

# Billy Elliot

## Intro

In the movie Billy Elliot, Stephen Daldry analysis three techniques struggles with adversity, pursuing of dreams and search for identity that the characters experience in the movie.

Stephen Daldry highlights the working-class culture of Billy's home town to emphasise the struggles that Billy needs to overcome. Daldry combines the poor setting of Durham with the cluttered and untidy mise-en-scene of Billy's home to remind us that Billy's family and community are doing it tough because of the miners strike. Billy has a lot of trouble with the way the miners in his town have a negative opinion of boys doing ballet. He is forced to study in secret to persevere with his ballet development, meaning lying to his father and facing up to verbal and physical abuse, which is normal in his town.

Stephen Daldry highlights the struggle with adversity of Jackie (Billy's dad) that he needs to overcome. With the recent passing of his wife his emotion is always sad and angry and takes his frustration out on his family. Jackie finds it hard to except Billy for wanting to pursue ballet which is Billy's passion. Jackie found it difficult about the miners strike because he needed money, being very verbal abusive towards them, which is normal in his town.

Daldry highlights pursuing dreams of Billy. When he walks into the ballet class and tries it for the first time which he kind of enjoyed. He started going to the ballet classes instead of the boxing lessons, he when even further to the point of getting private lessons to audition for the Royal Ballet School. Which was not normal for boys in his town.

Stephen Daldry highlights pursuing dreams of Mrs Wilkinson. She teaches a ballet class, she also has a daughter that does ballet. She tries her best to teach them to benefit them if they want to go on with ballet and meets Billy and sees something in him and Billy wants to become a professional ballet dance. Mrs Wilkinson makes private lessons for Billy to make him good enough to audition for the Royal Ballet School.

Stephen Daldry shows us the search for identity of Billy when Billy is told to practice and learn at home to become a better ballet dancer. So, he decides to go to the local library to find a ballet book, but gets caught reading the book by the library lady saying, 'you shouldn't be reading that'. When she gets distracted by something outside Billy runs out with the book under his shirt.

Daldry shows us the search for identity of Michael (Billy's best friend). is unsure about his gender wearing girls clothes and makeup. Billy asks him 'does anyone know' Michael says, 'it's fun. my dad dresses up all the time when no one's around'. So, it kind of runs in the family.

### Conclusion

In the movie Billy Elliot, through all the experiences that Billy went through he went on to becoming a professional ballet and later becoming the star of the ballet shows.