**The king's speech**

***The*** King 's*Speech* is a[2010](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/2010)[film](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film) directed byTom[Hooper](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Hooper" \o "Tom Hooper) .

Starring [Colin Firth](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colin_Firth) , [Geoffrey Rush](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoffrey_Rush) , [Helena Bonham Carter](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Helena_Bonham_Carter) and [Guy Pearce](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Pearce) , the film, inspired by a true story, revolves around King [George VI 's](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_VI_del_Regno_Unito)[stuttering](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbuzie) problems and his relationship with the [speech therapist](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logopedista)[Lionel Logue](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Logue) , who treated him. The speech referred to is the one with which the king announced to the nation the declaration of war on [Germany](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germania) and the consequent entry of the [United Kingdom](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regno_Unito) into [the Second World War](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seconda_guerra_mondiale) .

## **Plot**

London, [1925](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/1925) . Prince [Albert](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_VI_del_Regno_Unito) , [Duke of York](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duca_di_York) and second son of King [George V](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_V_del_Regno_Unito) , gives the closing speech of the British Empire Exhibition at [Wembley Stadium](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wembley_Stadium_(1923)) . An obvious [stuttering](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balbuzie" \o "Stuttering) problem is a source of great discomfort for the prince and causes great embarrassment in the thousands of people present in the stadium. After experimenting with various therapies and consulting numerous [speech therapists](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Logopedista) without evident improvements, the prince chooses to give up giving other public speeches in the future. As a younger son, his institutional role is secondary and leaves him room to devote to his family. Alone with his wife [Elizabeth](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Bowes-Lyon" \o "Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon)and daughters [Margaret](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret,_contessa_di_Snowdon) and Elizabeth (the future [Elizabeth II](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabetta_II_del_Regno_Unito) ), still children, problems of vocal expression seem forgotten. It happens differently when Albert is in the presence of his father, [King George V](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_V_del_Regno_Unito) , whose authoritarian temperament seems to emphasize the prince's already evident language problems.

The Duchess of York goes one day to the office of [Lionel Logue , an](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lionel_Logue)[Australian](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) -born therapist and expert in speech problems. Introducing herself under a false name, the duchess asks to submit her husband to the method developed by Logue. The prince agrees to meet the speech therapist, but is deeply discouraged by the idea of ​​undergoing yet another bankruptcy therapy. To convince him of the validity of his method, Logue, who is passionate about the works of [Shakespeare](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare) (this can be seen when he quotes a couple of lines from Iago from *Othello* and also when he recites lines from Caliban from The *Tempest* ), asks him to read aloud a passage from [Hamlet](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amleto" \o "Hamlet)at the same time making him listen to loud music on the headphones. The patient, albeit skeptical and annoyed, performs and Logue records his voice. But the prince, impatient, interrupts the session prematurely and leaves, however agreeing to take the recording just performed with him. Only later, after listening to the record - in which he unexpectedly discovers that he has declaimed the passage from Hamlet fluently - does the prince agree to undergo therapy.

In the first session Logue establishes precise rules. In the first place he asks to be able to establish a confidential relationship with the patient, without rules of etiquette and formalisms: he asks to be called only Lionel and to be able to call Prince *Bertie* , a nickname used only in the family until then. From that moment on, the prince embarked on an elaborate journey, made up of muscle relaxation and breath control exercises, accompanied by tongue movement and pronunciation exercises.

Upon the death of [George V](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgio_V_del_Regno_Unito) , the [Prince of Wales](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principe_di_Galles) ascends the throne as [King Edward VIII](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edoardo_VIII_del_Regno_Unito) . However, the conduct of the new king fuels great reservations: he intends to marry [Wallis Simpson](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallis_Simpson) , an American who has already been divorced twice. Albert warns his brother that as king and head of [the Church of England](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chiesa_Anglicana) he will not be allowed to marry a divorced woman.

Meanwhile, the relationship between Lionel and Bertie becomes increasingly close and confidential: Logue tries to investigate the psychological roots of the prince's problem. Personal episodes re-emerge, linked to Bertie's childhood and adolescence, from which the speech therapist understands the origin of the stuttering. Logue is convinced that the prince could make a fine king, in the event that his brother Edward relinquishes the title, and expresses his opinion. However, Bertie reacts with annoyance to what he considers an excess of confidence and ends the relationship with him.

As expected, for the sake of his future wife, [King Edward](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edoardo_VIII_del_Regno_Unito)[abdicated](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdicazione) in favor of his brother, who was styled King George VI. As ruler of a great empire now Albert can no longer escape meetings and public speeches. Apologizing for past misunderstandings, he asks Logue to resume therapy.

Meanwhile, preparations are in full swing for the coronation ceremony at [Westminster Abbey](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abbazia_di_Westminster) . [Archbishop](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arcivescovo" \o "Archbishop)[Cosmo Lang](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cosmo_Lang) doesn't like Logue's presence and has his background investigated . Thus the king discovers that his friend is not a real doctor, but a failed actor and confronts him. Lionel replies that he has never deceived him: he has never boasted degrees or academic titles, always declaring himself only an "expert in speech therapy". His is an experience acquired in the field with years of work, including the one carried out immediately after the Great War with the many soldiers who had [language problems](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shell_shock" \o "Shock shell)as a result of severe trauma. Bertie trusts him again and the coronation ceremony goes off without a hitch.

At the time of the [1939](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/1939)[declaration of war](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dichiarazione_di_guerra) on [Germany](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germania) , George VI summons Logue to [Buckingham Palace](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckingham_Palace) to prepare the Address to the Nation to be broadcast by radio. Despite the difficulty of the moment and the great emotion, Logue manages to calm the king and stays by his side during the reading of the speech, accompanying him with rhythmic gestures and helping him with his gaze to put the learned techniques into practice.

The speech is a success and creates a strong emotional impact in the nation. After thanking Logue for his help, the king looks out on the balcony of [Buckingham Palace](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buckingham_Palace) with his wife and daughters to greet the thousands of people who have come to applaud him.