

A Time for dancing

A TIME FOR DANCING

Nation : USA
Year : 2000 (released on 6/9/02)
Genre : dramatic
Length : 1h 30'
Directed by : Peter Gilbert
Cast : Larisa Oleynik (Jules), Shiri Appleby (Sam)
Distribution : Eagle Pictures
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ (Great- don't miss it)



The film is taken from the Davida Wills Hurvin's novel of the same title.

In the Italian version, the soundtrack has been completely “recreated”, collecting some very popular songs; among many, there are three of Elisa's songs : *Dancing*, *Time* and *Heaven out of Hell*.

Sam and Jules have been best friends since they were six, when they met at dance lessons. Jules has lots of spirit of life, she just wants to dance: she works hard every day and she puts all her effort into it, with an innate talent, a strict discipline, her teacher's precepts and *Red Shoes'* precepts, which seem to have sealed her fate. Sam always sees the negative aspect of everything, owing to her parents' divorce; besides she works, so dancing is only a hobby for her, handed down by Jules.



She looks upon Jules as an example to emulate, but which will never be reached .

Jules takes a decision : she will make an audition to enter the Juilliard's school of New York, the most famous dance school. The routine fitness test, to take part in the auditions, diagnostics a tumour on her hip, which had made things difficult during the rehearsals, but she hadn't worried about it.

She begins a course of aggressive chemotherapy and with it an inner journey that gradually distances her from family, friends, and in particular from Sam, in a way that none

of them would have predicted.

Jules lets “time” acquire a new and deeper meaning; near her there's Sam, forever her friend. She's introverted, melancholy, and she will solve her personal conflicts, thanks to her friend's negative experiences.

During the chemotherapy, she dreams of choreography, while Sam performs choreography for the Winter's recital, in which she's protagonist for the first time; to top it all, there are love's ups and downs with the boy she loves.

Jules understands that she doesn't want to win her illness challenge, but for her the challenge of life is more important . So she decides to stop treatments and wins, even if it's a struggle for her body; she wants to make it the last dance around her life. The final choreography at Juilliard's will not decide her future, but it has returned her soul.

Jules' admission's letter arrives, but only Sam reads it to Jules, who's dead.

Jules' story has taught both that there's a time for loving, a time for living and a time for dancing.

Jules represents a world, which is only hers, but she also represents a true passion, dancing. There are many boys and girls who use music as a form of communication, giving vent to their feelings, to be understood.

If this story hadn't been invented, the film would be an excess, but it's a true story, and it should let us think that passion can't win illness, but can help to find a direction..

The film's rhythm is slow in the illness scenes and becomes slower and slower when Jules decides to stop taking care of herself; but it's fast in the firsts scenes and in the scenes about Sam.

The best scene in the film is the last choreography scene at Julliard's : the music, the atmosphere, light and colour's effects are perfect.



Elena Nesti, Elena Petrizzo IBL

COMPARISON BETWEEN *SAVE THE LAST DANCE* AND *A TIME FOR DANCING*

Talking about these two films, we have seen that it could be interesting to make a comparison between them. These two films remind us old films about dance, like *Flashdance*, *Footloose* and *Saturday Night Fever* : passion for dance, difficulty to realize one's dream, falling in love, and a final Oscar-worthy. But there's a difference : Jules knows that the choreography for her admission is her last dance, and yet, if she could go on living, her dream would be realised. In *Save the Last Dance*, Sara makes the audition instead, knowing that it's the beginning of her future. In these films both the best scenes are dance scene, with high-level-choreography, a mix of modern and classical dance, which are made by the most famous choreographers in the world, like Fatima, a hip-hop choreograph who has worked with Micheal Jackson.

Martina Giannini, Elena Nesti IBL