

# **BALLET IDIOT**

**By Rod**

A parody of the film Billy Elliot. Billy is returning home on Sunday night. He is holding a holdall and has boxing gloves hanging round his neck. His Mum and Dad have been awaiting his return.

## CAST

*Billy* a teenager. Son of working class parents.

*Billy's Mum*

*Billy's Dad*

BILLY *[Entering]* Hello, Mum.

MUM Hello, Billy.

B Hello, Dad.

DAD And where have you been my lad?

B What do you mean?

D What I mean is – where have you been?

B I've been where I usually go on a Sunday evening.

D And where's that?

B What do you mean?

D What I mean is – where do you usually go on a Sunday evening. You leave here with your boxing gloves and boxing kit, so naturally your mother and I assume you go to boxing.

B So?

D Well yesterday I met Mr Braithwaite, your boxing coach, down at the Working Men's Club.

B *[Looking sheepish]* Oh.

D He said you hadn't been to boxing for over two months.

B *[Even more sheepishly]* Oh.

D So, Billy, I ask you again: where have you been? *[Billy falls silent. Looks at toes]*

M Tell your father, Billy.

D I'm waiting for an answer.

B *[Hesitantly]* I've been to ..... church.

D Church!!

M *[Sobbing]* Oh, Billy!

B But you don't understand. It's really great at church. They explained to me how you can start a new life by being born again.

M You, born again! It was bad enough the first time. Nine pounds you were. Ooh, how I suffered. If it wasn't for that Pethadin I'd never have made it. I've never recovered. I've got stretch marks the size of the Grand Canyon. I'm not having you being born again at your age. The thought of it makes me shudder.

B You don't understand. I don't mean literally born again. I mean born of the Spirit.

D Spirit is it? I thought you must have been drinking. Have you been at my whisky lad?

B Not that sort of spirit, Dad. The vicar explained that we've each got a God-shaped hole in our hearts.

D I'll give you a fist-shaped hole in the head if you don't stop talking so daft.

B For us to be complete and fully alive this hole needs to be filled in.

D I'll fill you in if you're not careful. Anyway, what use is church? Church is for women and children. Men go to boxing so they can build up their muscles. That's what you'll need when you go down the pit.

B I'm not going down the pit, Dad.

D Not going down the pit? Elliot's have been going down the pit for generations. What makes you so different?

B I want something better, Dad. It says in the Psalms: "He lifted me out of the slimy pit. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God".

M What hymn are you talking about, Billy?

D Next thing you'll be telling us you want to be a choirboy.

B I might.

D No son of mine is going to dress himself up in women's clothing and make a fool of himself in public. I'd be a laughing stock.

B I only said I might. But church makes me feel good in myself. Sometimes I feel so filled with love for Jesus I feel like dancing for joy.

D It's dancing now is it? Nancying more like. Pull yourself together, son. Act like a man.

M Oh, Billy, what's to become of you?

B Don't worry, Mum. I just want to do something different. To do something good with my life.

M Like what, Billy?

B At church we saw this brilliant video about a bishop in South Africa who campaigned for peace. I'd rather learn about peacemaking at church than how to fight at boxing.

D Give me strength.

M What bishop was it, Billy?

B Desmond something.

M Tutu.

B Yes, that's it.

D Tutu!! That's what ballet dancers wear. Have you gone completely off you trolley, son?

B Well, Dad, now you come to mention it. There was something *else* I wanted to tell you....*[He produces some ballet shoes from his bag]*

D Oh, no!

M *[Sobbing]* Oh, Billy, Billy.

*THE END*