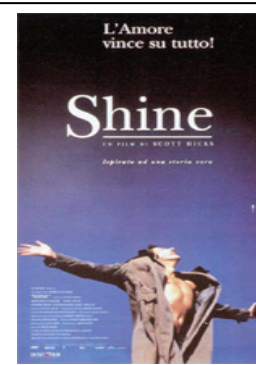


Foreign Language Film Festival 2006-2007

Shine

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Scott Hicks
YEAR / COUNTRY	1996/ Australia/GB
GENRE	Dramatic - Biographical
ACTORS	Geoffrey Rush, Lynn Redgrave, John Gielgud, Noah Taylor



PLOT

This is the true story of Australian child prodigy pianist David Helfgott (who plays the music when he is portrayed in the film). He was dominated by an obsessive, overbearing father (Armin Mueller-Stahl) and eventually had a nervous breakdown as a young adult. As an adolescent (Noah Taylor), David is accepted by a prestigious music school in London and escapes his home life to pursue his passion for classical music. He is taught by an extraordinary musician, Cecil Parkes (John Gielgud), who has lost the use of one arm as a result of a stroke. But his father's rejection and the pressures of mastering such concertos as Rachmaninoff's Third lead to his downward spiral into mental illness. The love of Gillian (Lynn Redgrave), a woman astrologer who understands him and marries him, helps him to re-enter society and play for the public again. Geoffrey Rush won an Oscar as Best Actor for his part in this film.

LANGUAGE

Clear Australian accented English when David is in Australia. The adult David speaks very quickly and repeats himself continuously as part of his mentally ill role. The interesting thing is that his illness allows him to use words in their different meanings and make connections that are not generally made in the everyday use of language. Gielgud and Redgrave have English accents and David's Polish father (Armin Mueller-Stahl) speaks with a heavy German/Polish accent.

VOCABULARY

Can a leopard change its spots?: can anyone's nature become different?	I was so annoyed I upset his inkpots and scrawled all over his desk: I was so irritated I turned over the inkwells and wrote on his table.
A fuddy-duddy: a pedantic, pompous, antiquated person	He cuddled me breathless: he hugged me so hard I couldn't breathe.
A blood sport: a violent sport that can hurt one	That's my cue: that's the signal for me.
Burned at the stake: killed as a heretic or witch	Fill in for this useless arm of mine: substitute for me
Keep your head above water: survive	(His hands) are not connected to anything above his shoulders: he's brainless
A callous meanie: an insensitive, petty, unkind person	You can't bank on the bank: you can't count on the bank. Cash a cheque: change a cheque into cash
Before they were concentrated: before they were put into a concentration camp (a play on words)	Two separate melodies jousting for supremacy: two distinct tunes trying to win, one over the other
Ease up: relax.	No safety net: nothing to catch you if you fall
A Bar Mitzvah is a gold mine if you know where to dig: the Jewish coming-of-age ceremony can be used to raise money if you know how to do it.	Blindfolded: with your eyes covered so you can't see. Tame the piano or it will swallow you whole: subdue the piano or it will eat you up.
The weak get crushed like grasshoppers: the unfit are smashed under foot like insects.	Cry over spilt milk: recriminate over the past Dopey: stupid Poodle: a breed of dog
I've had the piano tuned: the piano is harmonized.	Turn over a new leaf: change I can't abide smoke: I can't stand smoke
I propose a toast: let's drink to your health	Get back on the rails: be cured of his mental illness
Shivering: trembling/ to let you down, to disappoint you	Stray dog: lost dog. The lid: the top An hour straight: a whole hour Rush into things: do things in a hurry A stroke: an ictus Unraveled: unwound (a play on the name Ravel) Blaming yourself : considering yourself at fault