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CULTURE

English-speaking World

● Citizenship

● Global Goals

● Exams

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



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LANG
LINGUE E FUTURO

THAT'S
AMAZING!



5 GENDER
EQUALITY



'Billy Elliot', 2000, directed by Stephen Daldry

BILLY ELLIOT and gender stereotypes

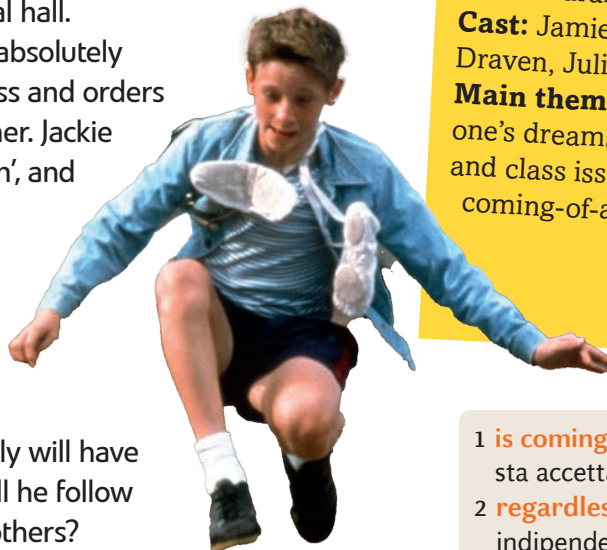


WARM UP

Look at the picture above.
How old is the boy? What does he
look like? What is doing? Why do
you think he is there?

Plot summary

1984: in a northern England mining town, miners are on strike. Eleven-year old Billy Elliot lives with his father Jackie, who recently lost his wife, his older brother Tony and his invalid grandmother. While Jackie and Tony are participating in the coal miner's strike, Billy discovers he doesn't like the brutal boxing lessons he's taking: instead he prefers joining in the girls' ballet class at the local hall. When Jackie finds out the truth, he gets absolutely furious, so he stops Billy going to the class and orders him to stay at home with his grandmother. Jackie thinks all ballet dancers are not 'real men', and fears there is something wrong with his son. However, Billy secretly takes classes with Mrs. Wilkinson, who wants him to audition for the Royal Ballet School in London. The only one he tells is his best friend Michael, who **is coming to terms**¹ with being gay. At some point Billy will have to make a choice: his family or ballet. Will he follow his dreams **regardless of**² the views of others?



Film facts

Year: 2000

Director: Stephen Daldry

Written by: Lee Hall

Genre: drama

Cast: Jamie Bell, Jamie Draven, Julie Walters

Main themes: fulfilling one's dreams, gender and class issues, coming-of-age

GLOSSARY

- is coming to terms**
sta accettando
- regardless of**
indipendentemente da

Awards

Billy Elliot was a great commercial success. At the 2001 BAFTA Jamie Bell won the Leading Actor award. In addition to this, the film was nominated at the Academy Awards for Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Actress in a Supporting Role. In 2005, the film was converted into a successful West End and Broadway musical, that some critics consider one of the best British musical ever written.



ACTIVITIES

1 TOWARDS INVALSI Read all of the information about the film 'Billy Elliot'. Tick T (true), F (false) or NG (not given).

- 0 Stephen Daldry directed Billy Elliot. T F NG
- 1 The film is set in Scotland, during a difficult time for working-class people. T F NG
- 2 The main character is a motherless teenage boy named Billy Elliot. T F NG
- 3 Billy lives with his family and discovers his passion for ballet. T F NG
- 4 Jackie wants his son to become famous and is happy about his dancing skills. T F NG
- 5 Billy's best friend, Michael, is in love with him. T F NG
- 6 Billy's teacher, Mrs. Wilkinson, is very supportive and has a fight with his father. T F NG



2  **021 TOWARD KEY** Listen to three people talking about the film 'Billy Elliot'. Choose a or b.

- 1 Amy...
 - a is enthusiastic about the film.
 - b thinks that this film is good only for young people.
- 2 According to Amy, the idea behind the story is...
 - a complex and not realistic.
 - b positive and simple.
- 3 Ben...
 - a liked the film but found some imperfections in it.
 - b identified with Billy.
- 4 Nora seems interested in...
 - a the historical background.
 - b the soundtrack and costumes.

3 DEBATE  **Life skills** Work in groups. Exchange ideas and answer the questions.

- ◆ Can you mention other examples of books, films, songs that in your opinion challenge stereotypes?
- ◆ Do you know of any gender or racial stereotypes in sports?