

# Shannon universal city, ca: dreamworks home entertainment,

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Shannon Kesler Dr. Zoran Maric Film 2194B-00123 January 2018 An

Overlooked Film: The Case for Almost Famous      The film, Almost Famous, exemplifies a bildungsroman for William Miller, as it explores the influence that rock music has on youth culture. As 15-year-old William chases his dream as writer for Rolling Stone magazine, he becomes wiser beyond his years as he is faced with great professional responsibilities and heartbreak.

Almost Famous illuminates a bildungsroman through William's experiences on tour with Stillwater, as the band's desire for success distorts William's once flawless image of Rock 'N' Roll.      In 2000, Almost Famous, directed by Cameron Crowe was released, presenting a coming of age story in the United States. William experiences everything stereotypically involved with Rock 'n' Roll, as he gets invited to tour with the 1970's band Stillwater, to unpack the truth behind the band, and write a story. Groupies, better known as "Band Aids", end up "deflowering the kid", while his mother anxiously calls and repeatedly demands him, "Don't take drugs!".

Additionally, the main Band Aid, Penny Lane, becomes William's lover throughout the course of the film, who is instead in love with the band's lead singer, Russell who trades her in a poker game for "50 bucks and a case of beer". As she tries to overdose out of heartbreak over Russell, the band struggles to stay together as members, Russell and Jeff, compete for power within the band, as tensions rise for having the perfect interview with William are unlikely. William is then faced with pressure to write something that is in their favor or the truth.      Although William's experience on tour with Saltwater becomes distorted by the reality of the band's flaws and

exposure to Rock'n'Roll culture of drugs and sex, he stays the same genuine character that he was before he left for tour. Although partially corrupted, he stays true to himself, leading him to success as a journalist.

Word Count: 300

Crowe, Cameron. *Almost Famous*. Universal City, CA: DreamWorks Home Entertainment, 2001.