

I Want It All

dragonchic

Achievement in Use of Music - Winner 2011
Achievement in Vidding - Shortlist 2011

The review below may contain spoilers for Friday Night Lights up to season 3.

Nicky: I love all of vidding's possibilities, in terms of the stories you can tell and the scope of things you could say. But for me, it's still at its heart a fannish labour of love, a way to really express your feelings about a show and its characters. I Want It All is an exemplary character study, an affecting story about figuring out what you want and then overcoming all the obstacles in your path to get it, with a little help from your friends and family.

HWG: I haven't seen the source but from what I understand, "figuring out what you want and then overcoming all the obstacles in your path to get it, with a little help from your friends and family" is a huge theme for Friday Night Lights in general. It's nice to see it fully realized here in what you aptly described as a labor of love vid.

Nicky: The vid's narrative is crystal-clear. Even if you know nothing about Friday Night Lights, I suspect this vid would be easy to follow. The character motives are defined so well from the outset that they drive all subsequent emotional development. Smash begins the vid on top of the world, but buckles under the weight of expectation. Cue Coach Taylor (and Freddie Mercury!) to bring him back on track.

HWG: Is there anything clearer than crystal-clear? Because this vid was it. As previously mentioned, I don't watch FNL and I had no clue who this Smash was prior to watching, but now I feel I know everything about him. The story is told directly, succinctly, even effortlessly. And if there are any gaps left to be filled, the song quickly underlines the character intentions: What does Smash want? ALL OF IT. When does he want it? RIGHT NOW.

Nicky: It's absolutely genius to assign Coach Taylor's POV to the Queen sampling. For me, this choice just makes so much intuitive sense that I can't help smiling every time 1:43 rolls around, and it becomes very much a two-way conversation between the characters. I especially love how both the POV assignment *and* emotional tie with Coach Taylor comes full circle around 3:16 - 3:21 - an incredibly satisfying moment.

HWG: I cannot tell you how much I LOVE when people use mash ups or songs with distinct samplings like this to the utmost! Assigning characters to the different voices in the song is always a great idea and here it's just utilized in such a meaningful way. The one thing I am familiar with in terms of this show *is* Coach Taylor so it was great to have him roll into the story to the beat of those timeless stomps and claps. I get chills at how deliciously meta the decision to pair Coach with Queen really is, particularly since "We Will Rock You" is an absolute staple at any sporting event. So whenever we see him on screen it's like he embodies that stadium of cheering fans and through him the audience also cheers Smash on: YOU CAN DO IT, SMASH! WE BELIEVE IN YOU!

Nicky: Although Queen=Coach Taylor is the thing that captured my imagination upfront, the music use in all other aspects of this vid is also a thing of beauty. There's a swaggering energy

throughout, the effortless flow and motion peppered by some tongue-in-cheek moments of musicality such as the lights coming on the vocals at 0:37, or the lovely speed change at 1:54.

HWG: Mmmm I love that speed change at 1:54! Yeah, the rhythm of the entire vid is glorious. I think the vérité style of the source really works for this type of vid, especially when a skilled vidder knows how to maneuver through hand-held footage and use it to her advantage. That way every little shake and zoom become part of the dance, and the visuals flow smoothly and pristinely.

Nicky: Both the music and lyrics are very consciously used as a means to serve the narrative. I love the way the key phrase "I want it all" takes on slightly different meanings each time the chorus comes up - from swaggering insouciance, to frantic desperation, to a new determined resolve. It's an articulate road map to the entire character arc.

HWG: Absolutely. Giving slightly different meanings to a repeated phrase in songs is another favorite vidding technique of mine! And here through that you really feel the evolution of the character. I love how his goals reach further and further as the story goes on. How he starts from being a big fish in a little pond going "all the way to state" to being courted by college scouts and crumbling under the pressure then slowly digging himself back out again. It's such a natural progression.

Nicky: Dragonchic has managed to pack Smash's journey over three seasons into an incredibly articulate 3:30 minutes. It's a classic character arc presented with a lot of loving care. When you see the prolonged clip of his smiling face at 3:24, it really, really feels earned.



THE FOURTH WALL
