

Game, piroouette and match

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A SCHOOLBOY today told how he beat off competition from thousands of young hopefuls to become the first Londoner to play Billy Elliot in the West End.

Fox Jackson-Keen, 13, from Hornsey, will make his debut on Monday in the title role

made famous by Jamie Bell in the hit 2000 film.

He told *thelondonpaper*: "I am really proud to be the first London boy to play Billy Elliot. I had eight auditions before they told me I had the part. It was hard work."

Fox was turned down for the role two years ago because he was too small. He will become the 16th Billy

“ I’m proud to be the first London boy to play Billy ”

FOX JACKSON-KEEN

Elliot to tread the boards in the musical and hopes to play the role for as long as he is able: "Billy is supposed to be

11, so it depends on how fast I grow and when my voice breaks. I'm 13, so it could happen at any time."

Fox, who has been acting since he was six, has left his school, Highgate Woods in Haringey, to be tutored alongside his fellow cast members.

He will appear as Billy at the Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street.

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Fox is the 16th boy to play Billy Elliott