



## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

# FREDDIE MERCURY

ESERCIZI SU  
**Work It Out!**

Arriva nei cinema *Bohemian Rhapsody*, il film sulla vita del cantante e leader dei Queen. Considerato da molti il miglior cantante rock e pop della storia, Freddie Mercury è diventato un mito indiscutibile per le sue magnifiche doti artistiche e il trascinante carisma.

PRE-INTERMEDIATE A2

ON CD 2

**GLOSSARY**

- 1 drummer:** batterista
- 2 unrest:** tensioni
- 3 songwriter:** compositore di canzoni
- 4 big break:** grande occasione
- 5 supported:** fare da gruppo spalla

**Q**ueen were formed in 1970 by singer Freddie Mercury, guitarist Brian May, drummer<sup>1</sup> Roger Taylor, and bassist John Deacon. They decided on the name Queen because Mercury thought that it sounded "regal, splendid and immediate."

**A ROMAN GOD**

Freddie Mercury's original name was Farrokh Bulsara and he was born in Stone Island, Zanzibar. He moved to London with his family as a teenager to escape political

unrest<sup>2</sup>. He legally changed his name to Freddie Mercury when he joined Queen. Mercury is the Roman god of eloquence and messages – an ideal name for a songwriter<sup>3</sup>!

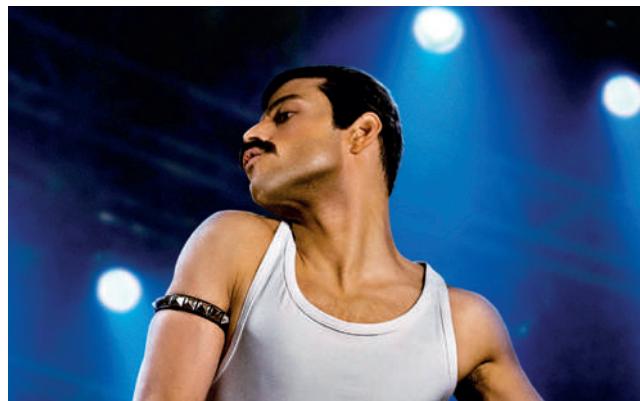
**US TOUR**

At first, the band were not popular. One of their early concerts had just six people in the audience, their first two singles were unsuccessful. Queen's big break<sup>4</sup> came in 1973 when they supported<sup>5</sup> a band called Mott The Hoople on a UK tour, accompany-





Opposite page: Freddie Mercury and Queen at Wembley, London, 1986. Clockwise from above: Brian May, Freddie Mercury, John Deacon and Roger Taylor; *We Will Rock You* the musical in London, 2013; Rami Malek as Mercury in *Bohemian Rhapsody*; Freddie Mercury at Live Aid, 1985.



## GLOSSARY

- 6 **first-ever**: il primo in assoluto
- 7 **charity concert**: concerto di beneficenza
- 8 **bronchial pneumonia**: broncopolmonite
- 9 **biopic**: film biografico



ing them to America. These shows were a big success, with many in the audience preferring Queen.

### FIRST MUSIC VIDEO

That same year Queen released *Bohemian Rhapsody*, their most famous song. It was nine weeks at the top of the UK charts.

Queen were on tour at the time and recorded a video to promote the song. They decided to use digital effects – creating the first-ever<sup>6</sup> music video!

### A GREAT PERFORMER

Although Queen's popularity was starting to fall in the 1980's, their performance at the enormous Live Aid charity concert<sup>7</sup> at Wembley Stadium in 1985 is considered to be the best of all bands that played that day. Mercury also produced original solo work, including an album called *Barcelona* recorded with the soprano Montserrat Caballé.

### SUDDEN DEATH

On 24th of November 1991, Freddie Mercury died of bronchial pneumonia<sup>8</sup> caused by AIDS. It was just 24 hours after he admitted publicly that he had the virus. He became one of many famous figures who died from the illness. In 2010, *Rolling Stone* named Freddie Mercury number 18 on its list of the 100 greatest singers ever. His incredible story is told in a new biopic<sup>9</sup> starring Rami Malek. It is called *Bohemian Rhapsody*. ☀