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# Dance Academy

SERIES ONE

EPISODE 20  
BLOCK 5

## "Ballet Fever"

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1        **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/TARA'S ROOM - DAY 10**        1  
ABIGAIL, TARA, TARA (V.O)

An alarm clock buzzes.

Abigail wakes, bleary eyed to see Tara in her pyjamas, already hard at work, rigorously kicking her leg above her head in floor grand battements.

Tara (V.O.)

*In ballet, enough is never enough.*

2        **EXT. HARBOURSIDE - DAY 10**        2  
TARA, TARA (V.O)

The morning sun glistens on the harbour.

MP3 Player in, Tara jogs along the harbour wall near the academy. This is serious training - she's clearly already run a long way.

TARA (V.O.)

*Anna Pavolova was one of the  
greatest dancers of all time.*

3        **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10**        3  
TARA, TARA (V.O)

Tara is now alone in the studio and utterly focused. She's practising her part in the Patron's Showcase.

TARA (V.O.)

*But after a performance when  
everyone else would go out, or  
crawl into bed, she went back to  
the studio to practise.*

4        **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/COMMON ROOM - DAY 10**        4  
TARA, KAT, TARA (V.O)

INTERCUT WITH:

5        **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO (TELEVISION) - DAY**        5  
TARA, KAT, ABIGAIL, N/S FIRST YEARS (GIRLS AND BOYS)

Tara is sitting in second splits as she watches last week's ballet rehearsal DVDs. She scrutinizes every move she makes on screen, rewinds and watches once more.

TARA (V.O.)

*To be as good as that, dance has to  
be your life. Everything else is  
just distraction.*

KAT (O.S.)

Abigail is that you under there?

Tara looks up - Kat stands at the door with a lollipop in her mouth.

TARA

Sorry?

Kat grabs Tara's face and pulls some skin as if trying to remove a mask.

KAT

Skin's on tight but you don't know with these shape shifters. They're so tricky.

Tara swats her hand away and turns back to the screen.

TARA

Stop it. I've got to get my brisés right before tomorrow. If I can't do the beats...

KAT

(over)

The world, as we know, it will fall into chaos.

TARA

Exactly.

Tara completely misses Kat's sarcasm. She rewinds the tape so she can watch her brisé volés again.

KAT

Diminished perspective.  
Interesting.

Kat leaves her to it. Tara doesn't notice - she's too focused on studying her reflection on the screen.

**INT. ACADEMY/CAFE - DAY 10**

TARA, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

Abigail and Tara are both eating breakfasts of fruit and yoghurt - Abigail is still her usual snide self but actually interested in this conversation. Kat tucks into scrambled eggs and toast staring at the two of them in horror.

ABIGAIL

I hope you're strengthening the right muscles with all this cardio. Beginners don't tend to realise there's no point having a tight piriformis...

TARA

...And ignoring the gemellus and quadratus, I know. I had the same thought.

Kat looks relieved as Sammy arrives at the table.

KAT

Human life. Welcome.

But Sammy doesn't even notice her. He's too focused on his new girlfriend.

SAMMY

Hello you.

Kat watches appalled as Sammy swoops down and gives Abigail a big kiss.

ABIGAIL

Hello you.

She kisses him on the nose.

SAMMY

Hello.

He kisses her again...

KAT

I think we have hello covered.  
Tara?

Kat looks to Tara for backup just as she leaps out of her seat and starts practising her petit battements.

TARA

If I do nothing but petit battements between now and the Showcase I'll be able to get the beats.

Abigail looks up from Sammy momentarily.

ABIGAIL

Don't count on it.

Kat looks between Tara, using the table as a barre, and Abigail and Sammy canoodling. Can someone please get her out of here?

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10**

TARA, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, KAT, SAMMY, MISS RAINE, SEAN, BONNIE, N/S FIRST YEARS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Mixed Classical Rehearsal:

The first year class are rehearsing the piece they have prepared for the showcase under the eagle eye of Miss Raine. The girls are wearing their practice tutus.

Tara and Abigail dance a duet out the front as the corps de ballet do their pas de deux work in the background. Tara is a picture of focus and determination.

MISS RAINÉ

Tomorrow's performance is an opportunity to show the board and its patrons that they are supporting one of the top training institutions in the world.

We're with Tara - completing a difficult series of jumps, as she becomes aware of a noise - giggling in the background. Tara pushes it out of her head - the concentration set firmly on her face.

MISS RAINÉ

Be aware this is your most critical audience. They're educated in ballet, they expect perfection.  
(beat)  
More elevation Tara. It will help the beats.

There's that giggle again - this time Tara can't help it. Her head flips around to see Bonnie laughing flirtatiously with Christian, her dancing partner.

Momentarily distracted, Tara makes a mess of the brise vole. Miss Raine stops the music -

MISS RAINÉ

What happened?

TARA

Sorry - I was distracted.

She glares at Christian. Christian grins back which only serves to infuriate Tara further.

MISS RAINÉ

There's no excuse to lose focus.

She turns her steely gaze to Christian and Bonnie.

MISS RAINÉ

That goes for the corps de ballet as much as the principals.

Miss Raine glances at the clock.

MISS RAINÉ

We'll resume tomorrow.

The class claps Miss Raine and start to head for their bags.

SAMMY

But we're not finished yet.

Miss Raine raises an eyebrow at this impertinence.

SAMMY

The understudies haven't run it through.

MISS RAINÉ

We don't have time for a separate rehearsal.

Miss Raine starts to collect her belongings. Sammy is feeling increasingly awkward but presses on.

SAMMY

It's just... I'm a little sketchy on what happens after the jetes.

MISS RAINÉ

You're understudying Sean?

Sammy nods. Miss Raine looks to Sean.

MISS RAINÉ

Are you across the choreography?

SEAN

(confident)

Across. On top...

Miss Raine turns back to Sammy, satisfied.

MISS RAINÉ

You have a DVD and twenty four hours. Make good use of it.

Miss Raine gathers her belongings and leaves the studio. Sammy is left standing there, frustrated and embarrassed.

**EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 10**

KAT, TARA, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, NATASHA, MR KENNEDY, N/S STUDENTS

Kat, dressed for hip hop and thoroughly bored, has her camera out and is listlessly snapping away at the blisters on her feet.

She's trapped between Tara on one side, using a railing as a barre and obsessively practising her petit battements.

TARA

Do you know Anna Pavlova's dying wish was to hold her swan costume one last time.

KAT

I did not.

Sammy and Abigail are on the other side, completely caught up in each other.

ABIGAIL

Eskimo kiss.

Sammy obediently rubs noses.

SAMMY

I think the correct term is Inuit.

KAT

I thought it was vomit. So I'm thinking about branching out. Interviewing other friends.

Abigail tears her eyes away from Sammy for a moment.

ABIGAIL

There's your mum. Maybe you can play with her?

Abigail smirks at Kat's reaction as she sees Natasha walking down the wharf, talking animatedly with Mr Kennedy.

KAT

(to Tara)

Require back-up.

Kat drags Tara over to the adults. Approaching from behind, it becomes apparent that they are having a heated conversation. Mr Kennedy seems uncharacteristically impatient with Natasha.

NATASHA

... complete waste of time and energy.

MR KENNEDY

If that's your opinion you should voice it at the meeting.

Natasha spots Kat and Tara. She drops the subject, not wanting to discuss this in front of them.

NATASHA

Darling.

MR KENNEDY

Girls - good to see you. Natasha, we can continue this later.

NATASHA

Yes, we'll talk.

Natasha is obviously disturbed he's got away from her but forced to stay with Kat.

KAT

Aren't you a day early? I thought  
the Board thingy was tomorrow?

NATASHA

Is it so terrible to see your  
mother? Hi Tara.

Natasha flashes the girls a brilliant smile as she kisses Kat  
on the cheek.

KAT

I usually like to prepare.

Natasha ignores this as she takes in Kat's clothing.

NATASHA

Sweetheart talk me through what  
you're wearing?

Kat can't bear to answer - it's classic Natasha. Tara helps  
her out.

TARA

We have hip hop next.

NATASHA

Oh good. I thought you were trying  
to look ugly.

**INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 10**

TARA, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, KAT, SAMMY, HIP HOP TEACHER, N/S  
FIRST YEARS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Mixed Hip Hop Rehearsal: Everyone is in a line doing the same  
movements - a fun routine. Sammy and Kat are out the front,  
performing the same moves as the class but obviously about to  
become the focus of the piece.

HIP HOP TEACHER

I don't care if you cheat it. Make  
it work for you.

Kat breaks out in front and performs a simple but effective  
counterpoint to the rest of the group. The teacher grins, in  
contrast to Miss Raine he is completely involved with the  
students - encouraging and enthusiastic.

HIP HOP TEACHER

Yes Kat. Keep breathing.

She makes him laugh with a cheeky move.

HIP HOP TEACHER

Nice.

Kat also grins as she steps back in line with the others -  
this is obviously a class she loves.



HIP HOP TEACHER

Sammy - show me what you've got.

Sammy takes Kat's place at the front of the group. As the others continue the sequence behind him, Sammy takes centre-stage. His hip hop is free and loose, like Kat this is obviously an area in which he excels.

HIP HOP TEACHER

(grins)

Excuse me? Where did that come from?

Sammy is also grinning as he ends the solo with a spectacular move just as the music stops.

HIP HOP TEACHER

All right - you all get out of here. Bring it tomorrow.

Everyone claps the end of the class. Kat and Sammy exchange a smile - they love this class. The hip hop teacher slaps Sammy on the back.

HIP HOP TEACHER

They are going to be in awe man.

SAMMY

Thanks.

The teacher gives Sammy a hip hop style hand-shake and moves away - replaced in Sammy's view by Abigail.

SAMMY

Hey you. Did you see that?

He's dripping in sweat, elated by his performance, and swings an arm around Abigail.

ABIGAIL

Uh-huh. But I don't do other people's armpits.

She wriggles out of the way. He takes her hand instead.

ABIGAIL

So I've got to practice for the real part of the Showcase.

Her tone is light. Sammy is not offended.

SAMMY

The real part huh?

ABIGAIL

Could use a partner?

Sammy smiles. Kat watches them move off together, holding hands. This is getting worse.

10      **EXT. ACADEMY/HARBOUR - SUNSET 10**      10  
NIL CAST

The sun sets on the harbour. We see the city as it approaches the evening, boats and ferries skim across the water leaving trails of light in the water.

11      **INT. BOARDING HOUSE/STAIRCASE/Common ROOM - NIGHT 10**      11  
CHRISTIAN, TARA, BONNIE, HAZEL, N/S STUDENTS

Once again Tara sits in second splits, watching a DVD of today's rehearsal. This time she's sitting amongst a pile of pointe shoes. She pulls each one out and examines it, searching for the perfect pair to wear tomorrow.

Bonnie and Hazel appear on the stairs, dragging Christian - one on each arm.

BONNIE

No way. Once you've said it...

HAZEL

... you can't take it back.

Tara watches them from the common room. Christian is playing it cool, but enjoying the attention, especially once he sees Tara.

Bonnie looks over to Tara.

BONNIE

He promised to teach us how to skate.

HAZEL

Tell him he has to.

TARA

He's got his own voice.

Bonnie and Hazel both turn back to Christian. He gives in.

CHRISTIAN

Okay. Whatever.

Bonnie and Hazel grin and head off outside with the skateboard, Christian lags behind them for a moment. He gestures to the shoes surrounding Tara.

CHRISTIAN

Too many to choose from?

TARA

Seems you have a similar problem.

Christian just grins at her - he likes that she's noticed.

11 CONTINUED:

11

HAZEL (O.S.)  
Christian!

He follows Bonnie and Hazel down the corridor. Tara sits for a moment, not sure why she's annoyed, then refocuses on the shoes.

12 INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - NIGHT 10  
SAMMY, ABIGAIL

12

The moonlight filters through the studio windows as we find Sammy and Abigail dancing the duo from tomorrow's showcase together. Sammy is dancing Tara's part.

There is an obvious connection now when they dance, Abigail looks better with Sammy beside her and her happiness bleeds into the dance - she is as free and relaxed as we've seen her.

This dance looks beautiful - and fun.

CUT TO:

**LATER:** Abigail and Sammy have finished their rehearsal. They're both sweaty but exhilarated. Sammy pours some water on his head.

SAMMY  
Okay. Your turn to watch my solo.

He passes Abigail the bottle. She does the same.

ABIGAIL  
I'm not the authority on hip hop.

SAMMY  
Ballet. I want your honest appraisal.

Abigail is confused as Sammy walks down into the centre of the room to prepare to dance.

ABIGAIL  
My honest appraisal is that you don't have a ballet solo.

SAMMY  
I do. I'm second cast for Sean.

Abigail has to smile at his description of "second cast".

ABIGAIL  
I don't think he's planning on getting injured.

SAMMY  
No one plans an injury.

12 CONTINUED:

12

Sammy tries to explain, this is important to him.

SAMMY

Tomorrow's rehearsal is my last chance to show Miss Raine I'm more than just an understudy. So when she's casting again she'll know what I can do.

ABIGAIL

She's been teaching us all year. You should probably accept where she's put you.

Sammy stares at her, gutted.

SAMMY

You, of all people are telling me not to try?

Abigail is matter of fact, not understanding that she's hurt him.

ABIGAIL

There's nothing wrong with being an understudy.

SAMMY

For me, you mean?

He walks off, leaving Abigail to wonder what just happened. She doesn't do sensitive.

ABIGAIL

You asked for honesty. How am I the bad guy?

13 **EXT. SYDNEY HARBOUR - DAY 11**  
MISS RAINÉ (O.S.)

13

The sun rises over Sydney's picturesque harbour. People rush to work as the ferries crisscross on the water.

MISS RAINÉ (O.S.)

Get in line everyone.

14 **INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11**

14

TARA, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, CHRISTIAN, KAT, MISS RAINÉ, BONNIE, SEAN, N/S FIRST YEARS (BOYS AND GIRLS)

Mixed Classical Rehearsal: The first years are in full dress rehearsal for their showcase piece. The girls are all wearing purple tutus, except for Tara and Abigail who are in contrasting white. Nobody is dancing well, the rehearsal is in chaos.

Miss Raine prowls the room. Her patience has been stretched to its limit and she's obviously about to lose it with everyone.

MISS RAINÉ

I need you to watch the space  
between yourself and the next  
person and maintain it as though  
your life depends on it.

Sammy follows mere inches behind Sean, dancing flat out but also slightly out of time as he tries to jump higher than Sean in the air.

Miss Raine pushes the remote and stops the music. Sammy is too close and runs into Sean.

SEAN

Close enough?

Miss Raine also glares at Sammy.

MISS RAINÉ

What are you doing?

SAMMY

I need a run through. To feel  
properly prepared.

MISS RAINÉ

It's distracting, go to the side. I  
only want to see people who are  
dancing this evening.

Abigail watches as Sammy slumps off to the back of the room, humiliated. She tries to catch his eye but he refuses to look at her.

Miss Raine starts the music again.

MISS RAINÉ

From the beginning. Again.

The class move back to first positions and start to dance once the music starts - it's no better, everyone is out of time.

MISS RAINÉ

Have you all lost the ability to  
count?

Abigail is perfectly in time, but keeps trying to see where Sammy is.

MISS RAINÉ

Abigail, eyes off the mirror. Your  
vanity astounds me.

14

CONTINUED:

14

Bonnie giggles, flirting with Christian, as he lifts her into the air. Tara clocks this and is momentarily distracted.

MISS RAINÉ

Tara - are you with us?

The corps de ballet form a clumsy circle around Tara and Abigail (adjust). Bonnie is so busy flirting with Christian that she runs into Kat in front of her... which has a domino effect... pushing the corps de ballet line into complete disarray.

Miss Raine stops the music again and closes her eyes. It's a tense moment as the students all wait for the explosion. When it comes, it's ice-cold anger.

MISS RAINÉ

Rehearsal's over. I am sick of the sight of you.

She sweeps her gaze around the room of mostly terrified students.

MISS RAINÉ

Please take some time this afternoon to focus your energies and concentration.

We pick up Kat's face, elated about the afternoon off.

MISS RAINÉ

Then come back ready to dance.

TARA

Miss Raine, surely the principals can stay behind... *(to run it through)*

MISS RAINÉ

Out.

15

**EXT. SYDNEY - DAY 11**

NIL CAST

15

We fly over the towering skyscrapers of the CBD. It's lunchtime and bustling with activity.

16

**INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 11**

TARA, KAT, SAMMY

16

Tara is in the studio rehearsing alone. She is so caught up in her dance, she doesn't notice Kat and Sammy until she turns around and sees both of them standing there, arms folded, stern faces.

TARA

What are you doing?

KAT

What are you doing?

SAMMY

We were given the afternoon off.

TARA

(nods)

To prepare for the showcase.

Kat and Sammy look at one another.

SAMMY

This is an intervention Tara.

KAT

Ballet fever. One of the worst cases I've seen.

TARA

Oh come on.

SAMMY

Ballet fever is defined as the inability to do anything apart from ballet.

KAT

The inability to discuss anything apart from ballet.

SAMMY

Inability to think about anything apart from ballet.

KAT

There is a whole world out there T. Things to do...

TARA

I have a life. I do things.

KAT

Name one in the past few weeks that doesn't involve ballet?

Tara's face goes blank....

The Manly ferry cuts its way from Circular Quay across the water towards Manly.

Tara sits on board - salty breeze in her hair, sun shining, she's trying her hardest to relax but fidgeting, restless.

17

CONTINUED:

17

When her eyes rest on the ferry railing...it's too much for her...ballet fever...she can't resist...

Tara moves over, rests her hand on the railing, like it's a barre, and begins yet another perfect series of petit battements...as we find...

Christian a little further along the boat. He peeks over at Tara while she practises, allowing himself a small smile...

He can't resist letting her know he's there.

CHRISTIAN

You're rolling forward. On your left foot.

Tara stops, annoyed to have her peace broken.

TARA

Did they send you to spy on me?

CHRISTIAN

Yes training bra, because the whole world revolves around you.

He smiles to himself and sits down on the bench at the front of the ferry and gestures for Tara to continue. Tara stops her dancing but refuses to move from her spot at the prow.

They're both on the ferry together - only Christian looks happy about it.

18

**INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 11**  
SAMMY, KAT, MISS RAINE

18

Sammy and Kat head down the corridor, trying to embrace their new-found freedom.

KAT

So where's the other half of your "relaaaationship"? She won't be wanting your lips back?

SAMMY

(over)  
She's...I'm...busy.

Kat looks hopeful. At last, something interesting.

KAT

Trouble is there? In your "relaaaaationship"?

SAMMY

Stop saying that.

He changes the subject by making a big production of perusing the notice board.



SAMMY

Look. Tonight's programme.

Sammy unpins the notice from the board and hands it to Kat who's bored enough to scan it.

KAT

I won't be distracted.

Then Kat notices something strange just as Miss Raine enters the corridor carrying some files.

KAT

(calling out)

Miss Raine, there's a typo.

(under her breath)

Not so perfect with the paperwork  
hey.

Sammy snorts as Miss Raine enters earshot. Kat hands her the list.

KAT

Hip hop's been left off the  
programme.

MISS RAINE

No the list is right. Jazz is gone  
too.

KAT

Why?

MISS RAINE

The Board has been in meetings all  
morning about the curriculum. Given  
most of them don't think the  
Academy should be offering those  
classes, it was considered best to  
remove them from the showcase.

KAT

But that's not fair.

SAMMY

It's the only time some of us are  
dancing.

MISS RAINE

If I were you I'd take that up with  
someone who is actually on the  
Board.

Miss Raine heads down the corridor. Kat knows exactly who she should take it up with.

19

**EXT. FERRY - DAY 11**

19

TARA, CHRISTIAN, N/S FERRY PASSENGERS

Tara is waiting to disembark. Christian is now standing behind her.

TARA

Shouldn't you be off flirting with Bonnie... or Hazel... which one is it?... I can't keep up.

CHRISTIAN

You're not jealous are you?

TARA

I am so not jealous. I am the opposite of jealous.

CHRISTIAN

(grins)

What's that?

TARA

What?

CHRISTIAN

The opposite of jealous?

TARA

Look I'm trying to have a nice peaceful afternoon at the aquarium and... *(I'm not going to let you ruin it)*

CHRISTIAN

Great. I love the aquarium.

And he waits for her to leave - she has no choice but to head off and let him follow her.

20

**INT. OPERA HOUSE/DRESSING ROOM - DAY 11**

20

KAT, NATASHA

Kat marches into her mother's dressing room, to find Natasha in her rehearsal gear, almost ready to leave the room.

NATASHA

Hello darling. To what do I owe this... *(pleasure)*

KAT

I just want to know how it works? Do you think, "Is Kat happy about something? How can I take that away from her?"

Natasha just looks at her daughter.

NATASHA

I'm sorry but whatever it is you're blaming me for today, it's going to have to wait. I have rehearsal.

And she's off, leaving Kat definitely still fuming.

21 INT. AQUARIUM - DAY 11

21

TARA, CHRISTIAN, N/S EXTRAS

A giant Manta Ray slides serenely across the screen, followed by a school of brightly coloured tropical fish.

Tara watches them enthralled by their beauty when she spies Christian on the other side of the fish tank. He is partly obscured by seaweed...

Christian smiles when he sees her... ducking behind a larger clump of sea weed... and then reappearing again...

Tara can't help but smile slightly back...

The sea life weaves its way between them as they stand on either side of the tank.

He lifts his hand, gives a small wave. Tara smiles, relenting. She accepts the fact they are going to spend the rest of the day together...

They lock eyes across the large glass tank full of life.

22 INT OPERA HOUSE/WINGS - DAY 11

22

KAT, NATASHA, N/S COMPANY DANCERS

Natasha waits with a couple of other dancers in the wings to go on stage, when Kat comes towards her.

KAT

Those classes you have just gotten rid of are the only reason I'm still at the Academy.

NATASHA

(stage whisper)

Wait in my dressing room. We'll talk when I'm finished.

Kat doesn't bother to lower her voice.

KAT

Mum I have been waiting in your dressing room for sixteen years.

The other dancers raise their eyebrows. Natasha gestures to Kat to be quiet, but she can't. The floodgates are open.

KAT

You don't get it. I get up and I do something every day that I don't like because of you. I didn't even want to audition for the Academy.

NATASHA

Don't be dramatic.

KAT

Right. Because it would take the attention away from you.

The music surges - it's time for Natashas to head onto the stage.

NATASHA

We can talk later.

Natasha glides effortlessly onto the stage...leaving Kat loitering all alone in the wings.

**EXT. MANLY BEACH/STEPS/SAND - DAY 11**  
TARA, CHRISTIAN, SHELLEY, N/S TEENAGERS

Tara and Christian sit side by side on the concrete steps leading down to Manly beach. In front of them, a bunch of teenagers their age are all goofing about, playing cricket on the beach.

TARA

Imagine being like that.

Christian looks at the kids, laughing as the batsman scrambles along the sand. Tara glances at her watch.

TARA

It's four o'clock. All they had to do today was go to school, come home, maybe fit in some homework.

CHRISTIAN

What do you want them be doing?

TARA

Nothing. I just feel sorry for them. Being normal, not having a passion... I'd hate it.

Christian raises an eyebrow.

CHRISTIAN

You don't think that's a bit judgmental?

Tara looks at him, realising what she sounds like. She tries to explain.

TARA

I don't want to be. It's the same with my friends at home. Lately when they call I don't ring them back because I've got nothing to say.

(beat)

The Academy changes you.

CHRISTIAN

They'd probably feel sorry for you if they knew what you did. I mean, that's not pretty.

Christian looks down at Tara's blistered, bandaged feet.

TARA

It's not all work.

She sinks them into the sand and out of eyeshot.

TARA

I have fun. A lot of fun.

Christian raises an eyebrow.

TARA

You don't think I have fun?

CHRISTIAN

Okay go. Right now. I want to see you do fun.

TARA

I can't suddenly do fun on my own.

CHRISTIAN

'Course. You need friends.

Christian calls out to one of the teenagers.

CHRISTIAN

Excuse me?

TARA

(sotto)

What are you doing?

CHRISTIAN

(ignoring her)

My friend here would really like a game. Is that cool?

SHELLEY

Sure...

Tara moves it back onto Christian.

TARA

Actually he's too shy to ask but  
he's the one who can't wait to join  
in.

Shelley looks at them as if they're both a little odd.

SHELLEY

You can both play. I'm Shelley.

CHRISTIAN

(about Tara)  
This is Tabitha.

Tara shoots a look at him.

TARA

He's Cecil.

On Christian - ouch.

**EXT. MANLY BEACH/SAND - DAY 11**

TARA, CHRISTIAN, SHELLEY, N/S TEENAGERS

Tara, (aka Tabitha) and Christian (aka Cecil) have now joined  
in the cricket match and they're having a ball.

Tara is batting. Christian's about to bowl when she quickly  
checks her watch.

CHRISTIAN

Put your watch away Tabs.

TARA

Just waiting for you to bowl Cecil.

He takes a huge run up and fires an impressive ball at her  
but Tara takes a nice smooth swing and hits it for six...  
straight into the ocean.

CHRISTIAN

Is there a six and out rule?

TARA

Nice try. Go fetch.

Before heading into the surf to retrieve the ball, Christian  
removes his shirt. Shelley, acting wicket keeper takes in his  
impressive ballet bod.

SHELLEY

Your boy's hot.

TARA

Oh... He's not my boyfriend.

They both watch Christian's tanned, co-ordinated body dive  
effortlessly beneath the waves towards the ball.

SHELLEY

Really?

She smiles. Tara looks suddenly panicked.

TARA

But he has got a girlfriend. She's very possessive.

Shelley shrugs - whatever. We go off Tara wondering why she said that about Christian.

**EXT. ACADEMY/WHARFSIDE - DAY 11**

SAMMY, KAT, N/S STUDENTS

A tennis ball ricochets off a wooden wall. Hard. And again. As we reveal Sammy stuffing cake into his mouth at the same time as he pelts the ball against the wall.

When Kat approaches - he ignores her.

SAMMY

Three hundred and forty four.

KAT

It's time for action.

SAMMY

Three hundred and forty five.

She grabs the ball, Sammy takes a bite and then stops - looking for the ball that's now in Kat's hand.

SAMMY

I only needed three more and I would've broken my record.

She raises an eyebrow.

KAT

In ball throwing, cake eating?

SAMMY

It's an emerging sport. And I'm probably going to take it up full-time so...

He gestures to get his ball back, still bitter about being just an understudy.

KAT

I think I've found you a deeper purpose.

26

**EXT. MANLY BEACH/SAND - DAY 11**

26

CHRISTIAN, TARA, SHELLEY, N/S TEENAGERS

The cricket game has been packed away and the bunch of teenagers are headed home. Shelley is putting her number into Christian's phone.

SHELLEY

My number. If you feel like playing again.

She passes Christian back his phone, noticeably flirting. Tara snorts irritated.

CHRISTIAN

Thanks. Might take you up on it.

Shelley shrugs at Tara and moves off. Christian clocks the expression on Tara's face.

CHRISTIAN

What?

TARA

You can't help yourself can you?

CHRISTIAN

Sorry?

TARA

Flirting.

CHRISTIAN

That wasn't flirting.

TARA

And what about her? I told her you had a girlfriend. That's like hussy behaviour.

CHRISTIAN

Did you?

Christian grins at this. So she's definitely jealous.

TARA

I don't mind - you should go for it. Frankly Cecil you can flirt with as many girls as you... (*like*)

But she doesn't get to finish that particular sentence because he's kissing her... the person he's been wanting to kiss for way too long.

And she kisses him back.



27

INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11

27

KAT, SAMMY, ABIGAIL, MISS RAINE, MR KENNEDY, NATASHA, N/S STUDENTS, N/S BOARD MEMBERS, N/S PATRONS

Pre show buzz - late afternoon. The studio has been transformed into a performance space for the showcase. Rows of chairs have been laid out at the front of the studio.

PATRONS and BOARD MEMBERS mingle over drinks with an assortment of some of the older students and teachers. The students are dressed for the performance later that evening, some such as Abigail clearly schmoozing.

Natasha stands talking with Miss Raine and Mr Kennedy - it's clear there's tension in the group but we can't hear what they're saying.

Sammy edges his way towards the sound system as Kat walks up to a microphone that has been set up by the side of the "stage". He gives Kat a nod and flicks a switch as she picks up the microphone.

A BURST OF FEEDBACK makes everyone turn to the front - and Kat who is standing on a chair. She's nervous but trying not to show it.

KAT

Um, hi everyone.

The crowd look surprised. Miss Raine frowns, as does Natasha.

KAT

Proceedings are starting a little earlier today. Keep enjoying your drinks but if you can take a seat...

The audience do as they're told.

KAT

Don't push. There's enough for everyone.

Miss Raine looks to Mr Kennedy who also doesn't know what's happening. He tries to keep it casual.

MR KENNEDY

Kat is there something you want to share with us?

KAT

Yes sir. The Board in its wisdom has decided to cut the changes you made to the curriculum.

Kat directs the next part to the students, inspiring their reaction.

KAT

They're getting rid of hip hop,  
jazz - pretty much anything other  
than classical.

Scattered boos from the surprised students. Natasha is staring at her daughter, furious.

KAT

Some of the first years have worked  
hard on this piece and we'd like to  
show it to you anyway.

Kat signals to Sammy to start the music but it's clear he's having some technical difficulties and it doesn't start right away.

KAT

Any moment now.

Natasha approaches Kat, lowering her voice.

NATASHA

Darling please get down from there.

KAT

Not a chance.

Kat turns away from her mother, blocking her out. Just then the music kicks in and half the Hip Hop class, who have been in the audience, move down to take their spots. Kat and Sammy are out the front.

Sammy looks to Abigail who is still in the audience. He is disappointed when she doesn't move.

The first years perform the piece they were preparing for the showcase but this time, with the loud music and encouragement from the other students - it's even more spectacular. However, the board members and older patrons look mightily unimpressed.

Kat glances at them worriedly and skips her own solo. She slaps Sammy's hand - indicating that he should take centre stage - which he does. In fact, he throws himself in it.

Natasha watches her daughter as she cheers on Sammy - her expression is inscrutable.

Sammy finishes his solo with the same move we saw in class - only this time the crowd bursts into spontaneous applause.

As the music ends Mr Kennedy moves into the stage area. He takes the microphone and the dancers leave.

He looks out to a sea of disapproving board members and patrons, as he tries to calm the students' wild cheers.

27 CONTINUED:

27

MR KENNEDY

Thank you everyone. That was certainly a surprise. If you bear with us for a moment, we'll start the formal programme as soon as possible.

Kat finally looks over to Natasha. It isn't going to be pretty.

28 **EXT. MANLY BEACH/ROCKS - DAY 11**

28

TARA, CHRISTIAN

It's getting very late in the afternoon. Christian and Tara make their way over the jagged rocks at the end of the beach.

TARA

Where are we going?

CHRISTIAN

You'll see.

He puts out his hand - helps pull her to the top. They're standing on a rock that gives them an amazing view of the ocean all the way to the horizon.

TARA

Wow.

CHRISTIAN

Always thought you'd like it.

TARA

Always?

How long he's liked her. Tara touches the mole above his lip. She grins, so happy in this moment, and leans in to kiss him.

29 **INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDOR - DAY 11**

29

KAT, NATASHA, N/S STUDENTS

Natasha drags Kat into the corridor for a private word.

NATASHA

What was that?

Kat is buzzed by the performance and unapologetic.

KAT

The most interesting thing anyone will see all night?

NATASHA

One of the main reasons the board cut the new curriculum is that they think it encourages a lack of discipline. You've just proved them right.

Kat sees the truth in this and doesn't like it. She goes back on the offensive.

KAT

Like you care about helping Mum.

NATASHA

Have you ever thought to ask where I stand?

Kat looks uneasy.

NATASHA

No. You assumed, as usual, that I'm the enemy.

Kat stares at her mother, floored by this reveal.

NATASHA

I've always supported a broad dance education. In fact, I've spent the past two days trying to convince the board of it.

(beat)

Many students need to work on their confidence and self-expression. Hip hop and jazz are perfect avenues for that.

KAT

But you... (*never said anything*).

NATASHA

(over)

Self expression is clearly not something you need to work on. I respect your passion but what you did today was irresponsible.

KAT

Wait... I didn't hear a compliment in there somewhere did I?

There's a flicker across Natasha's face - almost a smile.

NATASHA

Absolutely not.

And she turns and heads back to the studio, leaving Kat in the corridor.

30

**EXT. FERRY - SUNSET 11**

30

TARA, CHRISTIAN, N/S FERRY PASSENGERS

Tara and Christian are standing on the Ferry, much closer on the return trip. Christian hugs Tara from behind and she's smiling as the wind whips her face.

TARA

Hey...

CHRISTIAN

Yeah?

TARA

You know how I'm not allowed to look at my watch...

CHRISTIAN

We're fine. We've got ages.

Christian takes her arm, finds the watch, and tries not to let her see his panic.

CHRISTIAN

This is a really slow ferry huh?

Tara clocks his tone and looks down at her watch as well. It's after six and Tara freaks.

TARA

Oh crap.

They are so dead.

31

**INT. ACADEMY/REHEARSAL STUDIO - DAY 11**

31

ABIGAIL, KAT, SAMMY, MISS RAINE, SEAN, N/S STUDENTS

We follow Kat into the rehearsal studio which has been set up as a kind of dressing room/back stage area for the showcase. She's still reeling from her conversation with Natasha.

Sammy stands, surrounded by girls, the hero of the moment. Abigail watches, regretting having not joined him in the performance.

A number of other dancers are stretching and warming up, some are tying up their pointe shoes, or doing the final touches to their make up as Abigail approaches Kat -

ABIGAIL

Do you know where she is?

KAT

Who?

Miss Raine approaches the group, deliberately ignoring Kat.

MISS RAINE

We're bringing the first year ballet forward. We need to demonstrate a modicum of professionalism to the board.

ABIGAIL

But Tara's not here.

Miss Raine can't believe how badly her day is turning out - she turns to Abigail.

MISS RAINE

Then you'll have to do it as a solo. You're always asking for one.

Abigail hesitates for a moment - her mind ticking over -

ABIGAIL

It's better as a duet. Sammy knows it.

They all turn to face Sammy, still surrounded by his group of admirers.

MISS RAINE

Do you?

Sammy nods slowly, surprised that Abigail has done this.

SAMMY

Sure. Understudy's duty.

Miss Raine looks to Abigail who smiles at her, confident. Miss Raine has no time to disagree.

MISS RAINE

You all have five minutes to get ready. Please don't disappoint me further.

The last part is directed at Kat as she exits the studio.

The first years in the room scramble madly to get changed. Sammy walks over to Abigail.

SAMMY

Are you trying to make me feel better? 'Cause I don't need pity. I have hip hop and cake throwing...

ABIGAIL

By now you really should know I don't look after other people's feelings. Even if they are my boyfriend.

Sammy can't help but smile at the use of "boyfriend".

31 CONTINUED:

31

SAMMY

Then why did you do that?

ABIGAIL

Because you're good.

Off Sammy's look - really? He so very much wants to be.

ABIGAIL

I wouldn't go out with you if you weren't.

Abigail shoves him in the direction of his clothes - he needs to get ready!

32 EXT. CIRCULAR QUAY - DAY 11

32

TARA, CHRISTIAN, N/S BUSKERS, N/S EXTRAS

We pick up Tara and Christian holding hands as they race down Circular Quay back to the Academy... past buskers, ice cream sellers and the sparkling harbour.

Despite their panic, they're laughing, exhilarated by their situation...

33 INT. ACADEMY/STUDIO - DAY 11

33

CHRISTIAN, TARA, ABIGAIL, SAMMY, KAT, SEAN, BONNIE, N/S STUDENTS, N/S BOARD MEMBERS, MISS RAINE, MR KENNEDY, NATASHA, TARA (V.O)

INTERCUT WITH:

34 EXT. THE ROCKS/STEPS - DAY 11

34

CHRISTIAN, TARA

INTERCUT WITH:

35 INT. ACADEMY/CORRIDORS - DAY 11

35

CHRISTIAN, TARA

STUDIO: Sammy and Abigail begin their duet in perfect unison. It's the best we've seen either of them perform, there's a real connection between them.

We find Miss Raine in the audience. Even she lets out a small smile - one of relief. She studies Sammy, impressed by what he can do.

CUT TO:

STEPS: Tara and Christian racing down the steps that lead to the wharf and the Academy, Christian slightly ahead. They are both laughing, high on life.

CHRISTIAN

Move it.

Tara runs down a few more steps when she loses her shoe. She spins around to get it and lets out an almighty scream of pain. Ahead of her Christian stops in his tracks.

CHRISTIAN

Tara?

CUT TO:

STUDIO: The music reaches a dramatic crescendo as Sammy and Abigail perform together, the corps de ballet working in unison behind them. Bonnie is dancing by herself.

CUT TO:

STEPS: Christian leaps back up the steps towards Tara. She's sitting on the stairs, nursing her knee in agony, rocking backwards and forwards.

CHRISTIAN

Take my hand, I'll pull you up.

TARA

I can't move.

Christian looks down at her leg and feels sick.

CHRISTIAN

I think it's dislocated. I have to put it back in.

She shakes her head, the pain etches across her face - no way!

CHRISTIAN

Trust me okay.

She bites her lip - the pain is terrible but she knows he's right. She nods.

Christian grabs her ankle, moves to straighten her leg. She closes her eyes...

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Natasha smiles as she watches her daughter dancing with that unmistakable spirit. They lock eyes and Kat smiles as well.

TARA (V.O.)

*Ballet is an addiction. The more you dance, the more you want to dance, the more you need to dance.*

CUT TO:



CORRIDOR: Christian bursts through the door into the corridor, Tara in his arms. She's trying to be brave but it's clear that the pain is excruciating. Her face is ghostly white.

TARA (V.O.)

*That focus is so intense that  
nothing else matters...*

The place is deserted... there's no one to help him. Tara can't hold back her pain any longer, she moans. Christian's jaw clenches. It's one of the worst sounds he's ever heard.

TARA (V.O.)

*It's only when you stop dancing and  
let life creep in, that it becomes  
dangerous.*

Finally he hears the distant music coming from a studio and he races down the corridor, still holding Tara.

CUT TO:

STUDIO: Sammy and Abigail smile at one another as they continue to perform. It's their most perfect moment.

TARA

*Because all the Greats, from  
Pavlova down, know it's impossible  
have both.*

The studio doors burst open... the crowd all turn and look up as Christian stands there, Tara in his arms.

END OF EPISODE.