



3 READING Dev Patel

This text is from an online British movie magazine. Read the whole article through first, then do the two tasks on p. 71.

Meet Dev Patel, teenage movie star

The hit movie *Slumdog Millionaire* tells the story of 17-year-old Jamal, one of the millions of extremely poor people (the 'slumdogs') who live in the slums of India's largest city, Mumbai. Jamal goes on the Indian TV gameshow *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?*, answers all the questions correctly, wins the top prize – and finds the girl he loves. The movie won eight Oscars. Its star was the young English actor Dev Patel ...

When Dev Patel arrived in Mumbai to film *Slumdog Millionaire*, it was only his second visit to India. In fact, learning the Mumbai accent was, he says, one of the hardest things he had to do. He wasn't a famous actor, either. He had liked drama very much at school in England, and he had played a small part in a British TV series, but that was all. So how did he become Jamal and what was it like when he was suddenly an international movie star?

Dev was born near London in 1993. His parents are Indians who had moved to England when they were young. His dad is a computer technician, his mum a carer¹.

Dev went to a 'typical' English secondary school. His first hobby was martial arts – karate then tae-kwon-do. He was excellent at both and even took part in the Youth Olympics. But after a role in a school play, Dev found that what he really loved was acting.

His mum wanted to encourage him, and when Dev was 14, she showed him a small advertisement in a newspaper. A TV company wanted people for a series called *Skins*, about a group of teenage friends. Dev wrote a reply – and got a part.

Three years later – Dev was now 17 – the successful British film director Danny Boyle was



looking for someone to play Jamal in *Slumdog Millionaire*. Mumbai is the home of the huge Indian movie industry. People sometimes call it Bollywood: Bombay (the old name for Mumbai) plus Hollywood. The problem was that young, male Bollywood actors are all very strong and handsome. Boyle wanted a young man who looked more like a 'slumdog'. It was Boyle's daughter who told her dad about Dev – she often watched *Skins*. Dev had five auditions² ('I was crying at the end because I didn't think I'd get the part', he says) but then he was Jamal.

For Dev, the next five months were like a dream. He was in Mumbai and on a movie set. With him were a world-famous director, some of the best known older Bollywood stars, real kids from the slums of Mumbai, and the beautiful young actress who is his girlfriend in the movie. 'I grew up five years in those five months,' Dev says.

What did the real people from Mumbai's slums think? Dev was amazed by them. They were so proud that they were in the movie. 'Don't tell people we're poor,' they said to Dev and Boyle. 'Tell them we're happy. We aren't poor because we're happy.'

¹ carer ['keərə] (Alten-)Pfleger/in ² audition [əˈdɪʃn] Sprechprobe

Questions on the text

a) Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- What do you learn most about in this article?
 - The Indian movie industry.
 - The film *Slumdog Millionaire*.
 - The young English actor Dev Patel.
 - The life of the poor people in the slums of Mumbai.
- The article says it was ... that Dev Patel got the role in *Slumdog Millionaire*.
 - because he was at school with Boyle's daughter
 - because of his good looks
 - quite surprising
 - decided very quickly
- In the movie, Dev plays the role of a young Indian man who ...
 - wins an Oscar.
 - becomes a millionaire.
 - moves to Mumbai.
 - tells a story.
- Before he acted in the film *Slumdog Millionaire*, Dev ...
 - was already a famous actor.
 - had lived for a long time in Mumbai.
 - had only played a small role in a TV series.
 - could speak with a Mumbai accent.

b) Finish the sentences with information from the text.

- Danny Boyle, the director of *Slumdog Millionaire*, chose Dev for the part of Jamal and not a young, male Bollywood actor because Dev ...
- Mr Boyle found out about Dev from ...
- At the end of his auditions, Dev was crying because ...
- Filming *Slumdog Millionaire* in Mumbai changed Dev a lot. He describes this change when he tells us that ...
- Dev expected the people who lived in the slums of Mumbai to be really sad. In fact, he found that although they are poor, ...



- Dev ...
 - has Indian parents but grew up in England.
 - has English parents and grew up in England.
 - has Indian parents and moved to England when he was small.
 - has English parents but grew up in India.
- Which activity interested Dev most when he was at school?
 - Tae-kwon-do.
 - Acting.
 - The Youth Olympics.
 - Karate.
- How did Dev get the part in *Skins*?
 - His dad helped him.
 - A TV company wrote to him.
 - He often watched it on TV.
 - He replied to a newspaper advertisement.

