

**TRUTH OF A CONVICTION IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN'S**

***AUGUST RUSH* MOVIE (2007):**

**AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**PUBLICATION ARTICLES**

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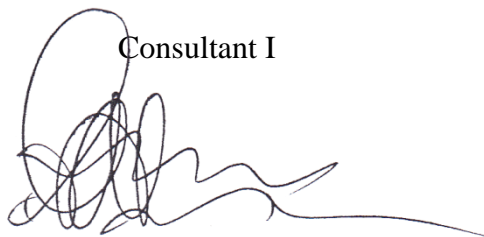
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Consultant II

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**TRUTH OF A CONVICTION IN KIRSTEN SHERIDAN'S  
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***ABSTRACT***

*The objectives of the study are: (1) to analyze Kirsten Sheridan's August Rush movie based on the structural elements of the movie; (2) to analyze Kirsten Sheridan's August Rush movie based on the individual psychological approach.*

*This research is a qualitative research. The data are taken from document analysis. The object of the study is August Rush movie. There are two type of the data and the data source; Primary data source and Secondary data source. The primary data source of the study is the movie itself. The secondary data source is taken from other sources such as internet, books, and other relevant information. The technique of the data collections are watching, reading, taking note, determining, classifying and summarizing the data. This research uses descriptive analysis technique to analyzing the data. It involves the structural elements of the movie and individual psychological approach.*

*The results of study are: (1) Kirsten Sheridan as a director reveals that all human beings have different needs and some strive how they have something to do. Like August, he strives to be happy with his family. He has strong conviction to make his belief becomes a truth; (2) there are some strives for life of major character to meet his family. It can be conclude that strives and strong conviction of August can make a belief becomes a truth. He can prove and show everyone that he can find his family without knowing his parent before. He just believes that his parents are still alive and he can find them. And it can prove and be a truth.*

**Keywords:** *August Rush, Conviction, Individual Psychological Approach.*

## **A. Introduction**

### **1. Background of the Study**

People have different destiny of their lives. Every human absolutely feel about those differences one by one. For example, sometimes a person feels that he or she is happy, but sometimes he or she feels so sad. To cope the bad conditions there must be self-confidence. Spirit of life can be great conviction to lead a life. That conviction makes dream become something tangible.

There is a movie that shows the conviction. The movie entitled *August Rush* movie is one of popular musical drama movies in 2007 directed by Kirsten Sheridan. This movie shows the great conviction of a boy. August is a major character of *August Rush* movie. August has a real name that is Evan Taylor. August is an orphaned musical prodigy who uses his extraordinary talents to reunite with his long-lost birth parents. He believes that his conviction can be real.

*August Rush* movie is an interesting movie. There are three reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing this movie. First reason is *August Rush* has the extremely sparse story. The story of this movie is about the Evan's conviction. He has strong desire to meet his parent. He grows up an outcast in a home for boys. But, he believes that his parent still alive. Cap it all, he stays out to find his parent. He can hear music in everything. He believes that he can hear the music from his parent. He thinks to follow the music to find his parent. Second, *August Rush* is the drama that comprising the musical elements. These musical elements make the plot more perceivable. So, it is different with the ordinary movie. The last reason is the compassion that reflected in this movie. This story begins with the happy condition that Lyla come across with Louis. Then they are falling in love until the baby-Evan born. But, Lyla's father throwing the baby to the charitable institution because he doesn't want the baby annoys Lyla's career. Briefly, Evan's conviction brings up to his parent.

## 2. Literature Review

*August Rush* movie is a popular movie. As long as the researcher knows, there are other researchers who conducted a research on the same movie. In this research, the researcher takes two researches based on the same object. First, Shinta Dewi Revinawati (2010) discussed “*Anxiety to Find Self Identity of August Rush in August Rush Movie by Kirsten Sheridan*”. Her research’s result show a close relationship between August Rush movie and Psychoanalytic, particularly in conscious and unconscious or the id, ego and superego of August in finding his identity through music.

The second researcher is Jonathan Aditya (2007) Satya Wacana University of Salatiga, the title is “*Conflict of August Rush in Kristen Sheridan Movie*” he employed psychoanalytic approach.

The third researcher is Aurelia Putri (2008) Shanata Dharma University of Yogyakarta, the title is “*Ambition of August Rush to Find his Parent with Music*”. She used individual psychological approach in analyzing the film of August Rush.

The fourth researcher is Siti Nurfadlillah (2012) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is “*Obsession to Finding Parent in Kirsten Sheridan’s August Rush Movie*”. She used individual psychological approach in analyzing the film of August Rush.

The fifth researcher is Meganmextha Ajeng Y. S. (2011) Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, the title is “*Music as Moral Drive to Find August Rush’s Parent in Kirsten Sheridan Movie August Rush*”. Her research focuses on the life of August Rush by using psychoanalytic approach.

Different from five previous researchers, this study focuses on the conviction of Evan Taylor or August Rush who is the major character in this movie by using individual psychological approach.

### **3. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher propose the problem statement, “How is truth of conviction reflected in *August Rush* movie?”

### **4. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the truth of conviction of the major character in Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush* movie based on individual psychological approach.

### **5. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

- a. To analyze Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
- b. To analyze Kirsten Sheridan’s *August Rush* movie based on the individual psychological approach.

### **6. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

#### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

The research is hoped to give a new contribution an information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *August Rush* movie.

#### **b. Practical Benefit**

The research is hoped to increase the knowledge and experience of the researcher and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University who have interest to get deep understand about the concept of the movie especially from individual psychological aspect.

### **7. Underlying Theory**

#### **a. Notion of Individual Psychology**

Based on Adler statement that quoted by Ryckman (1985: 95) Individual Psychology is a science that attempts to understand the experiences and behaviour of each person as an organized entity. He

also believes that the major purpose of a personality theory should be to serve as an economical and fruitful guide for therapists and ultimately for everyone, in effecting change toward more psychologically healthy behaviour. Adler (in Feist, 1985: 64) states as follows:

Individual Psychology insists on the fundamental unity of personality. All Apparent dichotomies and multiplicities of life are organized in one-self consistent totally. No definite division can be made between mind and body, between conscious and unconscious, or between reason and emotion. All behaviour is seen in relation to the final goal of superiority of success. This gives direction and unity to the individual.

## **b. Basic Concept of Individual Psychology**

### **1) Fiction Finalism**

Fiction finalism deals with individual goal of life, which is unreal in nature or as a fiction. According to Adler as quoted by Hjelle and Ziegler (1992: 154) each person's quest for superiority is guided by the fictional goal that he or she has adopted. Adler (in Hall and Lindzey, 1981: 122) states as follows:

Individual psychology insists absolutely on the indispensability finalism for the understanding of all psychological phenomena. Causes, powers, instincts impulses, and the like cannot serve as explanatory principles. The final goal alone can explain man's behaviour. Experiences, traumata, sexual development mechanisms cannot yield an explanation, but the perspective in which these are regarded the individual way of seeing them, which subordinate all life to the final goal, can do so.

### **2) Inferiority Feeling**

Inferiority means feeling weak and unskilled in the face of tasks that need to be completed. It is manifestation of individual

consciousness due to a condition, which is resulted from inability or imperfection feeling. This inferiority feeling is considered as a challenge to strive for the compensation of inferiority until psychological equilibrium is attained (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 147).

### **3) Striving for Superiority**

Adler (in Hall and Lindzey, 1981: 123) acknowledges that the striving for superiority may manifest itself in a thousand different way, and that each person has his own concrete mode of achieving or trying to achieve perfection.

### **4) Style of Life**

According to Adler (in Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 144) the style of life encompasses the unique pattern of traits, behaviours and habits which, when taken together, defines the flavour of a person's existence.

Classical Adlerian psychotherapy attempts to dissolve the archaic style of life and stimulate a more creative approach to living. Adler felt he could distinguish four primary types of style. Three of them he said to be "mistaken styles".

These include the *ruling type*: aggressive, dominating people who don't have much social interest or cultural perception; the *getting type*: dependent people who take rather than give; and the *avoiding type*: people who try to escape life's problems and take part in not much socially constructive activity. The fourth life style by Adler is the *socially useful* type: people with a great deal of social interest and activity.

### **5) Social Interest**

Basically, man is social creature by nature and not by habit. He fully realizes his position as a free individual and his bound concerns the society. Therefore, in his efforts to develop himself, he must also consider the existence and the importance of his



society. Thus, a man should live among others, and this means that he must interact with others in his society so that his behaviour is always influenced by his society (Hall and Lindzey, 1970: 125).

## **6) Creative Power**

According to Adler as quoted by Hjelle and Ziegler (1992: 150) creative power means the influences of heredity any environment toward a person in overcoming the problem or life. Each person is empowered with the freedom to create his or her own life style. Ultimately, people are solely responsible for whom they are, and how they behave. This creative of life is responsible for the person's life goal, and contributes to the development of social interest.

### **c. Conviction**

To discuss about conviction, the researcher introducing about moral conviction. Moral conviction is a subjective assessment that one's attitude about specific issues or situation is associated with one's core moral beliefs and fundamental sense of right or wrong.

In other meaning, conviction means a belief. Belief is the psychological state in which an individual holds a proposition or premise to be true. The concept of belief presumes a subject (the believer) and an object of belief (the proposition). So, like other propositional attitudes, belief implies the existence of mental states and intentionality.

### **d. Structural Element of the Movie**

#### **a. Narrative Elements**

##### **1) Character and Characterization**

Character is the person who performs an action. It is imaginary personages in a fictional story. In a movie, character becomes complex or well developed because it involves attitude, skills, psychological drives, detail of dress and

appearance and any other specific qualities (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990).

Characterization has two kinds; first the major characters those take points in different occasion and have important role in the story. Second is the minor character those are the characters that support the characterization of the major character.

## **2) Setting**

Setting is the place of happen or incidents. It refers to the point of time and place at which the events in the story occur. In other word setting is the location, historical, period, and social surrounding in which the action in the story develops (Kennedy, 1983: 25).

## **3) Plot**

Luxemburg (Fananine, 1997: 93) explains that plot is a construction made by the reader about a line of events in logical and chronological order which is related each other and resulted or experiences by the characters. Usually plot is divided into four parts namely: exposition, complication, climax and denouement.

## **4) Point of View**

Point of view is the manner of the author in telling the story. Every story has a narrator who tells the story. According to Barnet (1983: 38), point of view can be divided into two sorts: participant or first person narrator and non-participant or the third person narrator.

## **5) Theme**

Theme is the meaning of a story that explains a large part of the elements with a simple away. The theme can be expressed through the conflicts arisen of though the comment indirectly (Fananie, 1997:84).

## **b. Technical Elements**

### **1) Cinematography**

Cinematography in the film production refers to the art of recording the film itself. It consists of three features: photographic qualities of shot, the framing of shot, and the duration of shot (Bordwell and Thomson, 1990: 156).

#### **(a) Photographical Qualities of Shot**

Cinematography depends on large extent on photography. According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990:156-158), the moviemaker should control all the visual qualities by manipulating movie stock and exposure.

#### **(b) The Framing of Shot**

There are two important things in framing shot are camera angel and camera distance. There are three types of camera angel: straight on angel, high angel, and low angel. The camera distance consists of extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close up, close up, and extreme close up.

#### **(c) The Duration of Shot**

To develop the cinematography quality, it also needs to consider how long the image last on the screen. It needs a note on the relationship of shot duration to the time consumed by the film events to understand the duration of shot (Bordwell and Thompson 1990: 167).

### **2) *Mise-en-Scene***

In the original French, *Mise-en-Scene* means staging action, and it was first applied to the practice of directing plays (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990). It refers to the arrangement of all visual elements in a theater production such as

costume, lighting, and figure expression and movement are the elements of *Mise-en-Scene*.

### **(1) Costume and Make up**

Costume in film usually must be believable in close up and it should show the authenticity of the film production because costume can be characterized the film itself (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990: 134).

Make up is also necessary because actor's faces wouldn't register well on early film stock (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990: 133).

### **(2) Lighting**

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990: 134), interpretation of lighting can be divided into four terms: quality, direction, source and colour.

### **(3) Figure Expression and Movement**

According to Bordwell and Thompson (1990: 139), there are two kinds of figurative expression and movement (acting) of film: visual and sound. Visual elements deal with appearance of gesture, and facial expressions of the character and sound element is in line with acting, it relates voices effect (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990: 137).

### **3) Dialogue**

Kirsten Sheridan uses modern English, so the readers can catch the meaning of the word easily. She also uses standard sentences; it means that the messages sent are not implicated but simple and easy to understand.

### **4) Sound**

In the process of film, production the sound track is recorded separately from the images and can be manipulated independently (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990). The sound is

produced through the process of mixing, includes dialogue and narration, frequency, and the sound effect.

### **5) Editing**

The editing may thought of as the coordination of one shot with the next. We need to distinguish how editing is done in production from how editing appears on the screen to viewers. In the film production, a shot is one or more frames in series on a continuous length of film stock. The film editor joins shorts, the end of one to the beginning of another (Bordwell and Thompson, 1990).

### **e. Theoretical Application**

In this research, the researcher will apply the individual psychological theory related to the concept of conviction in psychological aspect. It will be begun by analyzing Evan's or August Rush's personality viewed from his fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving for superiority, and style of life, social interest, and creative power. The researcher also analyzes the events and conflicts that are related to the individual psychological theory based on the characterization of Evan or August Rush.

## **B. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

This research of the study is qualitative research, which takes the sources data from words and other written text.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *August Rush* movie.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

In this research, the primary data source of the study is the movie itself: *August Rush* movie. The secondary data source is taken from other sources such as internet, books, and other relevant information.

#### **4. Technique of the Data and the Data Source**

In the collecting data, the technique is watching the movie, reading the script, taking note of the important part, determining the character, classifying the data into several parts and summarizing.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

This research uses descriptive analysis technique to analyzing the data. It involves the structural elements of the movie and individual psychological approach.

### **C. Research Finding and Discussion**

#### **1. Structural Element Analysis of the *August Rush* Movie**

##### **a. Narrative Elements**

##### **1) Character and Characterization**

The major character is Evan Taylor or August Rush, who is acted by Freddie Highmore. He is a smooth and smart boy, but loveless. He has a conviction that he can be find his parent and come together. To make his dream come true, he wants to make a music concert. He thinks that when he play music in stage, all of people will see him, and two people of them are his parent. He strives to keep his conviction. Finally, his dream comes true. He stands up on the stage and playing orchestra music, and much people see him, not except his parent.

##### **2) Setting**

Kirsten Sheridan creates setting of place and setting of time in order to make obvious over the story and support the theme. The *August Rush* movie is set in 2007s. Kirsten Sheridan set some places such as in Orphanage, New York City, Washington Square Park, Times Square, Union Square Station, Irving Plaza, and Central Park.

### **3) Plot**

Kirsten Sheridan is arranging the *August Rush* movie's plot based on the basic of structural elements of this movie include: exposition, complication, climax, and resolution. The exposition discusses the major character. The complication emerges when Evan Taylor or August Rush tries to leave Wizard and follow the Juilliard School Concert. It also occurs when Louis decides to find Lyla again. And Lyla decides to find her child. The Climax are when they strive to find that their looking for. Finally, the resolution is when they meet in a concert.

### **4) Point of View**

The two definitions of point of view in this movie are, first, point of view refers to camera shot taken. It can be seen when August look out of the window and he see a moon. Second, point of view refers to storyteller. It can be seen when August tells Mr. Richard Jeffries that he was counted how long he in the orphanage.

### **5) Theme**

The theme of *August Rush* movie is "Striving of someone to make a conviction to be real and proved." It means that to make a conviction to be proved, someone must strive to hold his conviction, although he has to insane reputed. Besides that, the possibility is always around us, although one percent that it happened.

## **b. Technical Elements**

### **1) Cinematography**

This movie has standard sensitivity; it means that it is not too bright and too dark. The distance of framing in this movie uses all aspect they are: extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium close up, close up and extreme close up. The

duration of *August Rush* movie is 109 minutes or 1 hour and 49 minutes.

## **2) *Mise-en-Scene***

The *Mise\_en\_Scene* element of this film has been done almost perfect. It is created based on the story's requirement, which is set in 2007s. The lighting of this movie uses bright lighting and dark lighting. The bright lighting is related to the shot which occurs in daylight and the dark lighting relates to the shot which happens at night.

## **3) Dialogue**

The dialogue in this movie is very simple and easy to understand. It makes the audience understand what the director's tell.

## **4) Sound**

The quality of the sound in *August Rush* movie uses the visual effect to make the sound remarkably real. In addition, there are musical elements that make the audience enjoy the movie.

## **5) Editing**

There are six main criteria for evaluating a cut or deciding where to cut as follows: emotion, story, rhythm, eye-trace, two-dimensional plane of the screen, and three-dimensional space of action and have done well by Kirsten Sheridan.

## **2. Individual Psychological Analysis**

### **a. Fictional Finalism**

The fictional finalism begins when he thinks that he has a family out of the orphanage. Consciously, he knows that he has an ability to hear music in everything, every time and everywhere. He believes that it must be from his parent's skill. He can hear his parent although he does not know where they are. Although his friend always tells him that he has not a family, but he always tells his friend that he has a family out there. Because of that, he tries to find his family. He



tries to whistle. He learns about music more than before. He follows the music. He keeps hold his conviction that he definitely finds his family. He believes that if his parents do not find him, he has to go find them. Finally, he proved his conviction. He found his family when he plays music in a concert.

**b. Inferiority Feeling**

The inferiority feeling of August can be seen when he disagrees with his friend that said he does not have a family. He feels so sad. He is afraid to adopt by somebody. In the training class, there is a little debate between Maxwell and the teacher. It makes August afraid because Maxwell threatening him that he knows his real name, so he must goes back with Maxwell. When he runs away from the cops, he enters to the Church. In there, he meets Hope. He has to sleep under Hope's bed because he has not a bed for sleeping. Onetime, he feels uncertain about the music what he hears every time. But, he always can believe more and more.

**c. Striving for Superiority**

Striving for superiority is a response to the inferiority feelings. It can be seen when he holds his conviction about his family. He tries to tell himself after his friend tells him that he has not a family. He make Mr. Richard Jeffries sure that he has a family out there. He does not want to send away to adopted by another parent. He also decides to go out from the orphanage to the city to find his parent. He tries to survive in the singing beggar life. Besides, he strives to learn music better. And he must go out from Maxwell's pressure. He learns so hard in Juilliard School. He becomes one of cleverest student in there. Moreover, his teacher amazed with August's skill. He strives to run away from Maxwell to the concert stage in the central park.

**d. Style of Life**

August's style of life is socially useful life style by concerning, emphasizing and majoring his people. In the way to find his parent, he

always helps everyone. He helps Arthur, Hope, and Juilliard School student. He meets Arthur. He joins with a singing beggar group. He buys pizza for Arthur's friends with his money. He learns more about music. He learns to play guitar from Arthur. In the Church, he meets Hope. He learns to read a music note from her. He helps Arthur from the cops, while Maxwell runs away with other singing beggars. As a smartest student in Juilliard School, he always helps his friend. He is not arrogant.

**e. Social Interest**

August's social interest is shown when he asks Mr. Richard Jeffries to teach how to whistle. When he decides to run away from the orphanage, he meets a singing beggar. He also helps other students in Juilliard School, because he is smartest student there. He meets Louis opportunely in Town Square when he plays guitar. But, he does not know that Louis is his father. And finally when he plays *August Rhapsody*, he makes all people hear, see, and give attention to him.

**f. Creative Power**

Creative power starts when he decides to go out from the orphanage to find his parent. He tries to help Arthur that chased by the police. He tries to make the police confused. In the church, he learn musical note with Hope. But, geniusly, he can write the musical note for the first time. He writes what he hears around him to be a musical note. He must to run from Maxwell to play music in a concert. He has to go to the concert because it is his dream. August keeps hold his conviction that he believes his parents are still alive, he also believes that his parent look for him like he does. And finally, all he said can be a truth and proved. He found his family in a big music concert.

**D. CONCLUSION**

Kirsten Sheridan as a director reveals that all human beings have different needs and some strive how they have something to do. Like August,

he strives to be happy with his family. He has strong conviction to make his belief becomes a truth.

There are some strives for life of August to meet his family. First, August's strive occurs when he goes out from the orphanage to the city. Second, he learns music more and more with the singing beggar until learn in the Juilliard School. Third, he strives to runs away from Maxwell's pressure. Finally, what he said becomes a truth when he finishes his concert then he sees intently two people in front of the stage that also see him.

Based on the fact above, it can be concluded that strives and strong conviction of August can make a belief becomes a truth. He can prove and show everyone that he can find his family without knowing his parent before. He just believes that his parents are still alive and he can find them. And it can prove and be a truth.

There are educational implications in this research. For teacher this research can be used as a means of teaching learning process in literature class, especially Individual Psychological theory. For the reader this research can be used as a reference to analyze movie using this approach. The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who has interest with literary study on the movie for Individual Psychological Approach. This research can also give the contribution to the body of knowledge of literary study in *August Rush* movie.

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