

**WOMAN'S ROLE IN *SECRETARIAT* (2010) DIRECTED BY
RANDALL WALLACE: A FEMINIST APPROACH**



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AN EXISTENTIALIST APPROACH**

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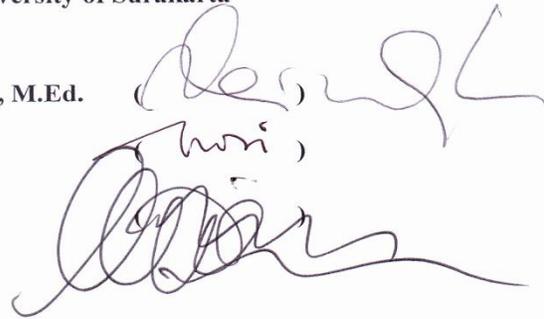
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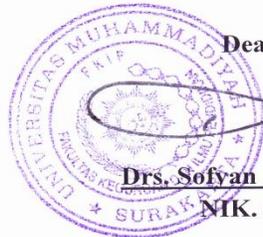
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**WOMAN'S ROLE IN *SECRETARIAT* (2010) DIRECTED BY
RANDALL WALLACE: A FEMINIST APPROACH**

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ABSTRACT

The object of this research is the movie entitled Secretariat by Randal Wallace. The major problem of this study is how the role of woman reflected in movie Secretariat movie (2010) Directed by Randal Wallace. The research sets two objectives: the first is to analyze the movie based on the structural elements of the movie, and the second is to analyze the movie based on the Feminist Perspective.

This study belongs to qualitative study. In this method, the researcher uses two data sources, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source and the object of the study is the movie Secretariat itself, meanwhile secondary data are reviews of the film which are collected from various sources and other data which deal with the research, such as, from the journal, website and other references that has connection with the research.

The outcome of the study is as follows: first, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting of place and time, mise-en- scene, cinematography, editing, and the other technical elements have the unity and successfully relate to one another then finally are formulated into good quality of a movie. Second, based on the Feminist analysis, the writer concludes that the role of woman is no less than men, even woman can be better than men, Penny can run dual roles well in the issue of women's position, rights, role, and participation. The last, based on social background, there is close relation between the production of this movie and the social reality underlying it, such as social status and women condition. This movie tells the struggle of woman to show her roles in the society.

Keyword: *Woman's Role, Secretariat (2010), A Feminist Approach*

I. INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study: Long ago, woman is only famous for her role as a housewife, a wife to her husband and a mother to her children and most of her activities are only in the kitchen. Now, women can get higher education, career and healthy competition in the work world with other women, even with men. And because of that, now women has important role in a society, even in the country.

Modernity and globalization are increasingly supporting the existence of the expanding role of women. Achievements and the skills that have been shown by women during this time. It is supposed that between women and men are not available widely difference. Those achievements and skills can be seen from the condition that, many women become leaders in an organization or a leader in a company. The strength of rigidity, firmness and accuracy in making decision is characteristic of the woman and a condition in his leadership. The burdens and responsibilities of woman in her life are bigger than men. Dual role of a woman today, in addition to having responsibility as a housewife at home and as a career woman outside, and those role are reflected by Penny Chenery in Secretariat movie.

Feminism is the political movement that aims to liberate women. “Feminism is a political directed at changing existing power relation between women and men in society” (Mandell, 1995: 4). “Feminism is the struggle about women’s inequality with men in many aspect of life. The position of women and

men in the society is the result of social factors and not natural ones” (Mandell, 1995: 9). Role has expanded altered, and broadened the definition of feminism that includes political, cultural, economic, sexual, racial, and ethnical dimensions.

Literary work is a product of human soul and reflection of human experience and knowledge. Everything that happens in our lives and the world phenomena could be an inspiration for an author to create a literary work, an author tries to bring the realities of life into a world of creation and provide the best literature work to the world. As one of literary works, film also deals with the closeness of life. It is directed by the director based on there and though views on the realities of life. Realities as a source of create a literary work can be learned from their social life or some even in their circumstances.

According to Sandie (2011) *Secretariat* is a 2010 biographical film produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Mayhem Pictures, and directed by Randal Wallace. The film chronicles the life of thoroughbred race horse Secretariat, winner of the Triple Crown in 1973. The film opened in third place at the box office in its opening weekend, grossing \$4 million on opening day and \$12,694,770 over the three-day weekend. The film had an average of \$4,132 from 3,072 locations. In its second weekend, the film held extremely well with only a 27% slide to \$9.3 million and finishing fourth for a \$3,032 average from 3,072 theaters. It then held up even better in its third weekend, slipping only 25% to just over \$7 million and finishing sixth for a \$2,254 average from 3,108

theaters. The film was a relative box office success, grossing \$60 million by the end of its run.

This film tells about the struggle of women in developing a horse racing when the horse racing almost bankrupt. Horse racing is the world of men. No woman could enter this world until Penny Chenery ventured into the world that is totally strange for her. Not only able to enter the male domination but Penny Chenery also successful in delivering her horse to be the most legendary horse in the United States. Penny is not only a horse owner, she is also a wife and mother of four children. Penny is an exemplary woman and a fantastic role model. She balances her responsibilities as a mother, wife, and daughter with great delicacy and concern, always trying to do what's best for her entire family, even when it means being temporarily separated from her children. She follows her heart to save her family's farm and is a pioneering woman in the horse breeding and racing world. *Secretariat* movie is an inspiring story of how she intertwined the two different aspects of her life.

Secretariat movie was directed by Randall Wallace. According to Goodwyn (2009) he is an American screenwriter, director, producer, and songwriter who came to prominence by writing the screenplay for the 1995 film *Braveheart*. His work on the film earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Original Screenplay and a Writers Guild of America award for Best Screenplay Adapted Directly for the Screen. His other films include *The Man in the Iron Mask*, *Pearl Harbor*, *We Were Soldiers*, and *Secretariat*. Wallace began writing

stories at the age of seven. Wallace graduated from E.C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He gained recognition and commercial success by penning the screenplay for *Braveheart* (1995). *Braveheart* became Wallace's first produced screenplay when it drew the interest of director and star Mel Gibson, and ended up as the film success story of 1995, earning the Academy Award for Best Picture and Best Director and garnering Oscar and Golden Globe nominations as well as the Writers Guild Award for Best Screenplay for Wallace. Wallace made his directorial debut with his own screenplay in *The Man in the Iron Mask*. This was followed by Wallace's second film as director *We Were Soldiers*. Wallace is also the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels and the lyricist of the acclaimed hymn "Mansions of the Lord".

Secretariat is a good and educational film especially for women, there are four reasons why the researcher interest to study this film. First, *Secretariat* is an inspiring movie, this film is very interesting because it is an inspirational true story of the greatest racehorse, the true story of a woman who struggle to spur horse into a great horse, moreover she is also a housewife, and it can be imagined how difficult running that dual roles, but Penny Chenery can run those two functions well.

Second, this movie gives educational aspect to the viewers dealing with the life of woman in the film if they are able to understand the content of this film. From whole film, it has been told that the spirit and struggle of Penny Chenery brings the

secretariat become the greatest racehorse. She gives a reflection of a very strong and realistic woman. Spirit as it gives its own value to the viewer of the meaning of a struggle, perseverance and tenacity.

Third, the film is good to educate children in a family. There is no use of filthy language and no scene that not good, and the most important is the spirit of Penny cherry that never Give up, so it can be used as an example to anyone who watch the film.

The last reason is the characterization in this movie is very strong. In each event that happened in this movie reflected the positive and negative side of each character. It can be seen from their behavior, and then from how did they face and solve their conflicts.

Problem Statement of the study is:” How Woman’s Role which is reflected in *Secretariat* directed by Randall Wallace?” **Limitation of the Study** is in analyzing Woman’s Role which is reflected in *Secretariat* directed by Randall Wallace. **Objective of the Study** is to analyze the film based on the structural elements of the movie and to analyze the film based on the feminist approach.

Literature Review, there are some analyses about feminist approach in some other works of literature, but the researcher has not found any research that has been conducted on *Secretariat* movie Directed by Randall Wallace especially in Surakarta Region and at least at UMS and UNS.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The object of the study is *Secretariat* film directed by Randall Wallace and produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Mayhem Pictures.

Type of the study in analyzing Randall Wallace's *Secretariat*, the researcher uses qualitative research, there are two data sources, namely primary and secondary data source, the primary data source is the movie script itself. Directed by Randall Wallace and produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Mayhem Pictures. The secondary data are taken from other sources, which relate with the primary data such as the biography of the author, essay, comments, website about movie and many other relevant information as the data source.

The method of data collection is documentation. In this research, the document is the *Secretariat* movie script and the director's biography. And then the steps of data collection are: Collecting the Video Compact Disc of *Secretariat* movie and then watching the movie repeatedly and carefully to get the best understanding messages, ideas and other significance points as well as its structure elements, Collecting of *Secretariat* movie script and synopsis by browsing the internet, Reading some relevant books to get the theory to analyze the movie, Taking the significance data, then write some notes of the important part of sources and then writing the data, Classifying the data into groups according to the category of elements of literary study.

III. FEMINIST THEORY

a. Notion of Feminism

Feminism is the struggle about women's inequality with men in many aspect of life. The position of women and men in the society is the result of social factors and not natural ones" (Anderson, 1993: 9). The existence of feminism is influenced by the oppression that caused by

patriarchal system. It is a system that places men as the one aspect of their lives. Feminism itself arise as the result of women disappointment to the evidence that for centuries, women still do not have complete political, economic, and social equality with men. The goal of feminism is to change woman's perspective of life so they realize that they are valuable persons possessing the same privileges and rights as every man (Bressler, 1999:180).

b. Major Principles of Feminism

1) Women's Position

Women are more inferior to men, it means that the women position under the man, the feminist movement tries to change the assumption that women are inferior to men. Some feminist theories try to put the idea that women and men have the same rights and rationality, "women are human being capable or rational thought and deserving of the same natural rights granted to men "(Mandell, 1995:4).

2) Women's Role

The emergency of feminist is for changing the assumption that some can not run their role in public area. Anderson states that feminist movement has significant changes in the ways area and women's role are defined and the ways in which they thinks of each other, and this changes bring out the positive impact to women.

3) Women's Rights

Related to women's rights, Mandell (1995:4) states that women have the right to define themselves as autonomous beings, it means that women have a right to choose what they attend to, including having freedom to be what they want to be.

4) Women's participation

Women's participation means having the right to give aspiration in following discussions for making decisions in all areas of public life, such as making decisions in politics, economic, and the roles in society.

IV. RESEARCH FINDING

a. Women's Position

Life is not easy for Penny Scenery that has to leave her family over the course of four years off and on to make sure the horse is ready to race and take care of operations of her father's business and to make things even more challenging. As a woman, it is not easy for Penny Scenery to carry out her role as the owner of *Meadow stable*. It is because she is a woman and a housewife who must take care of her family. Her husband asked her several times to stop managing the farm and asked her to focus on the family.

Penny Scenery : That coin toss is in two weeks! What's the difference? I don't have any idea which horse to choose. I've been through the stud books, Jack. Bold Ruler, that's the sire. He was fast, but he couldn't last over distances. Now the two dams are Hasty Matilda and Somethingroyal. Hasty Matilda is eight years old. She's still young. Since broodmares tend to produce

their best offspring while they're young, that makes her foal the obvious choice, since Somethingroyal's, But her grandsire was Princequillo. He had great stamina, Jack.

Jack : Penny? Penny! Do you know what that means?
Penny Scenery : What?

Jack : Sire and dam and Sam-I-Am? What is this? Come on. We need you here, Penny. Come home (CD1, 18.49)

Jack always asks her to go home to take care of the family. Her husband felt since Penny Scenery managed the farm her attention for the family is reduced. But the penny is still firm to her founding and continues to manage and develop the farm until she successfully proved that she can take the secretariat to be the best horse of all time.

b. Women's Role

Penny is an exemplary woman and a fantastic role model. She balances her responsibilities as a mother, wife, and daughter with great delicacy and concern, always trying to do what is the best for her entire family, even when it means being temporarily separated from her children. She follows her heart to save her family's farm and she is a pioneering woman in the horse-breeding and racing world.

As the owner of *Secretariat*, she successfully handled the business that majority dominated by men, and finally succeeded to win the *Triple Crown* in 25 years and became the greatest racehorse of all time.

Reporter : Penny, it's been 25 years since horseracing's had a Triple Crown winner. Now, is this the horse that finally breaks that streak?

Penny scenery : We still have a lot of work to do. But at least we've given ourselves the chance.

Reporter : Congratulations, Penny and Secretariat on the fastest Derby ever! (CD2, 23.37).

The conversation above between the reporter and Penny scenery shows that Penny scenery has successfully played her role as the owner of *Secretariat*. He successfully brought the *Secretariat* into a racehorse who won the championship.

c. Women's Rights

Women's right expressed in the movie can be seen in the right to get equal treatment. In this movie, as a woman Penny Scenery often did not get equal treatment from men. She is often considered weak and underestimated, even by her brother and husband. Penny scenery is often regarded as a housewife who can not afford to run the business.

Jack : Hollis had asked me to study the tax issues that would arise upon your father's death. Issues that now find us totally unprepared.

Penny Scenery : So you've asked my husband to become your ally in this?

Hollis : It's family business. And, last time I checked, Jack and your children were still part of this family.

Penny Scenery : Hollis, you're my brother and I love you, but if you presume to judge my fitness as a wife or mother I will count you a stranger for the rest of my life (CD1, 47.16).

d. Women's participation

As the owner of *Meadow Stable*, Penny scenery has a participation in organizing and developing the farm. She has an authority to do anything for the improvement of the farm, including when she fired Jansen for his dishonesty. At that time, Jansen was dishonest because he sold the horses

owned by the farm and Jansen did not admit it. In the other hand he also dishonest because he has worked in other farm.

Penny Scenery : You train for them, too, don't you?
Jansen : I work for them sometimes. So what?
Penny Scenery : So if you arranged a deal. that gave them four horses at half their market value and they paid you back, plus an extra share on everything they made, that wouldn't just be disloyal. That would be committing fraud.
Jansen : Who the hell do you think you are? Coming here, accusing me?
Penny Scenery : Someone who knows enough law to know she's right. And I'm not "missy" anything. Get your things and get off my farm
Jansen : I have a contract, and I'll sue you.
Penny Scenery : If I ever even hear your name again, I will see that you go to prison! (CD1, 11:47)

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of the previous chapters, the study comes to the following conclusion.

First, based on the structural analysis, in this movie Randal Wallace wants to portray a strong woman figure that is smart. A woman who can make a change and a woman who can be used as an example to all humanity. Penny Chenery can run dual roles of a woman, in addition to have responsibility as a housewife at home and as a career woman. In this movie Randall Wallace organizes suitable setting in order to make the situation like in 1972, the plot have been done in a sequential way and clear so it makes the movie easy to be understood by the viewer. The characterization in this movie is good, the character for this movie was played as close as possible to the real character by casting process. The visualization from *mise – en – scene*, consists of props and set dressing, costumes and make up, lighting, cinematography, editing, and the other technical elements have a unity from one to another, and finally became a good quality of movie.

Second, based on feminist analysis, in this movie Randal Wallace wants to say that the role of woman is no less than men, even woman can be better than men as long as she wants to struggle for it. It can be seen from Penny Chenery's condition in her daily life, she always struggles to show her role and to show that she is not like woman in general.

Third, based on social background, there is a close relationship between literary work and social reality. The social reality in the US early twenty first century when the woman has become much more likely to work or seek work outside the home. They are also employed in more varied occupations and are more likely to work year-round. In addition, women have attained higher levels of education. Reflecting their greater work activity and education, women's earnings as a proportion of men's earnings have grown over time. This phenomenon is reflected through the presentation of the main character of the movie that has to work separately from their family.

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