An analytical Essay on boys don’t cry
 Suhur Mohamed
 University’s name

Boys don’t cry, the name of the movie is based on a stereotype. Boys are told to act strong and not to cry since their childhood. Crying is made unacceptable for boys in our society and is taken as a sign of weakness. The background of the movie is based on a true documentary named ‘The Brandon Teena story’ which is a sad tragedy. The movie tells us the story about a girl named Teena who changes her appearance and turns herself into a boy name Brandon Teena just because she feels like a man trapped in a women’s body. The movie has touched a crucial topic and has successfully conveyed a beautiful message about how to truly love yourself of who you are, what you feel like and you should embrace your feelings and emotions instead of running from them.
The main theme of the movie revolves around self-discovery. The movie fully portrays how Teena was struggling to figure herself and her emotions. She was unable to understand the phase she was going through and kept on making mistakes. She thought that in order to embrace her feelings and emotions she had to become someone else because the society would not accept her for who she truly was. The movie shows her fear of being labelled in the community and her denial of accepting her true self. All she wanted for the world to understand was that she was not a transsexual, a lesbian, a cross-dresser, or a member of any other category on the laundry list of sexual identities; she was a girl who thinks of herself as a boy. It is clearly understood that she was struggling with her sexuality and was being unable to accept it because of her body. She wanted a sex changed in order to accept who she was. She wanted everyone to think she was a man since birth. The movie also shows us she was not considering any of her relationships as gay (same sex relationship) because she was unable to tackle with the fact that she was a lesbian. All of these reasons led her to gender switching, she decided to be a He and she got a short haircut, stuck a sock down the front of her jeans and went into a bar to try her luck and people didn’t recognize him as a girl. She started calling herself as Brandon Teena. Who was a sweet charming boy every girl wanted, she adopted a persona of a man. A man ideal for every girl. Instead of dealing with her denial of being a lesbian. She started to turn herself into a man a succeeded, the movie shows us she was not comfortable in our own body and was considering having a sex change only because of who was and that she felt like her soul was trapped inside her own body. It is deeply saddening how people are not happy with who they are just because of the norms of the society. She, now addressed as Brandon found the love of his life, he had fallen in love with a Falls City girl named Lana. There is a stretch when she knows, and yet she doesn't know, because she doesn't want to know; romance is built on illusion, and when we love someone, we love the illusion they have created for us. The movie "Boys Don't Cry" is not sociology, however, but a romantic tragedy that has also showed us what true love is and how despite the gender a person can fall for anyone.
The movie was aimed at everyone who is struggling with themselves who are not able to accept their true self whether it’s their body, sexuality, class, position anything. The message was loud and clear that self-discovery is a long a journey that takes time and makes your life better. It is okay to doubt yourself sometimes and it’s okay to ask out for help. Sometimes all you need to do is talk to the right person. The movie shows how Brandon was so disconnected from his family and was not able to properly talk to them even when they were concerned and worried about him. I think that the main aimed audience of the movie was our society as a whole. It’s us who need to understand people, quit polluting minds, trash talking, spreading gossips, we need to learn, grow and accept people for who they are. Our society needs to end putting up labels because that is the root to our problems main thing that pulls back people from coming out and for being who they are. The movie too assumes and problematizes our society as Brandon says that he doesn’t feel comfortable with himself due to the reactions received and that he feels unwanted wherever he goes in a letter to Lana. He left Lana because he wanted to end her the hell she was facing because of him from the people around her. The society made Brandon’s gender a big concern. Personally, What I think the most problematic thing in the movie was that everyone around him was trying to figure out who he was, whether a male or a female, he was humiliated by his friends at a party and the rapists at that point were set free giving them opportunity to plot and cover a murder. Everyone around him tried to interfere in his life. But, No one, not even a single soul tried to talk to him, tried to have a normal conversation with him or tried to understand his mindset. The pity is that Brandon was killed by sheer blinding illiteracy and ignorance, and that there is no cure for it. The whole story tells us what a rotten society we live in.
Even in today’s world we are still living under the pressure of stereotypes and norms that we’re forgetting to treat people like humans. Body stereotypes are the worst and the most focused on. People are often body shamed on being under or over weight. People are called out on their height for being too small or too short. Boy and girls are said to have particular body postures while sitting or standing. Boys are often called feminine if they have a weak body, while girls who are strong are called manly. This is so common and people are called over their body and preferences in their everyday life. It’s a shame how even this century our society won’t leave people alone or let them be who they are. Brandon was too feminine too be a boy and Teena was too manly to be a girl according to the society. The society didn’t see him as a human and destroyed his life. The movies engages with the idea of body in many ways starting from Teena considering a sex change because of her emotions. Her turning herself into a boy just because she feared the society would not accept her including the girls she dated as Brandon. It also shows us how Teena as a girl had to maintain her body shape and posture to portray herself as a boy. The movie also has an emphasis on gender acceptance, how teena was not being accepted as Brandon or for who she wanted to be. At that time same gender relationships were not considered appropriate. Moreover, the movie also teaches us how sex was used as a punishment for Brandon, he was raped as he died because some violent men are threatened by any challenge to their shaky self-confidence. On the other hand, for the love of his life Lana, sex didn’t play an important part. She loved her for who he was and the way he treated her. The movies shows different aspects of this particular topic. Moving forward, I personally think that Brandon needed was going through a phase of mental illness too and that he needed help to get out of the labyrinth created by his mind himself. He would’ve had a better shot at life is he had right people around him and had gotten help. Brandon’s story is tragic that ended with his death, He can be described as a free spirit who tried to fly a little too close to the flame an got burnt.

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