

The 'Royal' treatment

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Money talks

The Academy Award-winning film "The King's Speech" has pulled in nearly \$400 million at the global box office and raised worldwide awareness about the plight of stuttering through **Colin Firth's** performance as a stammering King George VI.

This increased attention is now helping organizations that work with people who stutter to raise money for their efforts.

Our Time, a New York-based nonprofit that uses the arts to help kids who stutter improve their confidence and communication skills, recently honored the film's screenwriter **David Seidler**, a former stutterer himself, at its annual benefit gala.

The moving event, which featured performances from Our Time kids alongside well-known actors, pulled in roughly \$570,000 by the end of the night.

Some \$300,000 came from ticket and table purchases and other advance contributions, and \$120,000 was raised through an auction.

That's already more than the \$400,000 raised at last year's event. And Our Time's founder, **Taro Alexander**, predicts that the organization will ultimately raise \$600,000 from this year's event, including contributions from an online auction that wraps up Wednesday.

Exposure to the issue of stuttering should only increase now that "The King's Speech" is on DVD, featuring a PSA from The Stuttering Foundation, an organization that's seen its donations increase by as much as 300 percent in the wake of the film. *Hilary Lewis*