



Friday 30 November 2012 - ČAK, Birkirkara

The King's Speech

118 minutes - Biography/Drama/History - 24 December 2010 (USA)

The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it.

Director: Tom Hooper

Writers: David Seidler (screenplay)

Original Music: Alexandre Desplat

Actors

Colin Firth	...	<i>King George VI</i>
Helena Boham Carter	...	<i>Queen Elizabeth</i>
Geoffrey Rush	...	<i>Lionel Logue</i>
Derek Jacobi	...	<i>Archbishop Cosmo Lang</i>
Guy Pearce	...	<i>King Edward VIII</i>
Michael Gambon	...	<i>King George V</i>
Eve Best	...	<i>Wallis Simpson</i>
Jennifer Ehle	...	<i>Myrtle Logue</i>
Timothy Spall	...	<i>Winston Churchill</i>
Claire Bloom	...	<i>Queen Mary</i>
Freya Wilson	...	<i>Princess Elizabeth (the future Elizabeth II)</i>

The story

In the mid 1930s, **King George V** is concerned about the immediate future of the British monarchy. His eldest son **David**, first in line for the throne, is in a relationship with American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Marriage to a divorcée and being King of England (and thus head of the Church of England) is incompatible. And



King George V's second son, **Albert** (or Bertie as he is called by family), second in line for the throne, speaks with a stammer, something he's had since he was a child. Although a bright and temperamental man, Bertie, because of his stammer, does not capture the confidence of the public, which is paramount if Britain does enter into war against Hitler's regime. As King George V states about living in a communications age, a king can no longer get by in life solely by looking good in a regal uniform and knowing how to battle riding a horse.



Elizabeth, Bertie's loving wife, wants to help her husband gain confidence solely in his increasing need to speak at public functions, regardless of if he becomes king or not. She finds an unconventional Australian raised speech therapist named **Lionel Logue** to help assist in curing Bertie's stammer, with no one, even Lionel's family, knowing he has this job with the royal highness. Logue did not have a medical degree but had worked as an elocution coach in the theatre and had worked with shell-shocked soldiers after World War I. Due to his unconventional methods and relationship,

Bertie decides to give up the treatment on his first day. However, after listening to the session that was recorded by Lionel, Bertie returns to the treatment.

Lionel and Bertie's relationship is often an antagonistic one as Lionel feels the need for the two to be equals during their sessions, with Lionel even calling him Bertie instead of your royal highness, which doesn't sit well with him, as he is not used to such dealings with a commoner. Lionel does in time become Bertie's confidante and friend, especially from Lionel's side as he tries to determine the

psychological issues behind the speech impediment. An issue with Lionel, which he does not hide but also does not fully disclose, may threaten their relationship altogether, which may be especially problematic as a still stammering Bertie ultimately becomes King George VI. Immediately after, there is a crisis in the government and England declares war to Germany. King George VI needs to make a speech to his compatriots, and his friend Lionel helps him using an unorthodox technique. The King and Logue remained lifelong friends.



Director: Tom Hooper

Thomas George "Tom" Hooper (born 1972) is a British film and television director of English and Australian background. Hooper began making short films at the age of 13, and had his first professional short, *Painted Faces*, broadcast on Channel 4 in 1992. At Oxford University Hooper directed plays and television commercials. After graduating, he directed episodes of *Quayside*, *Byker Grove*, *EastEnders* and *Cold Feet*. Into the 2000s, Hooper directed the major BBC costume dramas *Love in a Cold Climate* (2001) and *Daniel Deronda* (2002), and was selected to helm the 2003 revival of ITV's *Prime Suspect* series, starring Helen Mirren. Hooper made his feature film debut with *Red Dust* (2004), a South African drama starring Hilary Swank and Chiwetel Ejiofor, before directing Helen Mirren again in the Company Pictures/HBO Films historical drama *Elizabeth I* (2005).



He continued working for HBO on the television film *Longford* (2006) and in *John Adams* (2008), a seven-part serial on the life of the American president. Hooper returned to features with *The Damned United* (2009), a fact-based film about the English football manager Brian Clough (played by Michael Sheen). The following year saw the release of the historical drama *The King's Speech* (2010), starring Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush, which was met with critical acclaim. Hooper's work was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Directing for *Prime Suspect* and *John Adams*, won one for *Elizabeth I*, and was nominated for the British Academy (BAFTA) TV Craft Award for Best Director for *Longford*.

Composer: Alexandre Desplat

Alexandre Michel Gérard Desplat (born 23 August 1961) is a French film composer. He has received four Academy Award nominations, five BAFTA nominations, five Golden Globe nominations, and two Grammy nominations. Desplat won his first Golden Globe for *The Painted Veil* in 2006 and his first British Academy Film Award in 2011. Among various projects, Desplat has worked on a variety of Hollywood films including independent and commercial successes like *The Queen*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *New Moon*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1* and *Part 2*, and *The King's Speech*.



Awards

Academy Awards 2001: Won Best Achievement in Directing (Tom Hooper), Best Motion Picture of the Year, Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role (Colin Firth) & Best Writing, original screenplay.

Art Directors Guild 2001: Won Excellence in Production Design Award.

Austin Film Critics Association 2010: Won Best Actor (Colin Firth).

Japanese Academy 2012: Won Best foreign language film.

BAFTA Awards 2011: Won Best Film, Best Leading Actor (Colin Firth), Best Music (Alexandre Desplat), Best Screenplay (David Seidler), Best Supporting Actor (Geoffrey Rush) & Best Supporting Actress (Helena Bonham Carter).



Next appointment!

Friday 25th January 2013

The film...

To be announced later.

CAK Conference Hall, S. Sommier Street, Birkirkara
@ 7.30pm

Entrance Donation €2 Info: Tel: 21498343
E-mail: info@cakmalta.org

