



# Shine<sup>12</sup>

*Australia/UK; 1996  
 105 minutes; Cert. 12*

**Directed by** Scott Hicks  
**Screenplay** Jan Sardi  
**Photography** Geoffrey Simpson  
**Music** David Hirschfelder

**Starring:**

<b>Armin Muller-Stahl</b>	<b>Peter Helfgott</b>
<b>Geoffrey Rush</b>	<b>David Helfgott [adult]</b>
<b>Noah Taylor</b>	<b>David Helfgott [adolescent]</b>
<b>Lynn Redgrave</b>	<b>Gillian</b>
<b>Googie Withers</b>	<b>Katherine Prichard</b>
<b>Sonia Todd</b>	<b>Sylvia</b>
<b>Nicholas Bell</b>	<b>Ben Rosen</b>
<b>Sir John Gielgud</b>	<b>Prof. Cecil Parkes</b>

**"GLORIOUSLY  
 TRIUMPHANT  
 I DEFY ANYONE  
 NOT TO FEEL  
 THEIR HEART  
 RISE, THIS IS A  
 SUBLIME FILM"**

*The Express*

David Helfgott was a child prodigy from a poor Jewish family in Western Australia and one of the most exiting young pianists of his day; 'Shine' is his story. At first glance, it doesn't seem like a joyous experience - strained parental relationships, mental illness surrounded by intense classical music, should by rights make for a depressing evening's viewing - but quite simply it doesn't, for director Scott Hicks' biopic is a startlingly well-made take of triumph over adversity that makes for compelling and powerful viewing that leaves no emotional chain unyanked.

David Helfgott is played by Alex Rafalowicz as a 9-year old; Noah Taylor as a teenager; and Geoffrey Rush as an adult; it is to the credit of Scott Hicks and his Casting Director that these actors convince as the same person at different stages of his development. After showing prowess at an early age, Helfgott is tortured throughout his teenage years by his domineering, concentration camp victim, father (Armin Muller-Stahl - also seen in 'Veronika Voss' two weeks ago), whose smart line in gentle encouragement is " In this world only the fittest survive; the weak are crushed like insects ".

Despite wishing his son to become a great musician, Helfgott Senior is also determined that he will not leave home. Against his father's wishes, David nevertheless enrolls at the Royal College of Music where, under the tutorage of Professor Cecil Parkes, (a wonderful performance by Sir John Gielgud), he strives to master the supremely difficult Rachmaninov 3rd Piano Concerto. However, due to the pressures of the past and the strain of his own ambition for perfection, he collapses on stage at the moment of his triumph with a nervous breakdown, rendering him a semi-coherent, jabbering and infantile wreck.

**"Shine is a great film! There are scenes here that take your breath away. It is one of the best films of the year, any year!"**

**“Hugely uplifting...Hicks has written a symphony to life which really does make beauty and truth indivisible”**

The Daily Telegraph

Twenty years go by in comparative obscurity, with Helfgott being banned from having anything to do with anything vaguely resembling a piano. Rehabilitation comes through meetings with a piano teacher (Nicholas Bell), who gives David a free lesson; an elderly left-wing writer (Googie Withers), who introduces him to literature: Sylvia (Sonia Todd), the owner of a wine bar where he begins to play the piano again; and Gillian (Lynn Redgrave), a Sydney astrologer with a PhD who is encouraged by their joint charts to marry the unpredictable Helfgott and lead him back to the concert hall stage.



Geoffrey Rush



Lynn Redgrave & Geoffrey Rush



Sir John Gielgud and Noah Taylor

'Shine' differs from other films of recent years, such as 'Forrest Gump', 'Rain Man', 'Ryan's Daughter' and 'The Eighth Day' in which characters suffer from brain damage or mental illness, in that it steers clear of the cliché of there being a thin line between madness and genius. Rather, it makes no claim that through his illness Helfgott has any special insight into the human condition.

'Shine' is a magnificent story about an extraordinary man being brought back into society by ordinary, selfless, men and women. The movie gives a good name to "Care in the Community"; it is not about being cured, but learning to function and understand. But for the audience the film is ultimately exuberant and therapeutic - the music is O.K. too !

**RICHARD KNIGHT**

*Richard is a first time reviewer for WNCC - if anyone else wishes to try their hand at being the next Barry Norman , Alexander Walker or (God forbid !) Christopher Tookey, please speak to Ian Sowerby at any screening. Meanwhile, thanks to Richard for his excellent efforts.*



Noah Taylor

**“EXTRAORDINARY PERFORMANCE FROM GEOFFREY RUSH. SHINE WILL HAMMER BLOCK-CHORDS ON THE HARDEST HEART”**

Time Out



Armin Muller-Stahl

**THE BFFS SPRING NATIONAL VIEWING SESSION** is to be held at The National Film Theatre, South Bank, London on **Saturday March 7th and Sunday March 8th, 1998**. As usual, the viewing session is an opportunity to see up to 7 or 8 films over the two days, plus attendance at the BFFS Annual Awards, (for which WNCC has been nominated in the 'Best Programme', 'Best Programme Notes' and 'Film Society of the Year' categories.).

As yet, no titles have been confirmed, but recent releases obtained by the distributors include: 'L.A. Confidential', 'My Best Friend's Wedding', 'The End of Violence' and several MGM musicals. More details will be published as soon as they are available.

Tickets ordered by 23rd February are at the discounted price of £35 for the whole weekend; £25 for Saturday only or £20 for Sunday only. After 23rd February these prices will rise by £5 to £40/£30/£25. The student/UB40 rates are £28/£21/£17 before 23rd February and £33/£26/£22 thereafter. No discounts are apparently offered for Senior Citizens !

Please see WNCC Club Secretary Dorothy Kendrick if you wish to express an interest in going this year.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

at The Riverside Studios, Hammersmith  
Box Office: 0181 237 1111  
Tickets: £4.50 (£3.50 concessions)

### SERGEI EISENSTEIN CENTENARY



**SERGEI EISENSTEIN**  
Friday 13 to Sunday 15 February  
**Strike (18) 7.00pm**  
(SERGEI EISENSTEIN, USSR, 1924) 82M SUB-TITLES  
In 1912, after peaceful efforts to settle a strike fail, strikers and their families are brutally slaughtered by cavalrymen. Eisenstein's first feature was a vital part of the early 20's avant-garde, and despite its strong story, is both extremely playful and often comic.

**The Battleship Potemkin (18) 8.45pm**  
(SERGEI EISENSTEIN, USSR, 1925) 75M MUSIC SOUNDTRACK  
To mark the centenary of Eisenstein's birth, a revival of this classic, with music by Shostakovich. The film was based on an incident during the 1905 Revolution when the crew of a battleship mutinied and were supported by the workers. The beauty of the images, the revelation of the editing and the moving story have made this one of the great films of cinema.

AFTERNOON - 20'S SILENT CINEMA

Sunday 15 February  
**Chess Fever (PG) 2.30pm**  
(VSEVOLOD PUDOVKIN, USSR, 1926) 20M APPROX. (SILENT)  
A black and white nightmare. An addict of the game of chess finds his every move blocked. A delightful comedy.

**The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks (PG) 3.00pm**  
(LEV KULESHOV, USSR, 1924) 90M APPROX. (SILENT)  
A Mr. J. West leaves America for a tour of the new workers state (the USSR), his head full of images of evil, leering Bolsheviks. Slowly his prejudices evaporate. This extraordinary comedy took its inspiration from American chase films and moves along at a cracking pace.  
*Live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney*

**SERGEI EISENSTEIN**  
Monday 16 February  
**Alexander Nevsky (PG) 6.30pm**  
(SERGEI EISENSTEIN, USSR, 1938) 108M SUB-TITLES  
An inspirational tale of resistance to Teutonic invaders by Prince Nevsky in the Holy Russia of 1242. The collaboration with music composer, Prokofiev made for an operative, patriotic pageant seen to its best advantage in the famous battle on the ice sequence.

**October (PG) 8.40pm**  
(SERGEI EISENSTEIN, USSR, 1928) 104M SUB-TITLES  
Commissioned to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 1917 Revolution, when the Bolsheviks brought down the liberal, Kerensky Government. The sheer energy of revolution comes largely from the dynamic montage of rich imagery.

**SERGEI EISENSTEIN**  
Tuesday 17 February  
**Ivan the Terrible Parts I & II (PG) 8.45pm**  
(SERGEI EISENSTEIN, USSR, 1944-46) 99M/90M SUB-TITLES  
Eisenstein's final film is the story of the struggles of the 16th Century Tsar Ivan IV to establish himself. Filmed with striking imagery it also deals with his political struggles and conflicts with the Church. Part II was filmed in colour and was politically suppressed for a number of years. The style is inspired by grand opera, kabuki theatre and Russian iconography and is often awesome in its intensity.

**SERGEI EISENSTEIN**  
Wednesday 18 February  
**October (PG) 6.45pm**  
Please see Monday 16 February for details

**bfi National Film Theatre**

fierce beauty  
**mizoguchi**  
the master

3 February - 27 February 1998

Tickets: £5.75 (£4.75 concessions);  
£4.75 (£3.75) with NFT Membership

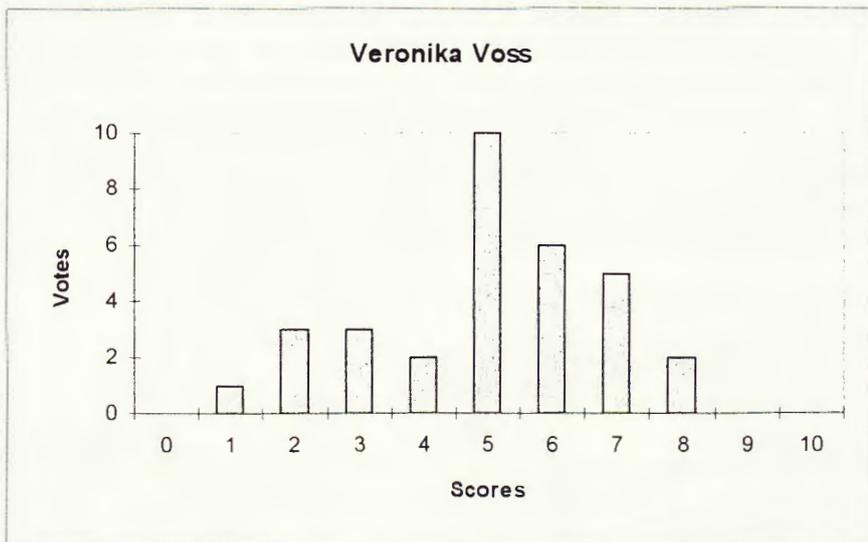
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THE INTENSELY BEAUTIFUL FILMS OF KENJI MIZOGUCHI, JAPANESE MASTER AND ONE OF THE GREATEST DIRECTORS IN WORLD CINEMA ARE CELEBRATED IN THIS MAJOR SEASON.

*'One of the greatest masters of the cinema... his films are still magnificently eloquent and moving.'*

Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*

**VERONIKA VOSS (29/1/98)**



32 reactions, average score of 5.0

Comments

- Oh dear - what a struggle!
- A good melodrama.
- Enjoyed the Lonnie Donegan music.
- An over-rated director ?
- Could only read about 25% of the print.

Great to see a foreign language film with such authentic ambience.

There was some hidden humour which made the film quite entertaining.

Still powerful - despite not being able to read white sub-titles on a white background! *Helen Sayers*

**REACTIONS: The Story So Far.....**

<i>BRASSED OFF</i> .....	8.14%	[51 votes]
<i>SECRETS &amp; LIES</i> .....	7.88%	[40 votes]
<i>STAGECOACH</i> .....	7.44%	[39 votes]
<i>THE PROMISE</i> .....	7.25%	[44 votes]
<i>CARRINGTON</i> .....	6.73%	[49 votes]
<i>SMOKE</i> .....	6.71%	[35 votes]
<i>SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA</i> .....	6.34%	[29 votes]
<i>THE LAST DETAIL</i> .....	6.15%	[41 votes]
<i>VERONIKA VOSS</i> .....	5.03%	[32 votes]

**COMING NEXT**

**26th February 1998**

**at Mayford Village Hall, commencing at 8.00 pm**

**PYGMALION**

G.B. 1938

96 mins

Directors

Anthony Asquith, Leslie Howard

Featuring

Wendy Hiller, Leslie Howard, Wilfrid Lawson, Jean Cadell, Marie Lohr, Esme Percy

The classic British film from the famous Shaw play. The film is amusing and surprisingly dateless with an excellent cast, especially in supporting roles. Watch out for some inspired editing from David Lean who learnt the craft before making his name as a director.

**Programme ends at 10.05 pm (approx)**

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