

## Millions

Sited in a northern England landscape, the new film *Millions* is a dollop of sweet British whimsy from director Danny Boyle. This is a real change of pace from Boyle, best known for black humor (*Shallow Grave*), transgressive, biting wit (*Trainspotting*), and, most recently, palpitating horror (*28 Days Later*).

This time out he presents a PG film (based on a screenplay by Frank Cottrell Boyce) wherein two young boys, nine-year-old Anthony (Lewis Owen McGibbon) and seven-year-old Damian (Alexander Nathan Etel) find themselves adjusting to a new home in a new town with widower dad (James Nesbitt).

While Anthony is, even at a young age, a hard-headed entrepreneur and financier, dreamy little Damian is God-smitten, sees saints everywhere, and wants to live the Lord's word. The boys come into possession, by accident, of major swag (in a Nike bag) from a British rail robbery, and the plot spins out from there: Anthony is worried about how to best protect and spend the money, and Damian is worried about the moral dilemmas of giving it back or giving it to the poor. Their concerns are complicated by a roaming robber who is after the dough, and the fact that the money must be spent within quickly since England is converting from sterling to the Euro.

The picture is seen through the eyes of the boys, and they are delectable, especially young Alexander Etel, who narrates a good bit of it. Most actions in the film are filtered through his wonderfully naive, yet serious, moral compass, and some of the best bits are his nonchalant conversations with saints--from St. Agatha to St. Peter (the latter a cigarette-smoking funnyman). This is a funky family movie, one I can heartily recommend that parents see with their middle-school kids. Both the folks and the kids will have fun, and all will have something to debate about when they get home.

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