

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
1 On the Nature and Theory of the American Dream	7
1.1 The American Dream's Essence	7
1.2 <i>The First Dreamers</i>	9
1.3 Proclaiming the American Dream	11
1.4 The Dream of Individual Success	15
1.5 The American Dream's Mythology	17
2 A Role-Model's Upward Mobility in <i>The Pursuit of Happiness</i>	23
2.1 Chris Gardner's American Dream	23
2.2 Realizing the Dream in US Society	26
2.3 The Fictional and Real-Life Authority of Chris Gardner's Dream	30
3 The Private Dream Goes Public in <i>Milk</i>	37
3.1 Harvey Milk's American Dream	37
3.2 Dreaming Along With Harvey Milk	41
3.3 The Dark Side of Harvey Milk's Dream Story	48
4 A Little Misguided in <i>Little Miss Sunshine</i>	51
4.1 A Variety of American Dream Stories	51
4.2 The American Dream Becomes a Nightmare	56
4.3 Waking Up from the American Nightmare	59
5 On the American Dream in Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign	65
5.1 Barack Obama and the American Dream	65
5.2 The Mythological Foundation of Obama's American Dream	69
5.3 The Success of Obama's American Dream Story	75
Conclusion	81
Bibliography	85