# Západočeská univerzita v Plzni Fakulta filozofická

Bakalářská práce

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Forrest Gump in the Book and on the Screen.

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# Západočeská univerzita v Plzni Fakulta filozofická

Katedra anglického jazyka a literatury
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# Bakalářská práce Forrest Gump in the Book and on the Screen. Kateřina Kohoutková

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

| 1. IN | FRODUCTION                            | 1 -  |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------|
| 2. BI | OGRAPHIES                             | 2 -  |
| 2.1   | THE BIOGRAPHY OF WINSTON GROOM        | 2-   |
| 2.2   | THE BIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT ZEMECKIS      | 3 -  |
| 3. AD | PAPTATION OF FORREST GUMP IN THE BOOK | 6 -  |
| 3.1   | MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE BOOK           | 6-   |
| 3.    | 1.1 Forrest Gump                      | 6 -  |
| 3.    | 1.2 Jenny Curran                      | 7-   |
| 3.    | 1.3 Lieutenant Dan Taylor             | 8-   |
| 3.    | 1.4 Benjamin Buford Blue – Bubba      | 9 -  |
| 3.2   | SUMMARY OF THE BOOK                   | 9 -  |
| 4. AD | PAPTATION OF FORREST GUMP FOR SCREEN  | 11 - |
| 4.1   | CHARACTERS IN THE MOVIE               | 12 - |
| 4.    | 1.1 Forrest Gump                      | 12 - |
| 4.    | 1.2 Jenny Curran                      | 13 - |
| 4.    | 1.3 Lieutenant Dan Taylor             | 14 - |
| 4.    | 1.4 Benjamin Buford Blue - Bubba      | 15 - |
| 4.2   | SUMMARY OF THE MOVIE                  | 15 - |
| 5. CC | MPARISON                              | 17 - |
| 5.1   | GUMP'S CHILDHOOD                      | 17 - |
| 5.2   | GUMP AS A FOOTBALL PLAYER             | 18 - |
| 5.2   | 2.1 Meeting Bubba                     | 20 - |
| 5.3   | GUMP AT THE UNIVERSITY                | 20 - |
| 5.4   | THE VIETNAM WAR                       | 20 - |
| 5.4   | 4.1 Bubba's death                     | 21 - |
| 5.4   | 4.2 Forrest in the hospital           | 21 - |
| 5.4   | 4.3 Forrest as a Ping Pong player     | 22 - |

| 5.5                                | 5 JENNY'S LIFE 23  | 3 -                                    |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                    | 5.5.1 Gump in the music band24   | 1 -                                    |
| 5.6                                | FORREST GUMP AND NASA  | 5 -                                    |
| 5.7                                | BACK IN THE USA26  | <b>3</b> -                             |
| 5.8                                | GUMP AS A WRESTER 26   | <b>3</b> -                             |
| 5.9                                | GUMP AS A CHESS PLAYER 27  | 7 -                                    |
| 5.1                                | 0 SHRIMP BUSINESS - 27   | 7 -                                    |
|                                    | 5.10.1Gump's election28  | 3 -                                    |
|                                    | 5.10.2 Home in Alabama 28  | 3 -                                    |
|                                    | 5.10.3Running  | 9 -                                    |
| 5.1                                | 1 Present30  | ) -                                    |
| 6. T                               | HE BIGGEST DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE NOVEL AND   |  |
|                                    |  |  |
| THE MOV                            | 'IE  |  |
| <b>THE MOV</b> 6.1                 |  | 2 -                                    |
| 6.1                                |  | <b>2 -</b><br>2 -                      |
| 6.1<br><b>7. \</b>                 | HISTORICAL EVENTS32  | 2 -<br>2 -<br>1 -                      |
| 6.1<br>7. \<br>8. (                | HISTORICAL EVENTS  | 2 -<br>2 -<br>4 -<br>5 -               |
| 6.1<br>7. \<br>8. (                | HISTORICAL EVENTS 32  VISUAL EFFECTS 34  BUMP'S VOCABULARY IN THE BOOK 35  | 2 -<br>2 -<br>4 -<br>5 -               |
| 6.1<br>7. \<br>8. \<br>9. \        | HISTORICAL EVENTS 32  VISUAL EFFECTS 34  BUMP'S VOCABULARY IN THE BOOK 35  QUOTES FROM FORREST GUMP 36                           | 2 -<br>2 -<br>4 -<br>5 -<br>7 -        |
| 6.1<br>7. N<br>8. C<br>9. C        | HISTORICAL EVENTS32  VISUAL EFFECTS34  GUMP'S VOCABULARY IN THE BOOK35  QUOTES FROM FORREST GUMP37  CONCLUSION37                 | 2 -<br>2 -<br>4 -<br>5 -<br>7 -        |
| 6.1<br>7. V<br>8. C<br>9. C<br>10. | HISTORICAL EVENTS32  /ISUAL EFFECTS34  GUMP'S VOCABULARY IN THE BOOK35  QUOTES FROM FORREST GUMP36  CONCLUSION37  BIBLIOGRAPHY38 | 2 -<br>2 -<br>1 -<br>5 -<br>7 -<br>3 - |

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The bachelor thesis with the title Forrest Gump in the Book and on the Screen is aimed at the novel *Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom and at the movie *Forrest Gump* by Robert Zemeckis based on the book.

The thesis is focused on the comparative study of the novel and of the movie.

The thesis is divided into theoretical part and practical part.

The theoretical part concerns with the Winston Groom bibliography and Robert Zemeckis biography and filmography. I shortly describe their works and their lives.

The practical part is divided into 4 chapters and theirs subchapters.

The first practical introduces the adaptation of Forrest Gump in the book. I describe 4 main characters and I summarize the plot of the book.

In the second part I deal with the movie, where I also describe the same characters as in the previous chapter, because it is the best way how to show their different personalities and personality traits. The summary of the movie is also made.

To accomplish the objectives of this bachelor thesis serves the third part which is about the comparison both stories. Because the stories are similar only at the beginning, I have decided for this procedure: I start with the story in the novel and afterwards I describe the events in the movie.

The last part is focused on the historical events. They are only shortly commented, because this bachelor thesis deals primary with the comparison.

# 2. Biographies

#### 2.1 The Biography of Winston Groom

Winston Groom is the author of Forrest Gump.<sup>1</sup>

Winston Francis Groom was born in 1943 in Washington D.C. He grew up in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated in 1965 from the University of Alabama and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. He served in army from 1965 to 1969. Winston Groom went through the Vietnam War between 1966 and 1967, when he was honourably discharged with the rank of Captain. Groom has written many novels, where he used his experiences from Vietnam.<sup>2</sup>

When he came back from the Vietnam War, he worked eight years as a reporter and columnist for the Washington Star. Soon he started to write his first novel Better Times Than These (1978). His novel Conversations with the Enemy was nominated for Pulitzer Prize in 1984.

Winston Groom is the author of sixteen books, in 1986 he published the novel Forrest Gump, but it wasn't bestseller until it was adapted into a movie Forrest Gump in 1994. Then Winston Groom took the publishing world by storm and the novel stayed on the top of the New York Times bestseller list for 21 weeks. About 2.5 million copies were sold in the United States and million copies all over the world. 4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Holanec, 2005, pg, 276 <sup>2</sup> Winston Groom [online]. Biography of Winston Groom. [Retrieved 22 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.winstongroom.com/#!biography/cjg9">http://www.winstongroom.com/#!biography/cjg9</a>

His published novels consist of:5

Better Times Than These (1978)

As Summers Die (1980)

Conversations with the Enemy (1982)

Only (1984)

Forrest Gump (1986)

Gone the Sun (1988)

Gump and Co. (1995)

Shrouds of Glory: From Atlanta to Nashville: The Last Great Campaign of the Civil War (1995)

Such as Pretty, Pretty Girl (1998)

The Crimson Tide: An Illustrated History of Football at the University of Alabama (2002)

A Storm in Flanders: The Triumph and Tragedy on the Western Front (2002)

1942: The Year that Tried Men's Souls (2004)

Patriotic Fire: Andrew Jackson and Jean Laffite at the Battle of New Orleans (2006)

Vicksburg, 1863 (2009)

Kearny's March: The Epic Creation of the American West, 1846-1847 (2011)

# 2.2 The Biography of Robert Zemeckis

Robert Zemeckis was born on May 14, 1952, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. Robert was raised in a working class Catholic family. His father was Lithuanian American and his mother was an Italian American.<sup>6</sup> He studied

<sup>5</sup> Winston Groom [online]. Books Winston Groom. [Retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.winstongroom.com/#!books/cee5">http://www.winstongroom.com/#!books/cee5</a> >

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Robert Zemeckis Director. Digital image [retrieved 3 Apr. 2012]. Available from: <a href="http://www.bing.com/images/searchq=Robert+zemeckis&view=detail&id=2903A48A81882090">http://www.bing.com/images/searchq=Robert+zemeckis&view=detail&id=2903A48A81882090</a> 0B1E59A44022909DDD0D66C6&first=0&FORM=IDFRIR&adlt=strict>.

at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Art, where his movie A Field of Honor won a Student Academy Award. 7

After few unsuccessful movies, Michael Douglas hired him in 1984 to the adventure comedy Romancing the Stone, starring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner. This film was very successful and he continued with directing the trilogy Back to the Future, starring Michael J. Fox, Lea Thompson, and Christopher Lloyd.8

Who Framed Roger Rabbit was another film directed by Robert Zemeckis, produced by Steven Spielberg and based on Gary K. Wolf's novel Who Censored Roger Rabbit. This movie combines the using of traditional animation and live action. The starring actors were Bob Hoskins, Charles Fleischer, Christopher Lloyd, Kathleen Turner and Joanna Cassidy.9

His biggest commercial success was Forrest Gump in 1994. This drama about a young man, who is mildly retarded and who achieves professional and personal success amazed everyone. 10

"I read the screenplay and couldn't put it down," said Zemeckis. "It was compelling in a strange way because it didn't have any typical plot devices. And all I wanted to do was find out what was going to happen to this guy."11

His movies are characterized by special effects. He is famous for for a technique called the Performance Capture process. This technique was used for example in the movies as The Polar Express (2004) and A Christmas Carol (2009). The Polar Express is a fantasy film based on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Robert Zemeckis [online] Robert Zemeckis biografy [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: http://www.biography.com/people/robert-zemeckis-212184

Zemeckis Robert [online] [retriever 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\_Zemeckis">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\_Zemeckis</a>

<sup>[</sup>online] April Disney [retrieved 14 2014] Available from: <a href="http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Who\_Framed\_Roger\_Rabbit">http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Who\_Framed\_Roger\_Rabbit</a>

Robert Zemeckis Bio [online] [retrieved 14 April] Available from:

<sup>&</sup>lt;a href="http://www.tribute.ca/people/robert-zemeckis/4015/">http://www.tribute.ca/people/robert-zemeckis/4015/</a> Forrest Gump [online] Andrea Passafiume [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.tcm.com/this-month/article/359270%7C0/Forrest-Gump.html">http://www.tcm.com/this-month/article/359270%7C0/Forrest-Gump.html</a>

children's book of the same title by Chris Van Allsburg. *A Christmas Carol* is an adaptation of the Charles Dickens story of the same name. Both movies are in 3D version.<sup>12</sup>

Robert Zemeckis is the winner many awards such as Oscars', Golden Globe, The Director Guild of America award, The Critics award and many others.

Robert Zemeckis is one of the most successful film directors, who is famous for the creativity and special effects.<sup>13</sup>

His most famous movies:14

I Wanna Hold Your Hand (1978)

Romancing the Stone (1984)

Back to the Future (1985)

Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988)

Back to the Future II (1989)

Back to the Future III (1990)

Death Becomes Her (1992)

Forrest Gump (1994)

Cast Away (2000)

A Christmas Carol (2009)

Flight (2012)

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Česko-Slovenská filmová databáze [online] A Christmas Carol [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.csfd.cz/film/235033-vanocni-koleda">http://www.csfd.cz/film/235033-vanocni-koleda</a> (translation mine)

Robert Zemeckis [online] Robert Zemeckis biografy [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: http://www.biography.com/people/robert-zemeckis-212184

from: http://www.biography.com/people/robert-zemeckis-212184

14 Česko-Slovenská filmová databáze [online] Robert Zemeckis [retriever 14 April 2014]

Available from < http://www.csfd.cz/tvurce/3137-robert-zemeckis/>

## 3. Adaptation of Forrest Gump in the book

Forrest Gump was written by Winston Groom in 1986. 15

The book is written in the first person narrative. The whole story is narrated by the main character, Forrest Gump. The author Winston Groom used many spelling mistakes and it indicated Forrest's character. Winston Groom used a lot of details and descriptions. Events are describes in details. Winston Groom used for the character Gump authentic accents in the dialogues and he wrote some words like they sound.

The book is chronological, starts with the Gump's childhood and ends with Gump's adulthood.

#### 3.1 Main characters in the book

## 3.1.1 Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump is the main character and is named after Nathan Bedford Forrest, who fought in the Civil war and was the founder of Ku Klux Klan. "Mamma always said we was kin to General Forrest's fambly someways."16

Forrest Gump called himself an idiot: "Let me say this: bein a idiot is no box of chocolates." (pg 9) His IQ17 is about 70.

Forrest lived just with his mother, because his father died "he got kilt just after I's born, so I never known him. He worked down to the docks as a longshoreman an one day a crane was takin a big net load of bananas off one of them United Fruit Company boats and somethin broke an the bananas fell down on my daddy an squahed him flat as a pancake"18 Forrest's mum was very wise and strong woman. She was able to bring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Winston Groom [online]. Books Winston Groom. [Retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="mailto://www.winstongroom.com/#!books/cee5">http://www.winstongroom.com/#!books/cee5</a> >

<sup>Groom, 1994, pg. 10
abbreviation from Intelligence quotient
Groom, 1994, pg. 2</sup> 

up Forrest Gump even though she was a single mother. She taught Forrest Gump manners.

Children at the primary school laugh at him because of his stupidity. At the University he was a football player, but he has to study, too. He was very good in the *Intermediate Light* and very bad in *English*.

By coincidence Forrest Gump experienced many adventures. He became an astronaut, chess player, ping-pong and football player and professional wrestler. For a few days he tried to act in the Hollywood movie. Sometimes, he considered himself a failure, but he never capitulated and continued toward new adventures.

Forrest Gump used vulgarisms, was sexually active and was more considered about his life.

#### 3.1.2 Jenny Curran

The next main character is named Jenny Curran. Long time we don't know anything about her, because she lived her life individually. We heard about her from the telling another characters.

When she was a child, she was a normal girl living with her family. She didn't have problems with her childhood. When she was adult, she became a hippie and she demonstrated against war. She was a singer in the music band *The Cracked Eggs*.

When she was older, she changed her life and started to be more responsible. She started to work and lived well-ordered life. She got married and raised her and Forrest Gump's son.

#### 3.1.3 Lieutenant Dan Taylor

Lt.<sup>19</sup> Dan Taylor was a history teacher from Connecticut. He was a history teacher and because he was very intelligent, attended he military school and he became a lieutenant.

He met Forrest Gump in a hospital during the Vietnam War. He was hurt and his legs had to be amputated, but he is able to come to terms with his amputated legs.

He started to drink alcohol, get divorced and became a homeless. He lives on the street and works as a shoeblack. Then he became a part of Forrest Gump's life. They travel around the USA together and because of him Forrest became a wrestler.

11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> abbreviation from Lieutenant

#### 3.1.4 Benjamin Buford Blue – Bubba

Forrest Gump met Bubba at the University of Alabama, where they played football together.

Bubba is a white man, who wanted to do a shrimp business. Bubba came from Bayou La Batre in Louisiana and did shrimping all his life and he knew everything about this business.

As well as Forrest, Bubba served in the army and went to Vietnam. He suffered a several injuries and died right next to Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump made their dream came true and started a shrimp business.

When Forrest Gump became to be successful, he gave money to Bubba's family, because Bubba's father helped Forrest with the beginning of the business.

# 3.2 Summary of the book<sup>20</sup>

The main character Forrest Gump retells story about his life. He introduces his family. Because his father died, he lives with his mother in Alabama. Forrest Gump experiences many adventures. He meets Jenny Curran at primary school and she becomes his best friend. Because of his strong body, he starts to play football at the high school, later at the university and he becomes popular at the All State team.

Because Forrest Gump is "Temporarily Deferred" he doesn't have to serve in the army and can study and play football at the university, where he meets his friend Bubba. But he leaves the university after one semester, because is unable to pass the exams.

He has to go to the army and is sent to Vietnam, where he has to fight in the Vietnam War. Bubba dies there.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Groom, 1994

By coincidence Forrest Gump starts to play ping-pong and becomes a ping-pong star and also he goes on a mission for NASA. When he comes back from the universe, he spends 4 years in New Guinea, where he is held by cannibals. He plays chess there. Back in the USA he becomes chess champions and also professional wrestler.

Forrest Gump finds out that he has got a son with Jenny Curran. But Jenny Curran is married with another man and Forrest just sends his profit from shrimp business, which he realizes like his and Bubba's dream, to Jenny.

## 4. Adaptation of Forrest Gump for screen

The movie *Forrest Gump* was based on the novel of the same name by Winston Groom. *Forrest Gump* was directed by Robert Zemeckis.<sup>21</sup>

The movie was distributed by Paramount Pictures in 1994.<sup>22</sup>

Michael Conner Humphreys acted Forrest Gump as a child. Tom Hanks played adult Forrest Gump. Tom Hanks used Michael Conner Humphreys' accent for the older Forrest Gump after hearing him. <sup>23</sup>

Sally Field played Forrest's mother. Zemeckis needed someone, who was young at the beginning but also he needed someone who could get older. Forrest's best friend Benjamin Buford (Bubba) Blue was played by Mykelti Williamson and adult Jenny Curran was played by the actress Robin Wright. Jenny Currans as a child was played by Hanna R. Hall. Gary Sinise played Lieutenant Dan Taylor.<sup>24</sup>

Forrest Gump as a child was acted by Michael Conner Humphreys. Tom Hanks played Forrest Gump, when he was adult. Tom Hanks used Michael Conner Humphreys' accent for the older Forrest Gump after hearing him.<sup>25</sup>

Sally Field played Forrest's mother. Zemeckis needed someone, who was young at the beginning but also he needed someone who could get older. Forrest's best friend Benjamin Buford (Bubba) Blue was played by Mykelti Williamson and adult Jenny Curran was played by the actress Robin Wright. Jenny Curran as a child was played by Hanna R. Hall. Gary Sinise played Lieutenant Dan Taylor. <sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Wipedia [online] Forrest Gump – movie [retriever 14 April 2014] Available from <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forrest\_gump">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forrest\_gump</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Holanec, 2005, pg. 276-277.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Forrest Gump [online] Andrea Passafiume [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.tcm.com/this-month/article/359270%7C0/Forrest-Gump.html">http://www.tcm.com/this-month/article/359270%7C0/Forrest-Gump.html</a>

This movie had a premier in the United States on July 6, 1994. In 1995 Forrest Gump was nominated for thirteen Academy Awards. This movie got 6 Oscars from thirteen nominations. It won Oscars for Best picture, Best Actor in a Leading Role for Tom Hanks, Best Director for Robert Zemeckis, Screenplay Based on Material Previously Produced or Published for Eric Roth, Best Film Editing and Best Effects, Visual Effects. Other nominations and winnings include Golden Globe Awards, People's Choice Awards and BAFTA Awards and it also won Czech Lions for Best Foreign Language Film. <sup>27</sup>

The production budget was \$55 million, the domestic total gross profit was \$329,694,499 and worldwide gross profit was \$677,387,716. The movie is 142 minutes long. The release date in the Czech Republic was on October 20, 1994.<sup>28</sup>

#### 4.1 Characters in the movie

#### 4.1.1 Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump is the main character in the film. He narrated the whole story about his life on the bench at the bus station.

As the Forrest Gump in the book, Forrest was named after Nathan Bedford Forrest and his mother said "the Forrest part was to remind me that sometimes we all do things that, well, that just don't make sense.<sup>29</sup>

As a child, he had deformity of the spine and he had to wear leg braces, which made his movement difficult and ridiculous. His mother said to him: "Don't ever let anybody tell you they're better than you, Forrest. If God intended everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs." 30 His classmates laugh at him because of it. One

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Internet movie database [online] Forrest Gump awards [retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/awards?ref">http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/awards?ref</a> =tt awd>

able from: <a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/awards?ref\_=tt\_awd">http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/awards?ref\_=tt\_awd</a>
Box Office Mojo [online] Forrest Gump [[retrieved 14 April 2014] Available from: <a href="http://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?page=main&id=forrestgump.htm">http://boxofficemojo.com/movies/?page=main&id=forrestgump.htm</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 5:48 lbid. 6:23

day, during his way home classmates started to throw stones on him. Jenny Curran told him: "Run, Forrest! Run!"<sup>31</sup> (15:58) and Forrest started to run. He lost his leg braces forever. From that day if he was going somewhere, he was running.

Forrest lived just with his mother. His mother said that his father is on a vacation. Forrest's mum was very wise and strong woman. She was able to bring up Forrest Gump even though she was a single mother. She taught Forrest Gump manners.

Forrest Gump had a low IQ of 75 and he was not a good student. He became a football player, after the coach had seen Forrest run. Later, he was named to the All-American team and because of it he met President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

He graduated and joined the army, where he did very well. He also started to play ping-pong and played in the All-American Ping Pong team. As a ping-pong star he met another President – Richard Nixon.

Forrest became a successful businessman in the shrimp business under the name *Bubba Gump Shrimp*.

Forrest Gump was polite and morally upright. He was starry-eyed, he didn't care much about what was happening and what people thought about him.

#### 4.1.2 Jenny Curran

**J**enny Curran is next main character.

Jenny Curran lived with her father, because her mother died, when she was 5. Her father was a farmer and he sexually abused her.

Forrest Gump met her in the bus to school and she invited him to sit next to her, because nobody wanted to sit next to him and they became best friends. They spend a lot of time together. But later she started to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 15:58

live with her grandmother and because Curran posed for Playboy, she had to leave school.

Jenny became a hippie and she demonstrated against war. Even though she was abused when she was a child, she started to be sexually promiscuous and she took drugs.

At the end, Jenny was ill, she had got some unknown virus<sup>32</sup>. She got married to Forrest and they raised together their son Forrest Jr. and Forrest took care of her until her death.

But she was still connected to Forrest's life, they were meeting during their lives. And some parts of their lives they spent together.

#### 4.1.3 Lieutenant Dan Taylor

Forrest Gump met Lt. Dan in Vietnam in the Vietnam War. Lt. Dan was very strong and good lieutenant. One day he was hit to his legs, but Forrest saw that Lt. Dan was still alive and carried him to a safe place. His legs had to be amputated. Lt. Dan always thought that his destiny was to die in the war and he started to despise Forrest for saving him. Lt. Dan had to live without his legs and he was very embittered about that.

He lived in New York, mostly off government program for injured veterans. They met with Forrest again and we can say that they start to be friends. Lt. Dan promises that once he will be Forrest's first mate on a shrimp boat, if he has one one day.

Lt. Dan started to drink alcohol One day, Forrest really bought a boat and Lt. Dan served there as a first mate. After hurricane, they were the only boat that was not destroyed and they started to prosper.

Later, he made Forrest very rich. Forrest follows his advice and invests in Apple Computers. Lt. Dan bought titanium legs and he started new life. He met a Korean woman named Susan and he married her.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> AIDS = acquired immune deficiency syndrome, unknown at that time

## 4.1.4 Benjamin Buford Blue - Bubba

Bubba was Gump's best friend. They met in the Army bus. Bubba had a dream. He wanted to have his own shrimp business. He spoke about shrimp all the time. When he asked Forrest to do this business with him and be the first mate, Forrest agreed. One day in the war, soldiers came under attack from Vietnamese. Forrest ran away, but soon he came back to find Bubba. Bubba lied on the ground and died that day right next to Forrest Gump.

Bubba was African-American man. When Forrest started to be successful in shrimp business, he gives money to Bubba's family.

# 4.2 Summary of the movie<sup>33</sup>

Forrest Gump was born in Alabama. He grew up just with his mother in their house. His father was absent during his life and Gump's mother said that he is on vacation.

In their house lived many people, because they offered their room for hire. One of them is young Elvis Presley and he saw how Forrest Gump was dancing. Later, when he was famous, he used the dancing movements.

Forrest had problem with his spine and he had to wear leg braces. Forrest Gump has IQ 75, so he should go to the special school. His mother arranged that he could go to the normal school with normal children. He met Jenny in the bus to school and she became an important part of Gump's life. Despite his low intelligence, he studied at the university, where he played American football.

After graduation he joined up the army and went to the Vietnam to fight in the Vietnam War. He met there his best friend Bubba and they dreamed about shrimp business. They met there Lt. Dan and Bubba was killed in the attack. Forrest Gump was shot and spent time in a hospital

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture

with Lt. Dan, who get hurt, but Forrest saved him. His legs had to be amputated. Lt. Dan was angry with Forrest, because he thought that his destiny was to die in the war.

Forrest received the Medal for Honour and met Jenny, who was a hippie.

Forrest became a ping-pong star and played for the U. S. Army team. He used earned money from ping-pong and bought a shrimp boat. Lt. Dan promised him time ago that if he ever had a boat, he would be his first mate. So they started to do shrimp business. They were not successful, but after a hurricane they were the only boat which survived. They started to prosper. Lt. Dan was grateful Forrest for saving his life.

Gump's mother was ill and Forrest let Lt. Dan to manage their company. The mother died afterwards. Lt. Dan gave Forrest advice to invest money in shares of the Apple Company. That made them very rich. Forrest gave money to Bubba's family.

Curran came back to the Gump's life. He wanted to marry her, but she refused. They made love, but Jenny left next morning. Forrest Gump decided to run and his running took 3 years. It made from him a celebrity and many people ran with him. One day, he stopped running and went home, where he found a letter from Curran. She wanted to meet him.

Jenny Curran told Gump that they have a son together named also Forrest. Jenny was ill, because she had an unknown virus. They married and Jenny died soon in the same bad as Gump's mother. Forrest took care of young Forrest and was a great father.

## 5. Comparison

I have chosen the method that first I will describe the situations in the novel and subsequently the situations in the movie, because the book and the movie are very different and the comparison is very difficult.

## 5.1 Gump's childhood

In the novel, Gump starts to introduce himself and his family.

"Let me say this: bein a idiot is no box of chocolates."<sup>34</sup> With this sentence Forrest starts his real-life story. Forrest Gump called himself an idiot, imbecile or even a moron. He doesn't think it bad, he just use this term from medical examination. His IQ is near 70, but he likes reading. His most favourite book is *Of Mice and Men* written by John Steinbeck.

In the movie, the story starts on the bench at the bus station. Forrest Gump is narrating the story to the people, who are waiting for the bus. People are changing during his narration.

Forrest's mother named Forrest after Nathan Bedford Forrest, who fought in the Civil war and was the founder of Ku Klux Klan. His mother says that they were related to General Forrest someway. Forrest doesn't have father, because he died, when Forrest was a baby. He died when the load of bananas had fallen down on him. In the movie, Gump's father absented. We don't know what happened with him, Gump's mother says that he is on vacation.

In the novel, Forrest visits the primary school as other normal children, where he doesn't have friends there, but then he meets Jenny Curran and they become friends. After one year Forrest Gump has to go to the special school. He is visiting this school for 5 or 6 years.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Groom, 1994, pg. 9

In contrast to the book, in the movie he visited normal primary school, even though he has IQ35 75. The headmaster sends Forrest Gump to the special school, but his mother has a sexual intercourse with him and Forrest can visit normal school. He has got problems with spine and has to wear leg braces and he becomes object of ridicule.

Gump lives with his mother in the novel as well as in the book. In the movie, Gump's mother owns a big house, where she rents rooms. One lodger is young Elvis Presley, who plays the guitar in the presence of Forrest Gump. Gump is dancing on the song Hound Dog and Elvis says: "Say, man, show me that crazy little walk you just did there. Slow it down some."36 Forrest likes the playing the guitar. "I started moving around to the music, swinging my hips."37 One night Gump's sees in the television Elvis Presley that dances just as Forrest Gump.

#### 5.2 Gump as a football player

In the novel, Forrest Gump starts to grow when he is 13. When he is 16, he weighs 110 kilograms<sup>38</sup> and is 198 centimetres<sup>39</sup> tall. Forrest's life has changed. A football coach from another high school meets Forrest Gump on the street and Forrest starts to be a football player because of his figure. At the beginning, Forrest is not very good player. He is unable to understand the game. One day, the coach saw Forrest, when he was running. From that day Forrest started to be successful football player. He got to the All State Football team. He got the All State Football award. He embarrassed himself there.

"Most everybody had got they prize and said "Thank you," and then it come my turn. Somebody on the microphone call out "Forrest Gump". which, if I hadn't tole you before, is my last name, an I stand up an go

- 18 -

abbreviation of intelligence quotient
 Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 11:11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> 242 pounds = 109.76935354 kilograms

 $<sup>^{39}</sup>$  6 foot 6 = 198.12 centimetres

over an they han me the prize. I lean over to the mike an say, 'Thank you,' an everybody starts to cheer an clap an stand up in they seats. I spose somebody tole them aforehan I'm some kind if idiot, an they makin a special effort to be nice. But I'm so surprised by all this, I don't know what to do, so I jus kep standin there. Then everybody hush u, an the man at the mike he lean over and axe me if I got anything else I want to say. So I says, 'I got to pee." "40

In the movie, Forrest played football, too. He plays football at the University of Alabama and his team wins many times because Gump is very speed runner. Later he is named to the All-American team and meets the President John Fitzgerald Kennedy. When the president asks him, how he is feeling Forrest answers that he has to pee. After reception Nixon offered Gump to stay overnight at the Watergate Hotel. During the night Forrest sees from the window some people in another room. They used only torches, so Forrest calles security. This scene pointed out the *Watergate Scandal*, which lead to Nixon's resignation in August 1974. Gerald Rudolph became the next U.S. president.

In the novel, after high school people from University's football team started to be interested in Forrest Gump. He had to take an exam, but he didn't pass it. After one misunderstanding with Jenny in the cinema he had to go to the custody. He was accused of attempted rape. The judge wanted to send him to the army, but there he couldn't go, because he had a paper which says that his entry to the army was postponed. So then, the judge permitted him to study at the University. The University obtained good football player.

<sup>40</sup> Groom, 1994, pg 21

#### 5.2.1 Meeting Bubba

In the novel, Forrest Gump meets his friend Bubba at the university who teaches him how to play on harmonica. They played football in the same team.

In the movie, Gump doesn't meet Bubba at the university, but in the bus to the boot camp, when they join up the army.

#### 5.3 Gump at the university

Forrest studies subject called "Intermediate Light". Forrest read in the book and he starts to understand and it becomes for him very easy.

Forrest met Jenny Curran again. She studies music and drama, because she wants to be an actress or a singer. Jenny is not angry with Forrest, because of what happened in the cinema before. She knows that it was an accident.

Forrest has problems with several subjects. He fails in English and in physical education. He is good only in Intermediate Light, where he gets A. But because of his problems he had to leave the University.

In the movie Gump is much more successful as a university student and graduated in 1967. "Now can you believe it? After only 5 years of playing football, I got a college degree." (31:10)

He goes back to his mother to Mobile, where he finds out that he

has to go to the U.S. Army Introduction Centre. After one year of hard

military training he has to go to the frontline to Vietnam. There he meets

#### 5.4 The Vietnam War

again his friend Bubba. Bubba tells him that Jenny Curran quitted the school and demonstrates against war.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture 31:10

In the movie, after graduation, comes to Gump a soldier and Forrest joins the army. Forrest undergoes the training very well, but in the novel, he has got problems and is sent to the army kitchen.

As was mentioned before, in the movie, Gump meets Bubba in the bus to the boot camp. And from the first minute he speaks only about shrimp.

Bubba and Forrest dream about their plans after the war. They want to make their own shrimp business. Bubba comes from Bayou La Batre in Louisiana and does shrimping all his life. Bubba knows everything about this business.

#### 5.4.1 Bubba's death

It rains 2 months and Bubba is shot twice in chest. "He was tryin to say something, an so I bent over real close to hear what it was. But I never could make it out. So I axed the medic, 'You hear what he say?' An the medic say, 'Home. He said, home.' Bubba, he died, an that's all I got to say bout that.'<sup>42</sup>

The same happens in the movie. The Vietnamese attack them and many Gump's friends get hurt. Forrest runs away, but he comes back to save Bubba. On the way back to Bubba, Gump saves many hurt soldiers and also saves lieutenant Dan that wants to stay and dies there, because he doesn't want to leave his platoon. Gump finds Bubba, but he is shot in the chest. Bubba dies in Gump's arms.

#### 5.4.2 Forrest in the hospital

Forrest is shot in the bottom and spends 2 months in the hospital. In this hospital he meets a man from Connecticut named Dan. He is a history teacher and because of his intelligence attended he a military school and he became a lieutenant. Forrest and Dan become friends.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Groom, 1994, pg. 67

In the movie, Gump and lieutenant Dan also spend time in the hospital together, because when Lt. Dan was shot, Forrest saves him. Lt. Dan's legs had to be amputated and he can't come to this term.

#### 5.4.3 Forrest as a Ping Pong player

In the hospital Gump starts to be interested in Ping Pong. After few games he plays very well. Literary Forrest Gump receives letter from his mother and from Jenny. His mother writes that their house burnt down and she lives in the poorhouse.

President wants to award Forrest, so he flies back to the United States, where he meets President Johnson and is decorated by him. He gets the Medal of Honour. In the movie, Forrest also gets a Medal of Honour and meets second president in his life - Lyndon Baines Johnson. They have a lunch together and in the TV broadcast the American sitcom Beverly Hillbillies. President Lyndon Baines Johnson says that Forrest Gump is similar to the sitcom character Jethro Bodine.

In the movie, Forrest Gump meets Jenny Curran after he comes back to the United States. Curran is a hippie and demonstrates against the war. She also takes drugs and is still moving from one place to another. Forrest Gump gave her his Medal of Honour and says her to come back to Alabama.

Forrest starts to play Ping Pong as a professional. When he plays a tournament in Washington, he meets Lt. Dan again. Forrest starts to play ping-pong as a member of United States Ping Pong Team. He goes to Red China. It was not just tournament for Gump, it is primarily a diplomatic mission, because it is the first U.S. - China meeting after twenty-five years.

Mao Tse-tung wanted to swim across the river and Forrest was there at the moment. Mao Tse-tung started to drown. Forrest jumped into the river and saved Mao Tse-tung from drowning. But Mr. Wilkins, who was

there with Forrest, told him, that he shouldn't save Mao Tse-tung. "You big dumb goof' he say, 'do you not realize that the best thing that could of happened for the United States was to let that sumbitch drown! You, Gump, is lost us the opportunity of a lifetime."43 This sequence is not in the movie, because this is not based on the true.

In the movie, Gump plays Ping Pong as well and goes to China, too. He becomes very famous and is invited by Dick Cavett to appear on *The* Dick Cavett Show. The second guest is John Lennon and Forrest Gump inspires him to write the song *Imagine*, while he is talking about no possessions and no religion.

Interview - Forrest Gump, John Lennon and Dick Cavett:

Dick Cavett: " Can you tell us what was China like?"

Forrest Gump: "Well, in the land of China, people hardly got nothing at all."

John Lennon: "No possessions?"

Forrest Gump: "And in China, they never go to church."

John Lennon: "No religion, too?"

Dick Cavett: "Hard to imagine."

John Lennon: "Well, it's easy if you try, Dick."44

Few years later, John Lennon is shot. "Some years later that nice young man from England was on his way home to see his little boy and was signing some autographs. For no particular reason at all, somebody shot him."45

#### 5.5 Jenny's life

In the book, when Forrest Gump leaves the army he doesn't know, what to do. So he goes to Boston where he meets Jenny in one club. She

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 1:11:46 – 1:12:15.

45 Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 1:15:08

has got long hair and wears jeans and a shirt with many spangles, "she look like a telephone switchboard."46 She plays in one band named The Cracked Eggs. Jenny tells Gump everything about her life. How she became a hippie, how she dated with some men and with one man she visited antiwar demonstrations. The next man was married and another stole something in the shop and both were arrested. So she started to sing in the band The Cracked Eggs and she started to live new life. Forrest moves to Jenny's place, where she lives with her boyfriend Rudolph.

#### 5.5.1 Gump in the music band

Forrest Gump meets other people from the band and Jenny Curran tells them that he can play the harmonica. Everybody from the band agrees and Forrest starts to play in the band The Cracked Eggs. Forrest Gump also visits Harvard University Doctor Quackenbush's seminar "Role of the Idiot in World Literature". "The title alone is enough to make me feel sort of important."47 Doctor Quackenbush was Jenny's exboyfriend. They play tragedy by William Shakespeare King Lear and Forrest plays the role of the Earl of Gloucester. Unfortunately, Forrest starts a fire, because he is very tall and the ceiling starts to burn, when he holds a torch.

Rudolph leaves Jenny and she starts to be interested in Forrest. And from that time it starts to be different between them. They sleep in one bed together and they have a serious relationship. "All of a sudden things start to change for me – like my whole life jus begun, an I am the happiest feller in the world."48 But few days later, Curran break up with Gump, she sees him with some girls, who are fans of The Cracked Eggs. Jenny Curran leaves and Forrest doesn't know where she is. He finds out, that Jenny Curran lives in Washington and that she takes part in demonstration against war. Forrest goes to Washington to find her. Jenny Curran

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Groom, 1994, pg 96 <sup>47</sup> Groom, 1994, pg. 100

<sup>48</sup> lbid. pg. 103

persuades Forrest Gump to dispose of his medal that he got after he came back from the war. But Forrest hit one man in the suit in the forehead with the medal. The man is the Clerk of the United States Senate. Forrest has to go to the St Elizabeth's mental hospital, where he spends one year.

#### 5.6 Forrest Gump and NASA

Doctors find out, that Forrest brain works as a computer. "Forrest," Doctor Earl say, 'this is phenomenal. You is got a brain jus like a computer. I do not know well you can reason with it - which is probly why you is in here at first place - but I have never seen anythin quite like this before. "49 Forrest is send to NASA50. Forrest should fly with Major Janet Fritch and with female ape named Sue to the universe. By mistake he doesn't fly with female ape Sue, but with male ape. He is not well trained as Sue. But because NASA doesn't want to have problems and shame, the ape is named also Sue and nobody know that they are changed. Sue damages a control panel. They force to land. They land in New Guinea. They meet natives, who are cannibals. One of them can speak English, because he studied at Yale University. They called him Big Sam. Forrest Gump and Janet Fritch have to help them with the cotton growing. Natives become friends with Gump and Fritch. Janet Fritch starts to be interested in one native called Grurck. Forrest Gump plays chess with Big Sam. As a celebration, natives want to eat Forrest Gump, Janet Fritch and ape Sue. But at the same time they are attacked by Pygmy peoples. Forrest Gump, Janet Fritch with Grurck and Sue are captured by Pygmy people. After 4 years, they are saved by people from NASA. Janet with Grurck stay in New Guinea, Sue stays in the jungle too. Gump comes back to the USA.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Groom. 1994

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Abbreviation of National Aeronautics and Space Administration

#### 5.7 Back in the USA

In the USA many people hailed Forrest Gump, including President Nixon, who invited him into the White House. In the movie, Forrest Gump meets the third president in his life - Richard Nixon.

In the novel, Forrest's mother does not live in the poorhouse anymore. She runs off with some protestant. Forrest meets Dan, who lives like a homeless. Forrest discovers that Jenny lives in Indianapolis and she works in the tire factory Temperer. Forrest Gump and Dan Taylor go there to find Jenny. They find the factory, where Jenny works. Jenny lives in the small flat and Forrest and Dan move in Jenny's flat.

In the movie, Forrest Gump meets Lt. Dan Taylor after the TV show *The Dick Cavett Show*. He lives like a homeless, too and is an alcoholic. He still blames Gump for saving his life. They spend time together and they celebrate New Year. Forrest Gump tells him about the promise to Bubba about shrimp business. Taylor laughs at him and ironically says: "The day that you are a shrimp boat captain, I will come and be your first mate. If you're ever a shrimp boat captain, that's a day I'm an astronaut!" 51

#### 5.8 Gump as a wrester

In the book, when Forrest Gump lives with Dan Taylor in Jenny's house, Forrest becomes a wrestler. He is named "The Dunce". Jenny doesn't like it. She says that it is silly and that it embarrasses Forrest. The result is decided before and Forrest Gump and Dan Taylor want to win some money, so they put money on Forrest. Jenny is unhappy and she doesn't want to have anything with it. Due to her disagreement with Forrest's behaviour Jenny leaves Forrest. Forrest is unable to win and they lose all his money. Jenny writes letter to Forrest, where she says goodbye to Forrest. "Dan handed the note to me but I let it drop on the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 1:19:29

floor an just stood there, realizin for the first time in my life what it is truly like to be a idiot."52

#### 5.9 Gump as a chess player

Gump quit with wrestling and goes to Mobile and on the way in Nashville he meets Mr Tribble. They play chess and Mr Tribble discovers that Forrest plays chess very well. Forrest enters the International Championship in Las Vegas. Forrest meets in Hollywood, where he goes for a trip with Mr Triblle, a film director Felder. Forrest plays a monster in his movie. The famous actress Raquel Welch acts in the same movie. Forrest encounters ape Sue, who works for the movie company. Forrest and Raquel Welch are put in the jail, because Raquel is named because of an accident with Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump wins 5 000 dollars in the chess championship, but the finals is ended because of Sue and because Gump needs to answer the call of nature. Forrest Gump together with Sue goes home to Alabama.

#### 5.10 Shrimp business

In the movie, Forrest ends in the army a goes home and he reunites his mother, who gets old. The mother recommends him to do an advertisement on the paddles.

Forrest Gump becomes rich and can go to Baya la Batre, where lives Bubba's family. In the novel, occurs only Bubba's father and in the novel only Bubba's mother.

Gump buys a boat and named her *Jenny*. At the beginning, Forrest Gump is unsuccessful even though Lt. Dan Taylor keeps his promise and joins him. It changes when the area is hit by Hurricane Carmen. Gump's boat is the only one left on the sea. Under the name Bubba Gump Shrimp Company, they soon become very rich. In this time, Lt. Dan Taylor is thankful for Forrest help in the Vietnam War.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Groom, 1994, pg. 185

In the novel, Forrest Gump finds his mother who works in the cleaner's, but she is dismissed. She is alone; the protestant left her with a young girl. Forrest Gump goes to the Bayou La Batre, where Bubba's father lived. He shows Forrest Gump everything about shrimps and Forrest found a good place for shrimping. Gump starts his own business. Forrest Gump becomes a successful businessman. Forrest meets his roommate from the University Curtis in the restaurant. He starts to work for Forrest and tells Forrest about Jenny. She is married and lives in North Carolina.

#### 5.10.1 Gump's election

Forrest Gump is a candidate for the United States Senate. When a reporter asks him what is for him the most pressing issue of the moment, he answers: "I got to pee." And then, "We got to pee." becomes his slogan. Forrest Gump's election campaign looks very positive, but then Forrest's past shows up. Forrest comes back to the shrimping a still has Jenny in his mind. Forrest takes a long holiday and goes with Sue to the Savannah. He plays there harmonica and starts to earn money, because people give him small change. He meets Dan who does shoeblack for living. Forrest meets Jenny with her son Forrest. Her son is named after his father. But Jenny lives with her husband, who doesn't know that little Forrest is not his son. Forrest is very satisfied that his son is not an idiot. Forrest gives 10 percent of his share to his mother, 10 percent to Bubba's father and the rest he sends to Jenny for Forrest junior. Forrest knows that little Forrest has got a better life with Jenny and her husband Donald. This scene occurs only in the novel.

#### 5.10.2 Home in Alabama

In the movie, Forrest Gump finds out that his mother is dying on cancer and runs to Alabama. Before she dies, she says to Forrest the most famous catch-phrase in the movie: "Life is a box of chocolates,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Groom, 1994, pg. 225

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Ibid.

Forrest. You never know what you going to get."<sup>55</sup> Mrs. Gump dies soon. Dan Taylor sees about their business and invests money into Apple Computers and that makes them millionaires. Money is not important for Forrest Gump, so he stays in Alabama and builds a church, establishes medical centre and gives money to Bubba's family.

Jenny Curran comes back to his life and they live like a family. Forrest Gump wants to marry her, but she refuses. They make love in the night and in the morning, Curran leaves. Forrest always solves his problems with running and he starts to run.

#### **5.10.3 Running**

Forrest Gump runs and he runs for no reason, because first he wants to run to the end of the road, then across the town, then across the country Greenbow, then across the state Alabama and he does. He reaches the ocean and he keeps running. He runs across the United States. Some people join him in the running.

Because he is inspiration for many people, one man asks him for an advice. During this conversation, Forrest Gump steps in the dog's excrements and says:

Forrest Gump: "It happens."

Salesman: "What, shit?"

Forrest Gump: "Sometimes."

Few years later, Forrest discovers that that man earns a lot of money with the slogan on the stickers "Shit happens". During his running another man, who lost all his money, wants to put Gump's face on the T-shirts. But Forrest just wipes his muddy face in the T-shirt and keeps running. He forms a smiley face and the man put his face on the T-shirt and earns a lot of money.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 1:40:51

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 1:51:53.

Forrest runs for 3 years, 2 months, 14 days and 16 hours. One day he stops and says: "I'm pretty tired. Think I'll go home now.57 And he stops to run. He walks back to Alabama.

#### 5.11 Present

We are back on the bench at the bus stop. Forrest Gump tells to his last companion on the bench that he just receives a letter from Jenny Curran and she wants to meet him.

Forrest Gump is very happy that he sees Jenny Curran. She introduces him her son, who is very clever and intelligent. He is named Forrest.

Jenny Curran: "This is my very good friend Mr. Gump. Can you say hi to him?"

Young Forrest: "Hello, Mr. Gump."

Forrest Gump: "Hello." 58

Jenny Curran: "His name is Forrest."

Forrest Gump: "Like me!"

Jenny Curran: "I named him after his daddy."

Forrest Gump: "He got a daddy named Forrest, too?"

Jenny Curran: "You are his daddy, Forrest." 59

Jenny Curran tells Forrest that she is ill and has an unknown virus (AIDS) and Forrest invites her and Little Forrest to live with him. Jenny Curran proposes Forrest Gump. Their wedding is small and with a few people. Lieutenant Dan Taylor, who has titanium prosthetic legs, comes with his fiancée Susan. Forrest called his new legs "magic legs". 60

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture,1:58:09

Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 2:01:00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Ibid. 2:01:53

After one year Jenny Curran dies in the same bed as Mrs. Gump. Forrest Gump buries her under the tree where they played as children. He buys her house where she lived as a child with her father and where her father abused her and demolishes it. He misses Jenny terribly; Forrest Gump becomes a good father to Little Forrest.

Crying Forrest Gump speaks with Jenny on her grave.

"You died on Saturday morning. And I had you placed here under our tree. And I had that house of your father's bulldozed to the ground. Mama always said that dying was a part of life. I sure wish it wasn't. Little Forrest's doing just fine. About to start school soon, and I make his breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. I make sure he combs his hair and brushes his teeth every day. Teaching him how to play Ping-Pong. He is really good. We fish a lot. And every night, we read a book. He's so smart, Jenny. You'd be so proud of him. I am."61

Forrest Gump says Jenny Curran that if she anything will need, he will not be far away.

The movie ends when young Forrest goes to the school.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 2:09:22

## 6. The biggest differences between the novel and the movie

As was mentioned before, the movie and the novel contain many differences. At the beginning, the storyline is similar, but then the movie digresses from the novel.

In the movie, Forrest is a part of many historical events, even though he doesn't know about it. We can say that Forrest creates a history, but the authenticity is always kept. Even though he is not very intelligent, he lives actually normal life. Maybe because of his low IQ, he doesn't take his life so seriously and he always deals with everything what he experiences during his life.

Forrest Gump is a clear character who doesn't use foul language and who never thinks sexually. His first sexual experience he has got with Jenny Curran, in contract to the book where he has many sexual experiences and not just with Curran. He also took drugs and he lost his family.

Forrest Gump in the novel was 195 centimetres tall and weighed 110 kilograms, but the star actor Tom Hanks is smaller and slimmer.

#### 6.1 Historical events

When he was young, he met Elvis Presley. He played the guitar and Forrest danced with his leg braces and Presley later adopted Forrest's dancing.

The biggest historical event, where Gump take part, was definitely the Vietnam War, where the author Winston Groom draws inspiration from his own experiences from the Vietnam War.

Forrest meets during his life 3 presidents. The first one was the president John F. Kennedy who invited him as the All-American football player. John F. Kennedy was later assassinated and his brother Robert F. Kennedy, too. "Some time later, for no particular reason, somebody shot that nice young president when he was riding in his car. And a few years

after that, somebody shot his little brother, too, only he was in a hotel kitchen."<sup>62</sup> The second one was Lyndon B. Johnson who awarded Gump the Medal of Honour after he came back from the Vietnam War. And the last president who Gump met was Richard Nixon. After reception Nixon offered Gump to stay in at Watergate Hotel. At night Forrest saw from the window some people in another room. They used only torches, so Forrest called security. This scene pointed out the Watergate Scandal, which lead to Nixon's resignation in August 1974. Gerald Rudolph became the next U.S. president.

As was described, Gump met John Lennon in the TV show and inspired him to write a song Imagine, while Forrest spoke about no possession and no religions in China.

When Forrest started to do a shrimp business, the area was hit by Hurricane Carmen, a destructive and widespread storm that helped Forrest to run his business. All boats in the sea were destroyed, but only the boat Jenny survived.

We also got together with the virus HIV and with the Hippie movement by Jenny Curran.

In the novel, Forrest Gump was also a part of some historical events, but there is not kept the authenticity and he moved with the history.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 30:47

## 7. Visual effects

For the film's visual effect were responsible Ken Ralston and his team at Industrial Light & Magic. Using CGI techniques, Forrest could meet many famous personalities and shake with their hand. Thanks to this technique, Forrest met in the movie these celebrities: Elvis Presley, Neil Armstrong, Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, Lyndon Johnson, John F.

Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, John Lennon, Richard Nixon, Donald Reagan, George Wallace and others. Tom Hanks was first shot against a blue screen along with reference markers so that he could line up with the archive footage.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Forrest Gump-(Through the eyes of Forrest Gump)(DVD). Paramount Pictures.[retreived August 28, 2001]

# 8. Gump's vocabulary in the book<sup>64</sup>

| Word         | Meaning                        | Example sentence                    |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Longshoreman |                                | "My daddy, he got kilt just         |
|              | a person employed on the       | after I's born, he worked           |
|              | wharves of a port, as in load- | down to                             |
|              | ing and unloading vessels      | the docks as a longshore-           |
|              |                                | man." <sup>65</sup>                 |
| Limeade      | A drink consisting of lime     | "In the summer afternoons,          |
|              | juice, a sweetener, and plain  | when it was real hot, my            |
|              | or                             | mama would fix me a cool            |
|              | carbonated water               | pitcher of limeade."66              |
| Lunatic      | An insane person               | "They was retards of all kinds,     |
|              |                                | an lunatics an kids that            |
|              |                                | couldn't                            |
|              |                                | even eat or go to the toilet by     |
|              |                                | theyselfs." <sup>67</sup>           |
| Peculiar     | Strange                        | "Coach Fellers, he has got his      |
|              |                                | real peculiar look on his face,     |
|              |                                | an tell me to get suited up         |
|              |                                | right away." <sup>68</sup>          |
| Goons        | A stupid person or blockhead   | "One of the goons comments          |
|              |                                | that I am the largest halfback      |
|              |                                | in the entire world." <sup>69</sup> |
| Parlor       | A living room                  | "I went to sleep on my cot an       |
|              |                                | was havin a dream bout settin       |
|              |                                | down in the parlor with mama        |
|              |                                | and talkin for hours like we        |
|              |                                | use to." <sup>70</sup>              |

<sup>64</sup> Forrest Gump novel and film [online] Vocabulary from the novel Forrest Gump [retrieved 25 April] Available from: <a href="http://forrestgumpfilmandnovel.weebly.com/forrest-gump-vocabulary.html">http://forrestgumpfilmandnovel.weebly.com/forrest-gump-vocabulary.html</a>
65 Groom, 1994, pg. 3
66 Ibid. Pg .3
67 Ibid. Pg 5
68 Ibid. Pg 10
69 Ibid. Pg 11
70 Ibid. Pg 25

# 9. Quotes from Forrest Gump

Forrest Gump: "Stupid is as stupid does."71

Jenny Curran: "Run, Forrest! Run!"72

Forrest Gump: "My name's Forrest Gump. People call me Forrest

Gump."73

Mrs Gump: "Life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what

you're going to get."74

Salesman: "Shit happens."75

Forrest Gump: "Have a nice day!" 76

Forrest Gump: "Bein a idiot is no bow of chocolate." (pg 1)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Forrest Gump (Forrest Gump, Robert Zemeckis, 1994), Paramount Picture, 14:25 lbid. 15:58

<sup>73</sup> lbid. 32:45 74 lbid. 1:40:51 75 lbid 1:56:40 76 lbid. 1:57:03

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Groom, 1994, pg 1

#### 10. Conclusion

The aim of the thesis was to discover how the novel *Forrest Gump* was adapted in the movie *Forrest Gump* which was based on the novel and to find the differences between both versions.

The bachelor thesis was divided into two parts – theoretical and practical. In the theoretical part, the author Winston Groom and the film director Robert Zemeckis are introduced.

In the practical part I dealt with the main characters that are described separately, because they have different personality traits in the book and another in the movie. I also summarized the stories of the novel and of the movie. This analysis was concerned itself with the differences between the characters as well as with differences in the story.

To accomplish the objective of the bachelor thesis, are compared both versions simultaneously. First were described the events from the novel and afterwards are commented with the events that happened in the movie and the differences between the novel and the movie adaptation were examined.

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## 12. Abstract

The aim of the Bachelor's thesis was to do a comparison how the novel *Forrest Gump* was adapted in the movie *Forrest Gump* and to find the differences between both versions.

The thesis is divided into several parts. The theoretical part introduced the author Winston Groom and the movie director Robert Zemeckis. The practical part shows differences between the novel and the movie.

# 13. Resumé

Cílem této bakalářské práce bylo provést porovnání, jak byla novela Forrest Gump zpracována k zfilmování a najít rozdíly mezi oběma verzemi.

Práce je rozdělena do několika částí. V teoretické části jsou představeni autor Forresta Gumpa a režisér Robert Zemeckis. Praktická část znázorňuje rozdíly mezi knihou a filmem.

### 14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – John Lennon – Imagine

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people
Living for today...

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world...

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one.

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Appendix 2
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Cast<sup>78</sup>

Tom Hanks - Forrest Gump

Sally Field - Mrs. Gump

Robin Wright Penn – Jenny Curran

Gary Sinise – Lt. Dan

Mykelti Williamson – Bubba

Michael Conner Humphreys - Young Forrest

Hanna R. Hall - Young Jenny

Sam Anderson – Head master

Haley Joel Osment – Little Forrest

Peter Dobson -Young Elvis Presley

Siobhan Fallon - School Bus Driver

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Internet movie databaseh [online] Forrest Gump [retriever 29 April 2014] Available from <a href="ttp://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/?ref\_=fn\_al\_tt\_1">ttp://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/?ref\_=fn\_al\_tt\_1</a>