls more efficiently, including reaching out to potential high-value customers, defying protocol. One sympathetic prospect, Walter Ribbon, who is a top-level pension fund manager even takes Gardner and his son to a San Francisco 49ers game where he befriends some of Walter's friends who are also potential clients. Regardless of his

challenges, he never reveals his lowly circumstances to his colleagues, even going so far as to lend one of his bosses, Mr Frohm, five dollars for cab fare, a sum that he cannot afford. Gardner also studies for and aces the stockbroker license exam.

As he concludes his last day of internship, he is summoned to a meeting with the partners. Mr Frohm notes he is wearing a new shirt, to which Gardner explains he thought it appropriate to dress for the occasion on his last day. Mr Frohm smiles and says he should wear another one tomorrow, letting him know he has won the coveted full-time position and reimburses him for the previous cab ride. Fighting back tears, Gardner shakes hands with the partners, then rushes to his son's daycare to embrace Christopher. They walk down the street, joking with each other (and are passed by the real Chris Gardner, in a business suit). The epilogue reveals that Gardner went on to form his multimillion-dollar brokerage firm.

The story being an important factor of a script, while analysing the script of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, we can see that the structure of the story written by Chris Gardner and Quincy Troupe is lucid. It is worthy to endeavour upon the power of visualization reflected by the main protagonist in the story. You have to pursue your dreams, Die Hard. Don't think about what others think, as it is all a part and parcel of life. We cannot live our life and dreams satisfying everyone around. You have to just remember These "OTHERS" won't think about "YOU" at all. If you want something, no matter what go and get it. Time waits for none. For that start Visualizing the same goal.

In the book Gardner talks about a life-changing encounter: In a parking lot, he met a well-heeled gentleman who was driving a red Ferrari. He had to know what this person did and how he did it. Turns out the gentleman was in the financial services industry, making a

great living by mostly talking to people on the phone. At the time they met Chris was selling medical supplies, driving all over town and barely getting by.

He thought, “Hey — I can talk to people from a desk in a nice office, avoid parking tickets and get the car of my dreams ... that’s what I want to do!” And from that point on, no matter how difficult things became, Chris held on to his vision of what he wanted. What pictures are we holding in our minds daily?

Life and the experiences gifted by life won’t be the same for all. Each individual is living their own unique life. No one has succeeded without hardships. Life is not what happens to us. Life is how we react to what happened. There are some circumstances which you cannot control. Sometimes, life just knocks you down. That does not mean you stay down. It is in your hands to get back up. In the movie, Chris Gardner depicts that and lives to that. Always strive towards attaining your goals. It’ll take time but you should hold on to your dreams and goals with patience.

By visualizing a certain event, situation, or object, you attract it into our life. It is a process that is similar to daydreaming. For some people, this might look like magic, but there is no magic involved, only the natural process of the power of thoughts and natural mental laws. It is like having a genie at your disposal!

This story is written based on true experience. It is valuable for everyone in building their good characteristics. We have to be able to learn to be responsible and well-trusted. The word is typed “happyness” instead of “happiness” It indicates and symbolizes that the person/ doer of the story pursues happiness in a very hard condition that makes him get angry. Almost all the scenes in the movie seem to be touching and deep compassion. The

condition of Gardner who is always blamed by his wife, the words of Gardner's son asking why his mother leaves them touch and compass us. In addition, Gardner and his son's struggle of having no place or house to stay in, having no money is very compassionate.

Character

Movies uniquely tell stories because of their visual components. However, there are some important components to tell a story, especially a film, the right way. The first and perhaps most crucial element is writing characters that can connect with an audience gives the story a purpose, a reason for the audience to care for what happens in the film. It is through the characters the plot of the movie is conveyed to the audience. Especially for the main characters, they have an important role in films. They have a big influence to represent the important thing that a film wants to deliver to the audience. Character and personality have a close relationship.

So the characters play a vital role in a movie and it is also an important factor of script analysis. We can identify three levels of characters from a script such as Primary, Secondary and Tertiary type characters. All type of characters have their own individual features. The primary character is the protagonist of the story, the person the book is about, or a character so necessary to the story that the story couldn't exist without him. An antagonist, sometimes a primary character, if the plot revolves around the conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist. A secondary character has at least three and often four dimensions of existence but those characters are not the pivot, although he/she is vital to the story. Tertiary characters are a lot in number and they also serve a lot of important roles in the story. But with a little

extra thought, a well-done tertiary character can briefly suggest that a real person, with real-life, awaits only time and space to emerge.

While analysing the characters in the movie script *The pursuit of Happyness*, we can see that the scriptwriter cleverly divided each and every character suitably. 'Putting the right man at the right place suits the process of characterisation. After proper characterisation for the story, it is the headache of the director and the crew to find valuable actors to represent the characters. In this manner we can see a crew of proper valuable actors in this movie and the characters are as follows :

- **Chris Gardner (Will Smith) :** Intelligent, caring, and hardworking. A devoted father and an eager worker, Chris should have everything it takes to be successful and happy. Luck, however, seems to constantly be working against him. He is a man of courage, perseverance, and faith. Through it all, Chris tries to be optimistic. At an early stage in Chris' story, he understands his objectives and the different obstructions he should defeat to reach them. Even though Chris is unaware of the obstacles he might face, he remains determined to do everything he can to achieve his objectives. His vitality and drive guide him to attain some of the hardest things in life.
- **Christoper Gardner Jr (Jaden Smith) :** Five-year-old son of Chris Gardner and Linda Gardner. A smart little boy who understands what is going on and realizes that his father is trying hard to do things right and to give him a better life. He sticks by his dad and encourages him that he can do it and make it happen. Christopher had to endure many hardships throughout the movie including living on the streets and in shelters.

- Linda Gardner (Thandiwe Newton) :Wife of Chris Gardner. A poisonous harpie, with no redeeming traits. She is an employee of laundry service. She is Gardner's wife. She is impatient. She is hard and bad-tempered. She is the antagonist character because she was always in the opposite opinion to Chris Gardner.
- Jay Twistle (Brian Howe) :A lead manager and partner for Dean Witter Reynolds.
- Charlie: He is the owner of the lodging house where Chris Gardner and his family live.
- Ralph: He is the owner of the lodging house where Gardner and his family live.
- Deborah: She is another owner of a lodging house.
- Driver: The taxi driver in which Chris Gardner got in. He got very angry with Chris because he avoided paying for the taxi fare by escaping from the taxi.

THEME

The Pursuit of Happyness is a film based on the life of the tycoon Christopher Gardner. This film demonstrates the battles that Chris Gardner faces while attempting to make a good life for himself and his son. The main themes of this film are survival, determination, and never giving up on your dreams.

One of the fundamental themes in the film is determination. Determination is that you can accomplish anything you need if you invest sufficient effort and do not surrender even

when times are hard. You can see this all through the film when Chris Gardner keeps running from place to place in order to fulfill his dreams.

Chris Gardner's hard work symbolizes the American dream. The American dream is the spirit of Americans who want to realize their fame and wealth through hard work and effort. The message in this movie is that you should never give up on something you really want in life. Keep striving tirelessly to achieve your objectives. No matter how hard life beats you don't ever give up, get yourself up and carry on. It's very normal for life to take us down, to put failure visible to us and to block our path of hope. However the most important thing is how we manage that failure and continue our journey from there.

The movie make the audience realize that we all have the inborn ability of perseverance to strive for our goal. Perseverance and persistence are the two things which we all have inside ourselves to achieve our dreams. We should be like Chris, get a grip and go through the pain, sufferings and agony as it will lead you to the taste of miraculous success at the finishing line.

The vast majority in the situation of Chris Gardner would simply give up. In any case, Chris demonstrates that you can leave being homeless, unsuccessful, and unhappy and turn out to be the opposite. Not exclusively did Chris Gardner leave being homeless yet he likewise turned into a self-multi-millionaire. He did the majority of this while being a single parent.

TITLE

The Pursuit of Happiness is defined as a fundamental right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence to freely pursue joy and live life in a way that makes you happy,

as long as you don't do anything illegal or violate the rights of others. The title is intentionally misspelled, as it also appears as graffiti in a scene in the film. The misspelt phrase is taken from an essay written in 1776 that argued that whites and blacks were created equal. The essay, which was written by Lemuel Haynes, a biracial man living in New England during the Revolution, quoted Thomas Jefferson's well-known sentence from the United States Declaration of Independence but spelt the last word of the sentence with a y. The sentence, as it appears in Lemuel's essay, is as follows: "We hold these truths to be self-Evident, that all men are created equal, that they are Endowed By their Creator with Certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

ANALYSIS

Although the film revolves around struggle, pain and survival there are many positive elements in the movie with affectionate father son conversations. "You're a good papa." Those tenderhearted words from Christopher to his father as they spend the night in a homeless shelter poignantly capture the essence of *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Chris isn't perfect, but one emotional scene after another demonstrates his drive to protect and provide for his son. We can see the care and concern of a father towards one's own blood.

Physical affection (hugs and kisses) and heartfelt moments mark their relationship. Chris repeatedly asks Christopher to trust him, and Dad proves that he's worthy of that trust. When Linda threatens to leave, Chris demands that their son stays with him. He knows he'll be a better parent than she would be—a reality to which Linda grudgingly agrees. Later, Christopher asks his dad, "Did mom leave because of me?" Chris responds, "Mom left because of mom. And you didn't have anything to do with that."

Actively concerned about his son's education, growth and mental development, Chris gets upset when he learns that Christopher's daycare provider, Mrs Chew, lets the kids watch *Bonanza* and *Love Boat*. Chris teaches his son word meanings, such as the difference between probably and possibly, and the fact that happiness is misspelled on his day care's sign. (It's mistakenly spelt with a "y"; the film's title intentionally follows suit.)

Chris later tells his boy to make a birthday wish list, then gets him a basketball as a present. And one of the film's most powerful scenes comes when Christopher is trying to shoot hoops with his new ball. After a strong-but-errant shot, Dad critically informs him, "You'll excel at a lot of things, but not [basketball]," perhaps projecting his own experience onto his son. Christopher immediately lives down to Dad's low expectations and takes a weak shot. Noticing his son's downcast countenance, Chris realizes his error and rectifies the situation, saying, "Don't ever let somebody tell you you can't do something. Not even me. All right? you got a dream? You gotta protect it. People can't do something themselves, they want to tell you you can't do it. You want something, go get it. Period."

A harrowing night of homelessness finds the pair killing time at a deserted Bay Area Rapid Transit stop. Father and son imagine that Dad's bone-density machine is a time-travel device that takes them back to the time of the dinosaurs. Christopher gleefully joins in the make-believe game as they flee from a T-Rex into a "cave"—a public restroom where they spend the night. Dad holds the door shut with his foot, and tears stream down his face as he watches his innocent son sleep on his lap.

In addition to such a strong father-son relationship, the movie also presents the American Dream as an achievable reality. It begins when Chris asks a Dean Witter broker (who he sees getting out of a bright-red Ferrari) what's needed to do the job. The answer he

gets back is this: "You've got to be good with numbers and good with people." Chris believes he has those skills and aggressively pursues executives at Dean Witter once he discovers internships are available.

He hounds his first contact, Jay Twistle until the man pays attention to him. Several other people at Dean Witter give Chris chances to prove himself, though they aren't duty-bound to do so. And even though he's virtually broke, Chris gives \$5 to one of his rich superiors so he can pay for cab fare. Later, Chris misses an appointment with an executive (for reasons beyond his control) and goes to the man's house to apologize. Walter Ribbon, in turn, kindly invites Chris and Christopher to share his skybox at a 49ers game.

A "live" TV clip of President Ronald Reagan includes the exhortation, "We've got to face the truth, and we've got to work to turn things around." Chris does that, and much, much more.

There are moments and lines ("Don't ever let somebody tell you you can't do something.... You got a dream, you gotta protect it.... If you want something, go get it. Period.") that are frankly hard to take. In general, the film is marred by the lack of a genuinely critical attitude toward American society, even though it shows some pretty horrific details. It leaves the door open for the notion that individuals can simply pick themselves up by their bootstraps. Nonetheless, whatever the conscious intentions of the filmmakers, the bulk of *The Pursuit of Happyness* reveals the soul-wasting nature of poverty and the lack of prospects for those condemned to economic oblivion

Chris and his son stay at a shelter that offers a gospel-oriented church service. A choir sings, "You promised you'd meet me at the altar of prayer/... Lord, please move that mountain." Other lyrics insist, "I won't give up," and include the line, "Hello, Jesus."

Christopher tells his dad a joke about a drowning man who kept praying for God to save him. The man refuses the help of two boats that come by, insisting that God will answer his prayer. After he dies and asks God why He didn't save him, God tells him, "I sent you two big boats, you dummy." These statements bring out the spiritual elements in the movie.

We see Linda in a bra and slip as she gets dressed for work. She's also seen in a camisole. Two scenes show Chris and Linda (who are unmarried but living together) in bed (without any sexual activity). A brief shower shot shows Chris' shoulders.

Sprinting across a busy San Francisco street, Chris gets hit by a car. He breaks the windshield then is thrown roughly to the concrete (yet avoids major injury). Linda hits Chris several times in anger; he in turn grabs her arm firmly. Twice, Chris shakes his son in moments of extreme frustration, but manages to exercise enough restraint not to hurt Christopher. Chris gets into a fight with another homeless guy who cut in front of him at the shelter. (Their conflict is broken up before it turns to full on fight).

In the film, we can see Chris who demotivates his son who is highly passionate in playing basketball. He tells his son that he won't excel in basketball projecting his own experiences onto his son. Chris is not by nature a deceptive person. But several times he lies in front of his son (who recognizes the deception) to keep others from realizing how desperate his situation really is. And when he's unfairly left to pay a cab fare he doesn't have the money for, he flees. (The infuriated cabby chases him, swearing and yelling threats.)

Chris' lack of funds means he's perpetually evading angry landlords who want back-rent from him. He always tells them he'll get the money, but is never able to make good on that promise. Someone painted "Dear Chris, U suck" on the wall of his apartment. An internship administrator treats him like an on-call servant, asking him to do all kinds of favors (such as getting doughnuts, moving his car, etc.). After the IRS garnishes \$600 in back taxes from his bank account, Chris loses his cool and angrily demands that a friend pay back \$14 that he owes him (as his son looks on).

Keeping all the negative elements aside, Chris's life conveys a healthy message to the audience that there are no shortcuts in life hence we should not try to skip steps for our convenience. Be determined and work hard, eventually you will get where you want it to be. Seize all your opportunities, take the initiative even though you are afraid to do it. As an ancient Chinese saying goes that the beginning of something is always difficult so don't be afraid, take a leap of faith and once you step off your comfort zone great things will definitely happen.

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

The Pursuit of Happyness directed by Gabriele Muccino is a rag to riches story about family, love and seeking the American Dream. *The Pursuit of Happyness* is a 2006 American biographical drama film based on Chris Gardner's nearly one-year struggle with homelessness. The film features Will Smith as Chris Gardner and an on and off-homeless salesman turned stockbroker. Smith's Son Jaden Smith co-stars making his film debut as Gardner's son Christopher Jr.

This is an amazing and inspirational film based on a true story. It makes us think about a lot of things that we never considered before. There are a lot of themes in this movie like struggle, hope, pain, survival, determination, success and never giving up on your dreams. The story sets a good example for how we can pursue happiness in our own lives by the choices we make each day.

The movie emotionally and deeply connects with the audience along with the moving elements resulting in the creation of the powerful film. It describes by saying that going forward allows unpredictable possibilities in one's life. The whole movie is essentially a pressure cooker for Chris as he faces lot of obstacles while trying to chase his goals along with the financial stability and inner peace and happiness. The movie showcases the strength of a human spirit through the character of Chris Gardner played by Will Smith. As the movie progresses it breaks the audience emotionally by feeling the pain and desperation that Chris has gone through.

There are several lessons conveyed by the director in the movie for the audience.

Raising a child on your own is very difficult. Almost at the beginning of *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie, Chris's wife left him and his son. Chris who loved his son struggled a lot to give his son a comfortable life. Being poor did not stop him from being what he wanted. He believed that success depended only on his efforts, not fate or luck. He has a dream, he keeps it, and goes after it. Financial factor is secondary as the primary factor lies in one's hardwork and determination.

The relationship between father and son is beautifully portrayed in the movie. Will Smith acted along with his son Jaden Smith. That makes the movie more engaging and more natural. Chris and his son are friends and love each other. They have a very mature relationship that every father wants to have with his children, especially if they are boys. This connection makes things a little bit. Their conversations and moments in the movie is heart melting and compassionate. It also teaches the audience that life will sometimes be tough. If you are rich, maybe you will never identify the taste of necessity. As we all know, Necessity is the mother of invention. If we need something then only we will try hard to get it. But for most of us, at one point life was or is tough. Chris loses his house, goes to a motel, and eventually he ends up living in a homeless shelter. He and his son even spend a night in a subway station restroom. Life humiliates him. He tastes bitterness and then tastes happiness.

If things get dark, all we have to do is to be relaxed. Chris who had finished his internship and sold all the medical devices he was clueless. He did not have anything else to do and did not know what the future would bring him. Since he was in the final days of the internship and did not know what was going on, he decided to go to the beach and sleep in a

hotel. That shows that even though you do not know what will happen, you deserve a break and to treat yourself to something nice. After all your hard work and patience, you deserve it.

We receive what we want after doing everything we can. Towards the end of *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie, you see that Chris Gardner sold all his medical devices, but the IRS took all his money for unpaid taxes. He takes the final exam at the brokerage firm, he does his best, and he just needs to wait. No money, no other place to go, he just waits. Then, at the end of the movie, the most intriguing moment arrives. When he doesn't even know what is going to happen, he receives great news. He gets the job, and all his problems end. The scene in the office where he is talking to the managers moves you. One of the managers asks him "Chris, was it easy?" and he replies, "No sir, it wasn't". That part of his life is what he calls happiness.

You can't let people discourage you from your dreams just because they have been unsuccessful themselves. If you remember the scene on the basketball court when the character Will Smith was playing was trying to discourage his son from spending too much time on the basketball court because he didn't feel his son could excel at the sport. He was probably giving his son this advice due to the many failures he had experienced, not just from his failures at the sport but from his failures in life in general.

The biggest lesson to take away from the inspirational movie *The Pursuit of Happiness* can be summarised in one word: Grit! Having a dream is not enough, you need the courage and resolve to pursue it. The real Chris Gardner appears in the final moments of the film just before the credit role. Dressed in a suit, he crosses the street and passes Will Smith and his son Jaden, both still in character.

This movie has shown the realities of life, how life gives you tough times and you have to fight through them. The best part is if life gives you tough times and you pass through it then there's something amazing waiting for you in future so just fight. The fruit of your labour is something more than you expect.

But the best part of the film is how a father fights all the odds to keep his son happy. The relationship between a father and child is just amazing. Suffice it to say that self-pity and lack of initiative are two character traits Mr. Gardner simply does not exhibit, no matter how bleak things get for him and his son. Instead, he elevates Christopher's needs above his own over and over again. He can't always change their awful circumstances, but Chris does everything within his power to meet his son's physical and emotional needs, and to protect him. Nothing can deter this loving papa from lavishing affection and tenderness upon his son. This film also depicts the importance of education in one's life but that doesn't mean that if you aren't educated you won't ever succeed. Everyone should just have the zeal to achieve something in life.

Director Gabriele Muccino says of this precious father-son relationship, "The movie plays like a love story. But in this case we don't have a woman and a man meeting each other. Instead, we have a father and son walking together through life. Their relationship is very strong and powerful. Chris endures the unimaginable and still makes sure that not even the worst moments will have a bad effect on his son's life." The chemistry between the pair onscreen is no doubt enhanced by the fact that Will Smith's son, Jaden, portrays Christopher.

Only a few negative elements (noted above) and the film's occasional use of realistic, street-level vulgarities let it down. I've certainly seen PG-13 films with more language problems, but there's still enough here (20-plus) to give discerning moviegoers pause. What

won't trip them up—and might even breathe new life into their own relationships—is Chris Gardner's powerful, passionate pursuit of the best life possible for his little boy.

In *The Pursuit of Happyness*, we don't just know Chris' dreams. We know his bank account, his tally of parking tickets, his back taxes. The fact that he's African-American is there at the margins — he would surely have gone to college had he come from a less hardscrabble background — but the real issue is the subtler one of class mobility in America. Since the internship is unsalaried, Chris is forced to survive by other measures, and what this means is that the job is really geared to people who've already attained middle-class solidity. Chris has to pretend to be something he's not, and the power of Smith's acting is in the gentle, mounting fury with which he absorbs a hundred misperceptions and slights.

In short, the movie is an amazing example to live a life. No matter what you are doing or aiming for, never give up. Even after the worst storms, the sun will shine again!

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