

# La Bamba

**Director:** Luis Valdez      **Year:** 1987  
**Starring:** Elizabeth Peña, Lou Diamond Phillips

1 • WARM-UP

Look at the title of the film and the pictures. Try to answer these questions.

1. What kind of film do you think it is? A western? A love story? A comedy? A thriller? A story about a famous singer? A story about a famous gangster?  
.....
2. Who is/are the main characters?  
.....
3. What do you think *La Bamba* is?  
.....
4. What do you know about the film?  
.....

2 • VOCABULARY

Match the English words on the left with their Italian equivalents on the right.

1. ☐ need

2. ☐ circus

3. ☐ luck

4. ☐ to move up

5. ☐ newest

6. ☐ rattlesnake
- a. fortuna

b. più recente

c. anticipare

d. serpente a sonagli

e. aver bisogno

f. circo

3 • NOTE TAKING

Watch the scene with no sound and take the following notes.

- Where the scene takes place
- Who the main character/s is/are
- What his job is
- What he is going to do
- How you think he feels at the beginning of the scene
- Who the other characters are

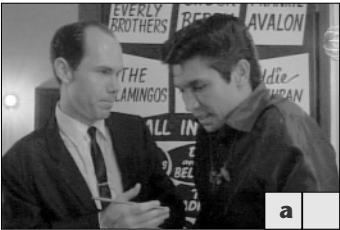
4 • COMPREHENSION

a. Watch the scene with the audio on and answer these questions.

1. Where are the people involved in the scene?  
.....
2. Why are they there?  
.....
3. What's the main character's surname?  
.....
4. Where is he from?  
.....
5. What kind of music does he perform?  
.....
6. When is he going to perform?  
.....

b. Match the parts of dialogue to the appropriate frame from the scene.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | <div>– Oh, here you are, Ritchie.<br/>– Where else would he be? The kid's got taste.<br/>– I need you, Valens. One of The Belmonts got sick.<br/>– Probably malnutrition, man. You and your three-ring circus.<br/>Just kidding, boss.</div> |
| 2. | <div>– I got to move you up. You're going on right after Jackie Wilson.<br/>About five minutes. You can do it.<br/>– Yeah!<br/>– Good luck, Ritchie.</div>   |
| 3. | <div>– They're all out there waiting for you, man.<br/>– Come on! Let's go.<br/>– Get rocking!<br/>– Great, beautiful. If they love you, they'll want to kill you. If they don't, same difference.</div>                                     |
| 4. | <div>– And here he is, America's newest rock 'n' roll sensation, the California kid, Ritchie Valens.<br/>– Here's a bit of a rattlesnake.</div>  |



c. Now watch the scene with subtitles and check your answers.

5 • DISCUSSION

Discuss the scene with your partner. Ask her/him questions on the following points:

- What happens in the scene
- The characters' actions
- The main character's thoughts and feelings

6 • SUMMARY WRITING

Write a summary of the scene.

Use your notes and your answers to the questions in Activity 4a on the previous page and temporal markers like *first*, *then*, *next*, *finally*, *at the end* to connect your sentences.