

**MATT BUCKNER'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN
LEXI ALEXANDER'S *GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS* MOVIE (2005):
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
In English Department**

By:

**RIO HARDI
A 320 050 175**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2011

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Green Street Hooligans is an action-drama movie directed by a female director named Lexi Alexander. It was released by Odd Lot Entertainment on September 23, 2005. The movie is a Universal production, which shows that it is a Hollywood movie. It has 109 minutes running time and written by Dougie Brimson and helped by Joshua Shelov. The movie stars Elijah Wood, Charlie Hannam, Claire Forlani, Marc Warren and Leo Gregory. Its opening and closing scenes take setting in America and the rest of the play take place in London portraying the hooligan's life. This movie belongs to action-drama, this is because the movie incorporates the violence and crime associated with football hooliganism as well as the underlying tragedies and personal situations. *Green Street Hooligans* is rated R (Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian). It was released all around the world, meaning that it was highly distributed and was a high budget movie. Total US Gross is \$345,821 and International Gross is \$2,807,516.

Green Street Hooligans has some public responses, begins with the pros and contras of viewers and critics and from the film industry. The first response is coming from the viewers. There are many comments to this movie that the writer has found in the internet, most of them give appreciation to the story and the message implicitly in the movie. Some viewers said that *Green*

Street Hooligans is a story of loyalty, trust and sometimes brutal consequences of living close to the edge, some said that it's a great film, we can find the deepest part of your soul and integrity in mindless violence. Roger Ebert from Chicago Sun Times criticized, Elijah Wood seems so very unlikely as a street fighter that he began a list of more plausible actors for the role. Then he realized the movie's point is that someone like this nerdy Harvard boy might be transformed in a fairly short time into a bloodthirsty gang fighter. But most of the viewers who had watched the film give pro comments and good responses, they like the movie based on the unique story, the characters who had successfully build up and make the movie is enjoyable to watch.

From movie industry aspect, it has many awards, it is won in LA Femme Film Festival Awards 2005 for Best Feature, won in Malibu Film Festival Awards 2005 for Best of Festival and Jury Award, won in Tribeca Film Festival for Official Selection and it also won Narrative Jury Prize and Narrative Feature Audience in SXSW Film Festival.

The movie is written by Dougie Brimson, he is one of the UK's most prolific authors. As described in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dougie_Brimson, Dougie Brimson (born 1959) is an English author and former football hooligan, his work spans non-fiction, fiction drama and fiction comedy and sells around the world. He has also written extensively for magazines and newspapers and is a frequent guest on radio and television talk shows. He has also written extensively for various magazines, newspapers and websites including The Sun, The Times, The New York Times, The Guardian,

Loaded magazine, FourFourTwo magazine and Football 365. In 2003, Brimson made the move into screenwriting with the short film "It's a Casual Life" which was a fifteen minute film looking at the world of football violence from a Casuals perspective.

Widely acknowledged as one of the most vocal anti-violence and anti-racism campaigners, Brimson has acted as an advisor to both the British governments working group into football disorder and the European Commissions football group. The ex-Sergeant engineer's literary career began in 1996 when he wrote a book based on his own experiences as a football casual entitled, *Everywhere We Go: Behind the Matchday Madness*. The book examined the culture of football and football hooliganism from the inside. A further nine non-fiction books have followed and their success has established him as a leading authority on the issues of football and lad culture, such as *England, My England: The Trouble with the National Football Team* (1996), *Capital Punishment: London's Violent Football Following* (1997), *Derby Days: Local Football Rivalries and Feuds* (1998), *The Geezers' Guide to Football: A Lifetime of Lads and Lager* (1998), *Barmy Army: The Changing Face of Football Violence* (2000), *Eurotrashed: The Rise and Rise of Europe's Football Hooligans* (2003), *Kicking Off: Why Hooliganism and Racism Are Killing Football* (2006), *Rebellion: The Growth of Football's Protest Movement* (2006) and *March of the Hooligans: Soccer's Bloody Fraternity* (2007).

The movie is directed by a former World Karate and Kickboxing Champion, Lexi Alexander. She found her calling to become a movie maker while traveling around the world competing and teaching martial arts seminars. Born in Mannheim, Germany, Lexi dreamed of eventually moving to Hollywood and made it a point to attend every karate tournament that took place in the United States. Finally at age 19, after winning the Long Beach International Karate Championship, Lexi decided to stay in California equipped with nothing more than two duffel bags and a pair of boxing gloves. To finance her education and living expenses, Lexi worked as a stunt woman specializing in martial arts, giving her the opportunity to learn about the filmmaking process from a practical side as well. Her short movies, *Pitcher Perfect*, about the struggle of a teenage baseball prodigy, and *Fool Proof*, another teenage comedy, as well as several school projects, opened the door for many commercial assignments, most notably for extreme sports companies. Lexi combined her extensive knowledge of boxing with her passion for filmmaking in her third short movie, the 2003 Academy Award-nominated *Johnny Flynton*, the true story of a boxer who was accused of murdering his wife and convicted on circumstantial evidence, focusing on the moral ambiguities that surround all aspects of professional fighting. In 2008, she directed an action film entitled *The Punisher: War Zone*.

The movie starts with Elijah Wood stars as Matt Buckner, a recently kicked out Harvard journalism student who took the consequence for his roommate's drug abuse, the roommate is the son of a powerful politician, and

Matt never bothered to fight or to clear his name. His promising career has failed, his future looks severe. At the beginning he is a weak man and never fighting to strive for before. The movie is fulfilled by such drama about friendship, loyalty, youngsters' life in rough way, attitude and how to face life in right way. The movie represents two totally different people from two diverse societies and puts them together. The character of Matt Buckner is at first shown to be a sensible, intelligent and sensitive guy just out of Harvard until the influence of Pete Dunham has its effect and he turns into a brave and willing member of the GSE.

Then, he goes to London to his married sister Shannon (Claire Forlani) to forget his problem. Her husband Steve (Marc Warren) introduces Matt to his younger brother Pete Dunham (Charlie Hannam). Due to their friendship Matt discovers the life of football fans, learns mysteries and intrigues of football firm. "Firms" are the names for organized gangs of supporters who plan and provoke fights with the firms of opposing teams. The firms are quasi-military, the level of violence is brutal, and then the gang members return to their everyday lives as office workers, retail clerks, drivers, government servants, husbands and fathers. Pete Dunham and his best friends created the Green Street Elite (GSE), group of fans of West-Ham United, which is one of the cruelest London football firms.

All football fan clubs have their groups. The main goal of all groups is to be the most respected one in the country. And it doesn't matter what should be done to achieve the goal. As Pete says: "The play of West-Ham is

mediocre, but our group is the best". And everyone knows that... it's our reputation business to humiliate other bands, beat them into the crowd and do all the stuff other people only dream about." Looking at all this violence Matt starts feeling the power he was always lacking. Unfortunately, not all members of the group acknowledge him as "brother" because of Matt's past. Matt is a kicked out journalism student, and the member of GSE doesn't like people who works as journalist or someone who has journalism background. Bover (Leo Gregory) is one of such members. He doesn't like the presence of the stranger, he doesn't like that he was downgraded in GSE. His growing up distrust and dislike to Matt is ready to blow up. Soon, Bover learns the Matt's mystery and it causes the destructive chain of events. It makes Matt think over the worth of his deeds and his future. The words : Stand Your Ground and Fight!", a powerful encouraging words has changed a coward Matt into a stronger and bravely Matt. In the end, after he had many experiences in London with his hooligan friends, he goes back to United States with new look, new mental condition and bring a mission to revenge his ex-roommate to get back his right to go back to college in Harvard.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses *Green Street Hooligans* movie to be analyzed. The first is about how the director conveys the hooliganism in the movie. The director has successfully carried the real story of the hooligan's life to such a great movie. Football hooliganism is a widespread phenomenon and many people believe that it serves no purpose to the world except for creating disorder between communities due to the fierce

rivalry between the opposing firms incorporated. Instead carrying the hooligan fact that happens in British society in her movie, Lexi as the director also carries the movie with some good messages to the youngsters. The movie does not only portray the violence, but also deliver about the loyalty, friendship message and how to face the problem of life in different ways. Lexi has based her story on two male characters whose are very diverse and created a symbiosis between them to show the different ways that people can perceive and deal with hooliganism.

The second reason which makes the writer is interested to analyze it is that the movie represents some totally different people from two diverse societies and puts them together. There is a cultural collision portrayed in the movie between the two different countries, England and United States. The director has represented the British football fans as loud, ill-mannered and short tempered in order to convey the reasons for the brutal fights that take place. She also represented the college life in United States that full of youngster's problem which can be happened anytime. They are portrayed as common student and always live the life in the normal way. Both societies are juxtaposed with one another. The diversity of different people in a movie is always interesting to watch.

The third is about technical elements and the setting of places viewed in the movie which successfully supports the story and plot of the movie itself. There are two majors setting viewed in the movie, vary places in London and Harvard University in US. The movie uses several proper setting of places

which successfully support and portray the hooligan's life in England and college's life in American university. The movie also gives very amazing cinematography, great pictures and editing. The writer is also interested in the set dressing and costume in the movie which support the characterization and the story of the movie.

The fourth reason is the messages can be gained from the movie. The movie is fulfilled by such drama about friendship, loyalty, youngster life in rough way, attitude and how to face life in difference way. It represents of how teenagers try to find their genuine identity and living what they live for. Lexi as the director has succeeded to make a movie with a lot of lessons to the viewer especially to teenagers. The movie delivers the messages about the importance of friendship, bravery and keeping loyalty, which illustrated with a popular tagline in this movie: Stand Your Ground and Fight! Nowadays, a lot of our youngsters who aren't realize about the importance of those things. The movie gives them a lesson about the youngster life in different and rough way to build their character in future.

Those factors above that make the writer wants to carry the movie to be researched and also the reason that the writer has decided to use this movie as his source of study because it is based on real life situations that occur in the world of football hooliganism and looks at the issue through different perspectives. The writer also finds this topic interesting which is why he chooses to study it in depth. The writer chooses Individual Psychological Approach because he wants to focus on Matt Buckner's personality

development as the major character on the movie. Based on previous background above, the writer would like to do research entitled **MATT BUCKNER'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN LEXI ALEXANDER'S *GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS* MOVIE: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

The writer finds at least two works on the movie. First is from Anugraheni Prasetyaningjati, a college student of FISIP major in UNS. She writes a thesis entitled HOOLIGANISM DALAM FILM GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS in 2008. She focuses on hooliganism symbols in the movie by using semiotic analysis from Roland Barthes. The research concludes that *Green Street Hooligan* movie contains some hooliganism symbols which is categorized in fanaticism, anarchism, loyalty and tradition.

The second is Matthew Turner who writes an independent study proposal entitled TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE MOVIE 'GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS' (2005) AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF FOOTBALL HOOLIGANISM IN SOCIETY on 17 August 2007 (<http://www.viewlondon.co.uk/films/green-street-film-review-12721.html>).

He reviews some aspects of the movie in sociology analysis, such as economy, political and historical. He also analyzes the movie from its representation and ideology.

As far as the writer is concerned, there is no research on Green Street Hooligans movie conducted by the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, particularly in Faculty of Teacher and Training Education: English Department.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is “How Matt Buckner’s Personality Development portrayed in Lexi Alexander’s Green Street Hooligans movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on analyzing the main character’s personality development by employing Individual Psychological Approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study consist of two things, namely:

1. To analyze the movie terms of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on Individual Psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

Two kinds of benefits can be gained from the study are Theoretical and Practical Benefit.

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the body of knowledge, particularly the application of Individual Psychological Approach in literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

To get better understanding about the movie, particularly from the Individual Psychological point of view.

G. Research method

1. Type of the Study

This research applied descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Green Street Hooligans* film. The film is directed by Lexi Alexander and written by Dougie Brimson. Published by Odd Lot Entertainment and Universal Production on September 23, 2005.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of the data is the form of a script movie entitled *Green Street Hooligans* film directed by Lexi Alexander and written by Dougie Brimson. Published by Odd Lot Entertainment and on September 23, 2005.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of collecting data in this study is library research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document. The technique of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie and analyzing it from the script.
- b. Reading some related books as secondary sources to find out the theory, data and information required.
- c. Taking notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- d. Classifying data in categories.
- e. Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, in which the data collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the relationship between the movie and the Individual Psychological theory to show how the major character's personality development is reflected in the movie.

H. Paper Organization

The writer makes an organization of this paper in order to make an easy understanding. There are five chapters in this research paper.

Chapter one is introduction. It includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. It deals with notion of individual psychology theory, structural elements of movie and theoretical application. Chapter three is the analysis of the movie. It includes the structural elements of the movie. Chapter four deals with individual psychological analysis. Chapter five contains conclusion and suggestion.