

The king's speech

Regie: Tom Hooper
2010 (115')



Bertie is the son of the King of England and himself a future king, and Lionel is the unconventional speech therapist, a commoner from Australia, who not only helps Bertie find his voice but also forces him to confront his past. 'The King's Speech' is based on the true story of these two men during the years leading up to the Second World War.

The King's Speech is a warm, wise film - the best period movie of the year and one of the year's best movies. San Francisco Chronicle

What we have here is a superior historical drama and a powerful personal one. Chicago Sun-Times

Vocabulary and expressions:

The loo: The toilet

I'm just in the loo.

To no avail: Without a successful outcome

He's seen everyone to no avail.

Hubby: Husband

To pop by: To come round; to visit

We need to have your hubby pop by.

Frank: Straightforward; to the point

I'll make a frank appraisal.

To make matters worse: To make things worse.

What made matters worse was ...

Awfully: Very

To stammer: To speak with involuntary pauses or repetitions

I bloody well stammer!

To natter: To chatter; to talk idly

Everyone natters to themselves occasionally, Bertie.

Flawlessly: Without imperfection; faultlessly

I'll bet you that you can read flawlessly, right here, right now.

A shilling: Unit of currency (sterling)

A bob: popular or slang word for shilling (5 pence)

To take sb. on: To employ somebody, give somebody a job

I haven't agreed to take you on yet.

Bugger!: Damn! (offensive)

Bugger off!: Get lost! Go away! (offensive)

Dreadful: Awful, terrible

I feel dreadful.

All that work down the drain: All that work wasted

To abdicate: To give up or renounce (power, authority etc)

To overstep the mark: To go too far when you do or say something

To bear up: To cope with a difficult situation

How are you bearing up?

Shell shock: Psychological trauma suffered during war due to effect of bombing

Some things to consider:

In what ways do you sympathise with King George?

Speech is central to the film – in what ways is it central?

To what extent is speech and giving speeches important in the world that we inhabit?

Bertie and Lionel were from very different sectors of society – what role did this play in their relationship?

The film is loosely based on fact. Is it important that it is historically accurate or is it enough that the history provides an interesting background?

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