

Eye on Entertainment

The King's Speech:

It Does Anything But Speak To You

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The King's Speech, in theatres now, stars Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter, and Geoffrey Rush. The film is one of the most talked about movies of the year. (photo courtesy google.com)

I do not understand the hype surrounding *The King's Speech*. It should be excellent, but the whole is less than the sum of its parts. It is well cast, professionally executed, and has an interesting setting. Despite this, *The King's Speech* manages to be predictable and boring. The film has good moments, but these are few and far between. *The King's Speech* is based on a true story. The movie leaves me very curious as to how much is fact and how much is fiction. The story is about King George VI (Colin Firth), or Bertie, as he is referred to for most of the film and his stutter. His wife (Helena Bonham Carter) convinces him to receive help for his stammer from Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), an unorthodox speech therapist from Australia. It's one of those films that if you've seen the trailers, you know what the movie is about. In fact,

some of the major cinematic moments are in the trailers.

The acting is excellent. I do not think that the actors could have been any better. It was partially this that made me not care for the plight of Bertie. He is arrogant for the entire film, and, at least in my opinion, not a particularly interesting snob. A character does not have to be loveable, but they at least have to be interesting. He never gives his speech therapist proper credit, and he never gives his wife, who found the therapist in the first place, any credit. It certainly does not help that both Lionel the therapist and the King's wife are much easier to sympathize with.

The story's setting does not help the viewer to care for Bertie either. The backdrop of the story is the beginning of Britain's involvement in WWII, which makes the King's stutter feel trivial. I think another problem, for me, is a generation gap. Perhaps, for the people living in Britain at the time, the King's speech was important. For instance, if a similar war were to start today, I would be interested in what the President had to say. However, I doubt it would make or break the situation, I would probably be wondering if the country was being lied to in order to boost morale. Also, the King is not even the Head of State, the Prime Minister is; is what the king has to say more important than what the Prime Minister has to say? Perhaps this is also a generational or even cultural gap, but is the King really the voice of Britain?

I simply do not understand how this film is being hailed by some as the best film of the year. Yes, the acting is praise worthy, but the rest of the film is not exceptional. It reminds me of the way *Avatar* was praised in 2009. Yes, I found *Avatar* very entertaining, and the special effects were exceptional. But it was not groundbreaking overall, and I feel the same way about *The King's Speech*. It's not terrible, but *The Social Network* and *127 Hours* are both head and shoulders above *The King's Speech*.

What do you think of Megan's review? Let us know! Comments are always welcome via Letters to the Editor!

Horoscopes

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Aries March 21 to April 19

: It's on the personal and relationship fronts that there is a much better sense of understanding and mutual respect this week, as you finally manage to balance your own personal growth with a chance to make up for lost time on the relationship front. This comes in what is an important week on both the career and networking fronts, creating an especially favourable week for professional networking.

Taurus April 20 to May 20

Without a doubt this is a huge week on the professional front and even if you carved away half of what's going on it would still dominate everything. For just as Saturn is spending his first full week in retrograde motion in your work sector the Sun and Mars begin a 7 day alignment in your career sector on Tuesday, their first in 32 years. It's while they're still aligned that the Moon will become involved, creating one of the most powerful New Moons in your career sector in decades and in the process creating a real turning point.

Gemini May 21 to June 20

: At a time of year when the holiday season is now pretty much over, that holiday spirit for you finally kicks in. This is a week where you have a break on the professional front, giving you a chance to step back, let things in motion play out and wait for the next chapter or surge to kick in. This would have made this the ideal week to take time off or just pull back on the professional intensity and focus more on living life anyway. But it's into this void that massive forces in your sector of travel, adventure, learning and discovery erupt.

Cancer June 21 to July 22

In what is a very big and opportune week on the work, career, financial and relationship fronts you need to be careful to make time for you. Learn from the past when it comes to remembering to put yourself at the top of your list and making it about you, knowing that if you can't do that then no one else can do it for you. You may think that investing as much as possible into other areas of your life first will give you more time for yourself when you finally catch up, but look back at how that worked for you in the past. How often did you actually catch up or were you chasing constantly moving goal posts?

Leo July 23- August 22

As much as forces on the work front may be trying to demand your full attention, more insistent because they know it's worked in the past, they have stiff competition this week from your personal life. It's during Mercury's final days in your work sector that you're able to work smarter, developing some strategies that will keep you from falling back into any old all work and no play habits.

Virgo August 23 to September 22

: While this is a big week on the job front, with forces at work that are powerful enough to create a breakthrough into a new chapter, you're not going to get away with letting life become all work and nothing else. It's a New Moon on Thursday that sees the Moon align with both the Sun and Mars, as they're aligned in your work sector for the first time in decades. Coming at a point where you're ready to let go of the things that have been holding you back, this could create an unstoppable momentum.

Libra September 23 to October 22

Considering the professional and financial focus you began the year with, it's your personal life that is now fighting back. This is a big week for matters on the romantic, creative, relationship and home fronts, with some real breakthroughs possible. Just as Jupiter is settling into his second week in your relationship sector and with any teething problems last week behind you, you're able to find a balance between a need to stay true to yourself and your relationships.

Scorpio October 23 to November 21

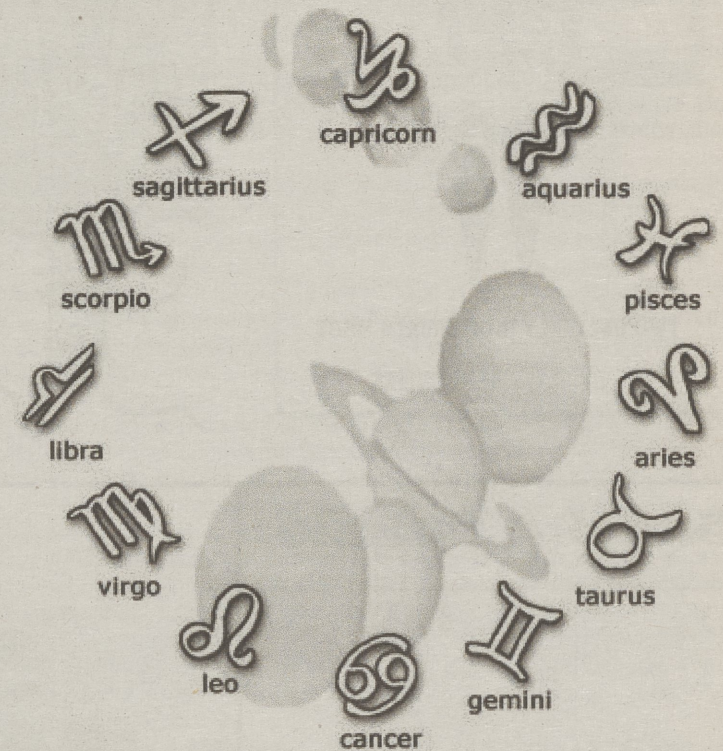
In what is a big week for matters on the home, income and job fronts the key to managing to find the right balance and to seize opportunities across all fronts is communication and organisation. It's during Mercury, planet of communication and smart thinking's final few days in your communication sector that he's joined by the Moon on Monday, with their alignment on Wednesday creating a very astute mix of intuition and intelligence.

Sagittarius November 22 to December 21

As you reach the end of the first month of 2011 the challenges and pressures that you've come to expect in the past haven't materialised, though there may have been a close call or a false alarm last week. This is the point where you can stop looking and trust that the challenging years really are behind you and that life really is as simple as following your heart, your creative passions and believing in yourself. There is even a chance this week to learn from the past, especially when it comes to old friends or people from your past that have a lot to teach you, either through memories or by reconnecting with them.

Capricorn December 22 to January 19

During a week when you're finally finding your voice and you're also gaining a lot more mental clarity and decisiveness, making



decision making a lot easier, things are also falling into place on the income and professional fronts. This is a big week for professional and income matters, more so because of how well your career and income sectors are working in together. As Saturn spends his first full week in retrograde motion in your career sector you have a chance to stop pushing forward and go back and spend time consolidating your position, while new income opportunities open up.

Aquarius January 20 to February 18

Thursday's New Moon in your sign is going to give you new solar year a massive push start, in a way that hasn't been possible in previous years. A time when you're ready to move on meets forces that have the power to push you forward with enough momentum to break free from the suction of the past. It's as Chiron, planet of healing spends his last week in your sign before leaving next Wednesday, that he's unplugging the links to the past that helped with the healing process over the last 6 years. No longer needing them, this detaches your future from your past, leaving you free to move on.

Pisces February 19 to March 20

As you settle down to a more comfortable momentum on both the income and financial fronts and as Venus wraps things up for now on the professional front, putting things on the right track, you're able to focus more on your own agenda. So long as things are on track on the income, financial and career fronts you'll have the peace of mind needed to work with the Sun and Mars to begin in earnest the winding down process of your current solar year and Mars cycle.