**Camryn Totham**

**Grade 12: English Oral:**

**The Greatest Showman:**

Intro:

Morning everyone, my movie review is based on The Greatest Showman which is directed by Michael Gracey and was released back in December 2017. The greatest showman is based on a true story on PT Barnum and his rise to fame with his circus, however some of the details have been exaggerated to enhance the way the film plays out.

Characters:

There are a numerous number of characters in this movie, if we had to list them all, we would be here for the duration of the movie. When looking at the main Characters, we have PT Barnum played by Hugh Jackman, for the ladies there is Phillip Carlyle played by Zac Efron, Anne Wheeler played by Zendaya, Jenny Lindt played by Rebecca ferguson and lastly Charity played by Michelle Williams, along with many more actors.

Relationships:

Barnum is married to Charity, and they have 2 children together which are young teenagers in the movie.

Phillip Carlyle wants to be in a relationship with Anne Wheeler, however since they are a different race, Carlyle’s parents looked at him in despair and disapproved of what was happening because Carlyle was holding hands with Anne. When Carlyle sees his parents reaction, he stops holding hands with Anne which sends their relationship into a plummet.

Genre:

When looking at the genres of the movie, there are 3 main genres strike the viewer, there is a Musical aspect, Romantic aspect, and Dramatic aspect. The dramatic genre as well as the romantic genre go hand in hand as one leads into the other.

Target Audience:

The target audience for the film by the MPAA is PG13 due to thematic elements such as a brawl. However, when analyzing the poster, the target audience is for adults above the age of 30 as the people being advertised is around this age. For Example, Hugh Jackman is in the center of the advert which indicates that he is the main character, and he is 49 years old. The events that take place in this movie are also memorable for this age group.

Rating the movie:

The greatest showman is a movie with pure entertainment accompanied with 11 memorable songs composed by Oscar and Tony award winning duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. One aspect that stood out for me the most is when Jenny Lind sings never enough in an Opera house. Jenny Lind is played by Rebecca Ferguson however the song used is sung by Lorren Allred, this really enhanced the film, even though she was lip-syncing it was still her performance which made it.

The film is made for the whole family to enjoy and so it leaves out the darker elements explored in real life such as exploitation. However, the film positions itself as a story celebrating the diversity and the importance of embracing all kinds. Some will look at the story as rose-colored glasses of what was an exploitive situation.

The movie starts off with the song, The greatest show which has a repetitive thumping percussion reminiscent of Queens famous song, we will rock you. Hugh Jackman is dressed up in a red coat and a top hat and takes us on a dazzling tour with smooth movement of the cinematography as well as fluid movements from the dancing, the start of the movie attracts the viewer and leaves them wanting more.

PT Barnum and Charity are married and have 2 children together. Some background info about Charity is that her parents are very wealthy and disapproving towards PT Barnum as he didn’t seem to have any money, however Barnum promises to give her the lifestyle she deserves. Later in the play, Barnum, and Jenny Lindt travel to an Opera house for Jenny to preform, at the end of her performance Barnum is struck by her performance and when he goes on stage to congratulate her, she pulls him in and kisses him in front of everyone, putting his marriage at stake.

The timing of the movie was also interesting, in May 2017, the Barnum and Bailey circus packed up for good after 146 years after the all the criticism received such as allegations of exploitation and animal abuse as well as the acts being fake.

My only criticism towards the play is the correctness of the play. When Jenny kisses Barnum in the movie, that had never happened in real life. The other problem is hiding the dark factors of the real-life event which was the exploitation that took place. With this being said, the movie portrays and even better message which is embracing diversity among people.