

MFA THESIS SUPPLEMENTARY PAGE

Butterfly Jump

An Original Screenplay by Mary Lewis



Butterfly Jump tells the story of a scrappy, overweight woman from the wrong side of the tracks who is a single parent determined to have her children fit into the upper crust. Connie Noseworthy sends her children to a private Catholic school that educates in the Jesuit tradition of social justice thanks to a tuition assistance program for people in financial need. When Connie is judged by that world and her children are wrongfully removed from her care due to assumptions rooted more in class prejudices than fact, she must fight the system to get them back. In doing so, she undergoes a radical personal transformation.

This film looks at working class life and its intersection or clash with the upper crust while telling a story of inner growth and spiritual transformation. Connie Noseworthy is our protagonist whose story carries the heart of the film. As she navigates the Kafkaesque anonymous forces of Social Services and the legal systems to return her children to their home, Connie simultaneously resolves to reunite with her children through a most unusual route: she decides to train for and appear with her daughter in a community figure skating event. More than that, she attempts the unthinkable: to achieve the complicated air-born figure skating jump known as the butterfly. This undertaking brings Connie deliverance from her deepest fears.

The story is set in St. John's, Newfoundland and told in the tradition of social realism of the style of *L'Enfant* by the Dardenne brothers, or Lynn Ramsay's *Ratcatcher* combined with the character-driven whimsy and humour of David O'Russell's *Silver Linings Playbook* or Craig Gillespie's *I, Tonya*. Firmly rooted in a sense of place, its tone is realistic, gritty, suspenseful, warm and intermittently funny.

For information about this screenplay, please contact
the Graduate Program in Film at gradfilm@york.ca