Jason Chernenko

Professor Karen Randolph

English 111

24 June 2006

Save the Last Dance

Everyone has a dream in life. One ultimate goal they would like to achieve before dying. For Sara (Julie Stiles) in Save the Last Dance, her dream is to get into the highest acclaimed dance school, Julliard. Unfortunately, things do not go her way when auditioning for the first time. She falls and at the same time, her mother dies in a car accident on the way to the audition. After this, Sara is forced to go live with her dad in an inner city neighborhood. Sara is part of the white minority in her new neighborhood and at first has a difficult time fitting in. Then she meets Chenille (Kerry Washington) and Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas) and things begin to change. Chenille takes her to dance clubs and Derek teaches her how to dance hip-hop, while falling in love at the same time. Before Sara came along Derek was involved in some bad behavior and at times has to choose between his love for her and his friends. Sara's ultimate goal is to get into Julliard dance school, but most overcome the loss of her mother with Derek's help before attempting again. Save the Last Dance is a must see movie with a realistic setting, outstanding music mixed with spectacular choreography, and a dramatic and romantic storyline.

Save the Last Dance takes place in New York City during the winter time. The way it is depicted in the movie is very realistic of what an actual inner city would look like. In the movie, the sounds of cars, buses, trains, guns, people yelling and cursing, cars tires screeching, and other things like this is heard to give one the sense of what it is like to be in an inner city. The movie also shows street clubs, basket ball courts, and graffiti on buildings to further enhance

one's feeling of being in an inner city. If one has never been to a largely populated inner city, Save the Last Dance will certainly leave an impression on any viewer of what it is like.

Save the Last Dance is filled with outstanding music and spectacular choreography. The music consists of rap, hip-hop, R & B, and ballet music. In the movie, music and dancing is portrayed as a must in the African American community and plays a big part in Save the Last Dance and the social scene in the high school. Before moving to New York City, Sara only knew how to dance as a ballerina, but she is quickly taught by Derek how to dance hip hop. Learning how to dance hip hop, helps Sara to fit into the inner city culture easier. This movie has great music and dancing in it and will put anyone in a great mood for dancing.

Another great feature of this movie is its dramatic and romantic storyline. The movie shows the difference in the two cultures, according to Hollywood. You have your typical white middle-class girl Sara and your typical low-class black boy, Derek. Save the Last Dance is a love story about the pros and cons that come along with interracial dating. Hollywood displays Sara as an innocent white girl who is forced to move into a low-class neighborhood, with her father, Roy (Terry Kinney), which is largely populated mostly by blacks, after her mother dies in a tragic car accident on her way to one of her auditions. The new surroundings are such a huge culture shock for Sara. Here is this white middle-class girl who feels that she's to blame for her mothers' death and in an instant, she is taken away from her home, neighborhood, and friends and forced to live and attend school in a black ghetto. Her first day of high school is horrible. People give her dirty looks and long, mean stares. It takes her awhile, but after becoming friends with Chenille she ends up changing her style so she fits in with that culture. Sara also becomes friends with Chenille's brother Derek and quickly their friendship leads to romance; however, there are a few people who do not like the fact that a white girl is becoming "cool" and well

known in their territory. What seems to make others most upset is that Sara is dating a well put together black man. Others view Sara as taking away the only good black man that is left for black women. The dramatic and romantic storyline of this movie appeals to people of all genres because it has a blend of topics such as hate crimes, betrayal, violence, falling in love and friendships.

Save the Last Dance is a must see movie with a realistic setting, outstanding music mixed with spectacular choreography, and a dramatic and romantic storyline. Taking all of this into consideration, Save the Last Dance is an excellent movie for anyone to see. The movie presented the idea of interracial dating in a way that made it nearly impossible not to accept it. The movie itself took two totally different people and showed how they could relate, communicate, and maintain a successful and healthy relationship despite other people's views and the hardships of maintaining an interracial relationship.