

Wonderland – Boy Cheerleaders



Wednesday 13 October
9.00-10.00pm BBC TWO



The UK's first all-boy cheerleaders, the DAZL Diamonds

Observational documentary series Wonderland returns to the small screen, seeking out the people and places that offer a glimpse of today's Britain that is usually hidden from view.

Nine-year-old Harvey is a budding Billy Elliot in the most unlikely of surroundings. On a South Leeds estate, in the heart of rugby league territory, Harvey is a member of the UK's first all-boy cheerleading squad. Cheerleading For Boys follows the DAZL Diamonds, as they are known, preparing for a competition that could change their lives for ever.

Their coach, Ian, sees the National Cheerleading Championships as a great challenge for the young team: "They're going to do a predominantly female sport, so I suppose they've got to get some balls, haven't they?"

It's not plain sailing for the boys. Twelve-year-old Joe admits: "They used to call me 'camp' and 'puff' and all that. But then, when I'm on the rugby pitch, they go: 'Oh ... you're well rough!'" And, with many of the boys being brought up by single mothers, life is far from a fairytale.

As films such as Billy Elliot and TV shows like Glee make performing all the rage, life in the spotlight has never seemed so attractive. But, as competition day approaches, how will the boys cope with the gruelling practice sessions and the pressures of performance on top of the challenges of their day-to-day life? From the streets of South Leeds to the glittering lights of the national finals, the film accompanies these boys and their families on what could be the journey of a lifetime.

Wonderland: Boy Cheerleaders



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BBC2

1/8, series 3

On a south Leeds estate in the heart of rugby league country, a group of nine boys and their coach Ian Rodley are preparing for competition. But rather than facing Bradford Bulls or Hull Kingston Rovers, the DAZL Diamonds - Britain's leading all-male cheerleading team - are fluffing up their pompoms ahead of a journey south to the national championships in Coventry. Can they reap the rewards of their work and become the first boys' team to lift the trophy?

VIDEO Plus+: 5058

Subtitled, Widescreen, Audio-described

Directed by: **James Newton**

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BBC Two: Wed 13 Oct, 9PM 3:42PM, Oct 05, 2010



Rugby, boxing, welly-wanging - they attract their fair share of roughtie-toughtie types.

But only a real man dares to put on pom-poms. The Beeb's excellent Wonderland series is back with Boy Cheerleaders, an ace documentary following the UK's first all-boy cheerleading team, the DAZL Diamonds.

Nine-year-old Harvey loves being part of the team. Raised on the mean streets of a South Leeds estate, this young Billy Elliott-alike wants to perform and, in the heart of rugby league land, has the guts to go for his dream. But it's not easy for the boys to take part in such a female driven pastime. Twelve-year-old team member Joe admits: "They used to call me 'camp' and 'puff' and all that. But then, when I'm on the rugby pitch, they go: 'Oh ... you're well rough!'"

The boys are training hard for the national championships, keen to show the girls what the boys can do. But can they cope with the pressures of intense training sessions, the strain of everyday life and the prejudice of other?

Arms in the air for a happy ending.

Give us an H, give us an A, give us a P...

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CHEERLEADING FOR BOYS



Synopsis

One hour documentary about the inspiring DAZL boy's cheerleading team from Leeds. Directed by James Newton for BBC's Wonderland strand.

Crew

Director

James Newton

Producer

Anna Higgs, Gavin Humphries