



## the kid with a bike

Autumn  
Season  
2012

**Release:** 2011

**Cert (UK):** 12A

**Runtime:** 87 mins

**Director:** Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne

**Cast:** Thomas Doret, Cecile de France, Jeremie Renier

The latest naturalistic drama from the Dardenne brothers to chronicle the Liege underclass, *The Kid With A Bike* follows a young boy's quest for his absent father.

Everywhere, we see Cyril. And Cyril searches everywhere for a man who doesn't want him, who can't bring himself to care anymore. But he's a 12-year-old boy, and we watch him, running away and eluding his foster-home carers and pedalling off, determined to find his father, refusing to believe his dad's not interested in seeing him anymore.

Though on the surface it appears to be a simplistic film, nevertheless it has layers of complexity in questioning the roles of fathers in teaching proper values, the morality lessons given by dads, of dads raising their children no matter their circumstances and of how difficult it is for an abandoned child to ever feel secure again. It's a film that makes you think of why there's so much youthful crime and of how odd it is for a stranger to show more love to a child than his real parent.



*Dennis Schwartz – Movie Reviews*



The Dardennes' six great social-realist films (and *The Kid with a Bike*, winner of Cannes' Grand Prix last year, is one of their best) have been turning the physical expressions of slapstick inside-out, into the personal motions of daily struggle. Since 1996, their films have been about working-class and underclass people's gestures and movements, their dreams and mistakes translated into physical labour and strain.