



Changing Billy



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GENRE

Coming-of-age drama.

LOGLINE

To come to terms with his father's death, seventeen-year-old Billy—obese and misunderstood—trains, with the help of his wheelchair-bound friend, to run the New York Marathon.

LOCATION

New York City

SYNOPSIS

Life is a total mess for extra-chubby and frequently picked on seventeen-year-old BILLY KOWALSKI as he tries to get over his father's death. Not only does he live on the wrong side of town with NANA, his Polish grandmother, but he also works in a pizza parlor, which adds to his propensity for eating.

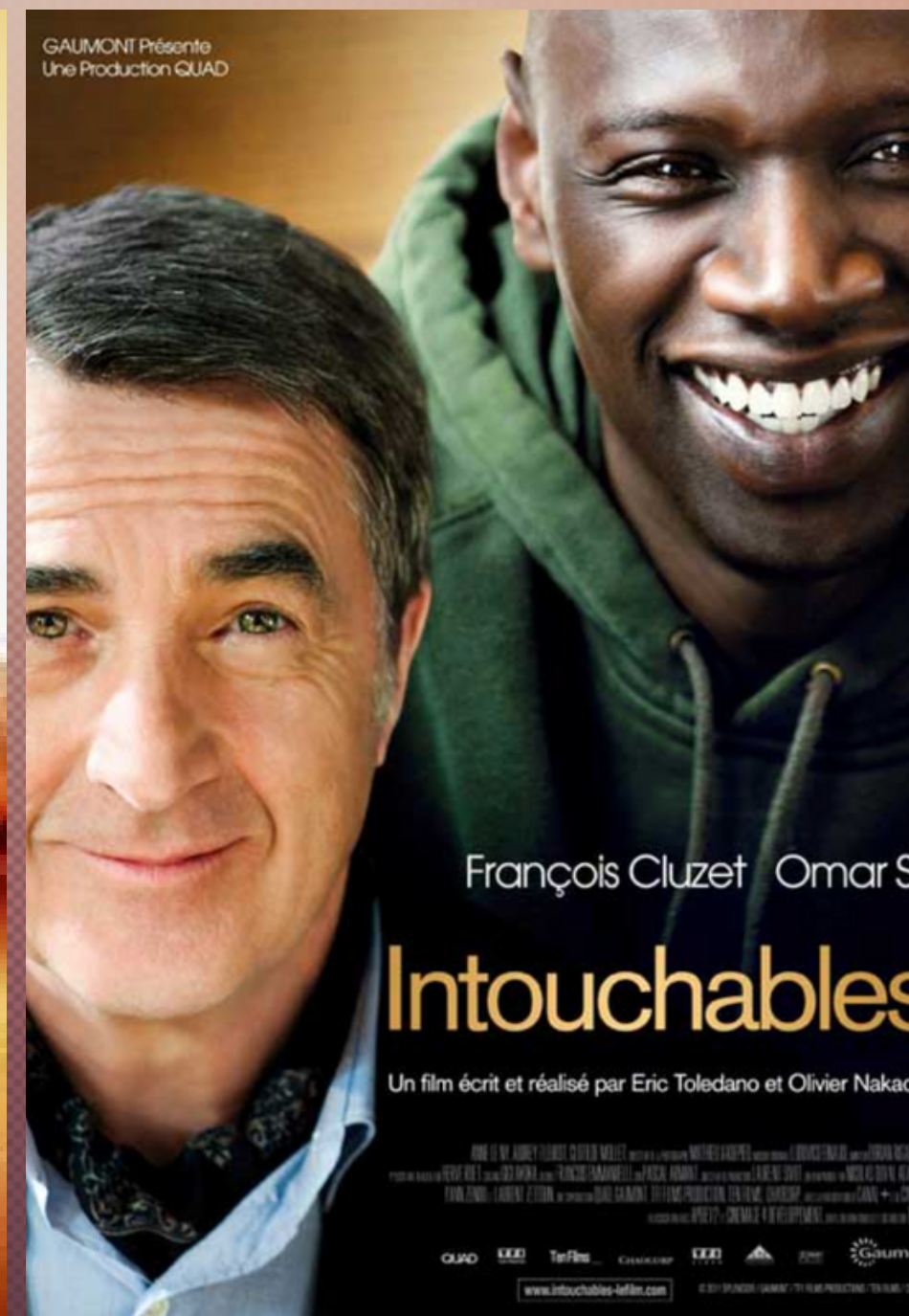
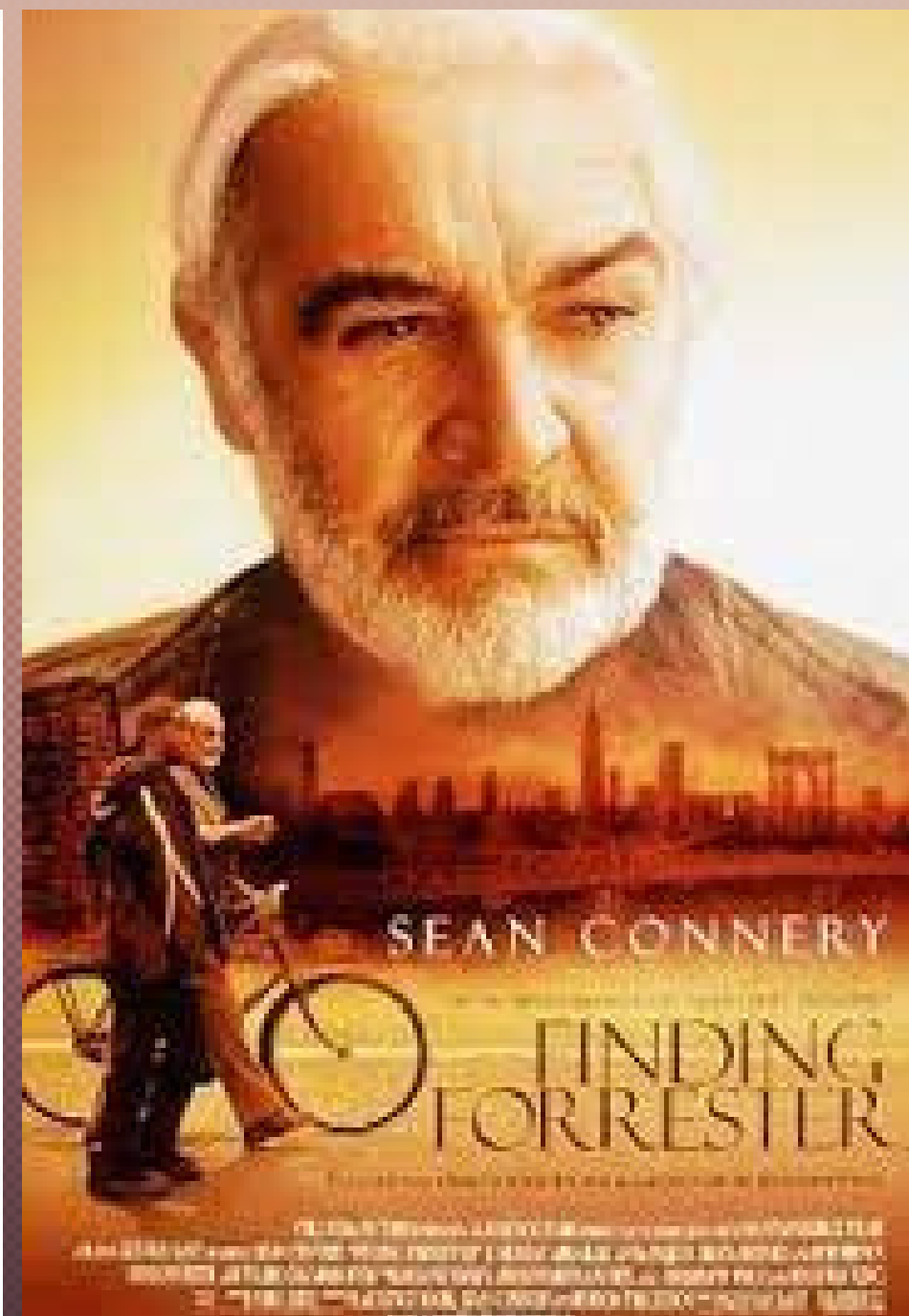
However, Billy has one thing going for him: he has a new friend, the optimistic, street-smart, and wheelchair-bound WALLACE JORDAN.

After teaming up with Wallace, Billy's dream of running the New York City marathon suddenly becomes possible. Despite still being teased, bullied, and threatened, things take a turn for the better, until one afternoon Nana gets stabbed.

In order to pay for her medical costs, he agrees to tutor TARA, a wealthy but shattered girl, and finds himself in the throes of first love. Now he pursues his goal with even greater determination while his friendship with Wallace and Tara grows beyond anyone's expectations.

Billy trains, studies, and transforms—as his clothes get looser, he gets faster—that is, until things once again turn ugly when Nana dies. Crushed, Billy returns to his old habits and his dreams are about to crumble until Wallace and Tara push him not to give up. Now he has to run—run for his father, run for Nana, and ultimately run for himself.

COMPARISONS



WRITER



Starting life in a tumultuous way where reading and writing was a refuge, Yvonne aspired to write fiction from an early age, but she took quite a detour. She lived in five countries, learned to speak many languages, studied business, and became a mother—twice.

Eventually, she found her home in NYC where she studied film and screenwriting at NYU and took a good deal of other writing classes. She quickly understood that she had a knack for structure and dialogue. That's why she used her time not only to write screenplays/novels but also to help other writers to improve their work.

"I wrote Changing Billy after volunteering with unprivileged youth, which led me to NYC low-income housing projects. I got a glimpse of a world I knew nothing about, and what I learned was that despite the complicated life most of these kids are leading, there's no stopping their dreams."