

**Bend it like Beckham** (5B Serena Kwong Man Wah)

'Bend it like Beckham' is a charming film combining sports, romance, family, drama and comedy. The movie is released in April 2002, which is perfectly directed by Garinder Chadha.

Jess is an Indian girl who loves British soccer star David Beckham and she has a dream of becoming a world-class soccer player. But sadly she came from a very strict and traditional Indian family and her parents strongly insist that Jess should get married and stop playing football. One day, Jess meets an English girl called Jules. Jules observes Jess playing soccer in the team. Jess secretly joins the team without telling her parents. In the soccer team, Jess encounters a lot of troubles and she is falling in love with the coach (Joe) of the football team. Unexpectedly, Jules is also in love with Joe. Jess and Jules are both struggling with friendship, love problem, family issue and soccer career ...

'Bend it like Beckham' is a brilliant film with believable characters. They have strong emotion, problems and personality, such as Jess's parents, they are amazingly good and demonstrate us the archetype of Indian parenting practices. Also, a young attractive cast is appealing to both male and female audience. Besides, the soccer scenes are convincingly realistic; the actors must go through months of rigorous training to look like real soccer players. They are incredible professionals. And Garinder Chadha is superbly creative; her direction is skillful, artistic and vivid.

The film centers around fighting for dream and forgiveness. It is not about to follow parents' wishes. It is not about to stick to norms. It is not about pleasing others. On the contrary, it is about achieving one's dream. It is about bending the rules. It is about being your true self. It is a movie that will inspire you to chase your dream and learn how to balance friendship, love, family, reality and dream.

This refreshing movie is also good in many other ways. It has a dramatic plot and dialogue is super humorous. The setting is impressive, especially the Indian wedding banquet. The costumes are well-designed and the movie include a mixed range of east and west sounds and musical style which lets us look at the difference between the British and Asian lifestyles.

If you are looking for a film that is easy going, uplifting and comfortably old-fashioned in its demeanor and theme, 'Bend it like Beckham' is for you. Go buy the CD and bring your friends and family to enjoy this master piece.

(418 words)