



Time Trial – Review

There's a painful, pent up **anger** and hurt at the heart of this documentary portrait of David Millar, the Scottish road-race cyclist and former Tour de France champ who was banned for **doping** in 2004 and, then became known as an anti-doping campaigner. It follows Millar as he prepares to take one last **crack** at the Tour de France, this time as a "clean" rider, thus preparing us for a Hollywoodised story of redemption. But it ends in his dreams being brutally and anticlimactically **crushed**; his team-leader drops him because he is not performing well enough – an **awful** implied comment on his entire past record, and just the kind of career gravestone inscription he was hoping to avoid.



The film immerses us in the (to my amateur eye) rather **joyless** business of grinding up and down hills and boiling with sweary resentment at other cyclists. Millar is shown at one **stage** having to be pulled over by his team to get his gloves on and jacket zipped up properly, like a miserable kid. Then there are taciturn "interviews" with Millar, who is captured in melodramatic shadowy darkness. He clearly hates talking about the drug shame of the past, perhaps partly because it feels as if he's reopening the wound and partly because, in the immortal words of Ronald Reagan:



"If you're explaining, you're losing." Winners let their success speak for them. It reminded me of that other notorious cycling drug **cheat** Lance Armstrong and his tight-lipped resentfulness in Alex Gibney's film *The Armstrong Lie* – though Millar was always a lot more **honest**.

Finally we see Millar dancing in a club, evidently happy to be released from the terrible burden of competitive cycling. That image looks as if it has been tacked on to create something approaching a happy-ish ending. The reality may be a bit more **downbeat**.

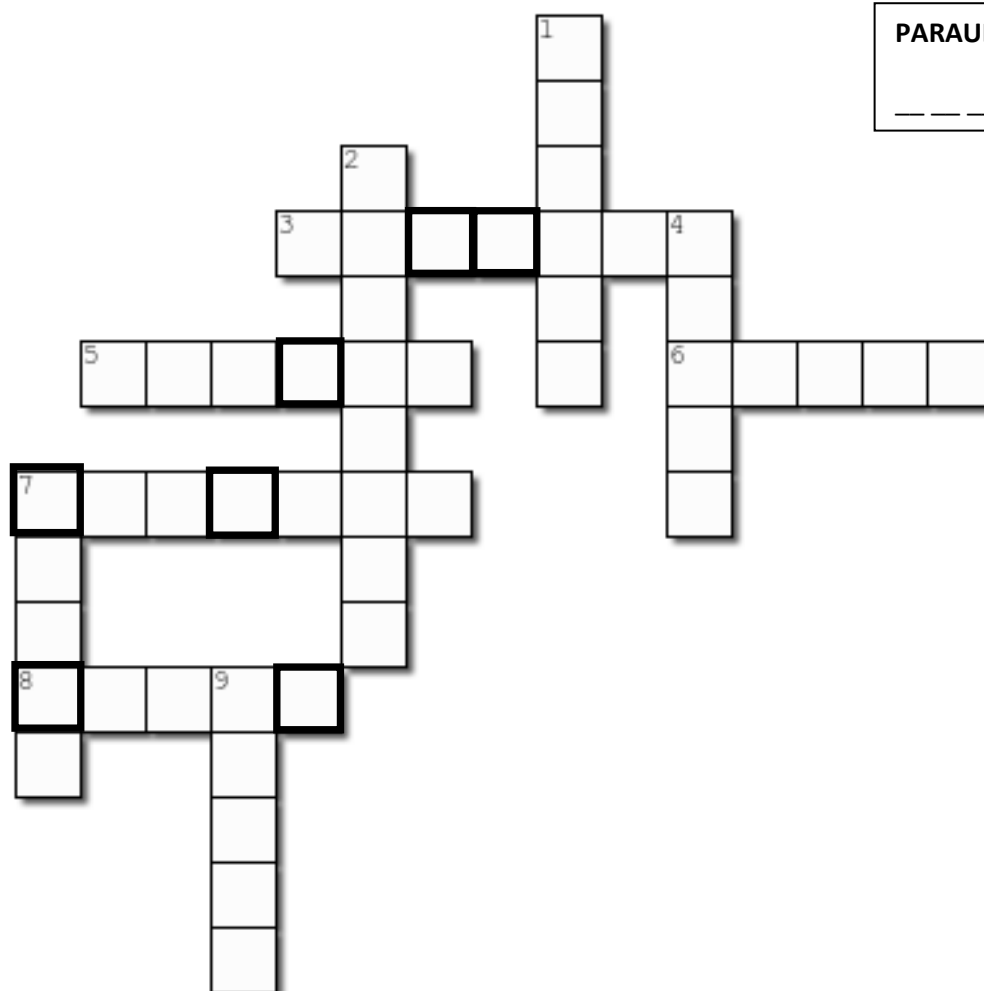
Time Trial – Crossword

GUANYA 2 ENTRADES GRATUÏTES AMB EL CINEMA ESBARJO I CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL

1) Completa els mots encreuats amb el vocabulari de la crítica.

2) Reuneix les lletres de les caselles en negreta i forma la paraula secreta.

3) Sigues el 1er en publicar la paraula al Facebook de Cambridge School www.facebook.com/CambridgeSchoolPage i guanyaràs 2 entrades per a una pel·lícula en VO al **Cinema Esbarjo de Cardedeu** (a recollir al mateix cinema).



PARAULA SECRETA:

ACROSS

- 3. not happy and giving you no feelings of pleasure
- 5. the use of drugs to enhance sporting performance
- 6. the strong feeling you get when you think someone has treated you badly or unfairly, that makes you want to hurt them or shout at them
- 7. very disappointed
- 8. someone who cheats and is dishonest

DOWN

- 1. a person who doesn't tell lies or cheat people, and obeys the law
- 2. Not happy or hopeful
- 4. a particular point in time during a process or set of events
- 7. an attempt
- 9. very unpleasant, terrible



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