

Complex film features superb acting

By Gordon Gilbert
Freelance Reporter

Shine, as the title puts it, does just that. The cast is tremendous; their performances are as crisp and clean as they are difficult and entertaining. The film delivers an incredible package of emotive highs and lows, and at no point does it slow or drift.

Of an extensive cast of characters, three deliver stunning performances that are worthy of high acclaim.

Noah Taylor, who plays David Helfgott as a child and adolescent, is spectacular. He gave great performances in *Flirting* and *The Year My Voice Broke*, and in *Shine* he has outdone both.

Given the difficult task of showing David's development and his eventual lapse into mental and emotional deterioration, Taylor doesn't disappoint. From the brutal upbringing by his overbearing father to his incomplete growth as an adolescent, Taylor draws the audience into the psychological development of a young virtuoso.

Geoffrey Rush has the complex role of the older David. He plays the pianist following his electric shock treatment and mental therapy.

David eventually finds himself in a halfway house, where his constant piano-playing sessions prompt the landlord to lock the piano away from him. He later stumbles into a restaurant with a piano, and his renaissance begins.

Rush's delivery of the rapidly spoken, jumbled dialogue of the eccentric but lovable David is superb. With his comical expressions and speech, coupled with his bizarre actions and appearance,

the audience cannot help but like the quirky character.

Armin Mueller-Stahl is brilliant as David's hated father. He plays an immigrant from Poland who raises his family on a threadbare existence and music. From the beginning, he is a father who religiously guards his family as solely his own.

Brought up by a stern father himself, he enforces the same rigidity on his children that he experienced as a child. He also physically abuses his children. In two scenes, David is brutally beaten by his father for disobedience.

However, Stahl beautifully balances the role. At times he is loving toward his family, which adds to the many psychological facets of the man who is perhaps the most influential figure in David's life.

Nicholas Bell, who plays the tutor who constantly goes out of his way to help David advance his musical talent, fills his role well.

So do Goggie Withers as the famous writer Katharine Pritchard, whose influence sets David free of his father, Lynn Redgrave as the eventual love of David's life, and John Gielgud as the college professor who sees David's genius.

The score is fantastic and includes the Rachmaninoff #3, which plays an important role in David's development and mental demise.

The filming of the piano sequences leaves us little doubt that a double was used.

Set in the beautiful city of Perth, Australia, and featuring outstanding camera work, *Shine* takes place on a stunning natural stage.

REVIEW

Shine

★★★
(drama)

■ **WHERE:** Cinema World

■ **STARRING:** Noah Taylor, Geoffrey Rush, Armin Mueller-Stahl and Nicholas Bell

■ **DIRECTOR:** Scott Hicks

■ **RATED:** PG-13

BUDDHIST SHOW

■ **WHAT:** Buddhist and Tibetan folk dances as well as monastic chanting titled "Sacred Earth and Healing Arts of Tibet"

■ **WHERE:** WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave.

■ **WHEN:** Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

■ **TICKETS:** Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. They can be purchased at CD World, the EMU main desk, House of Records, La Tiendita and Taco Loco, Record Exchange and WOW Hall.

Monks to dance, chant at Hult

By Katherine Holden
Freelance Reporter

The WOW Hall will host a concert of a different kind Feb. 6. The monks of Gaden Shartse Monastic College, located in Southern India, will stop in Eugene for one performance during their Northwest tour.

"Sacred Earth and Healing Arts of Tibet," will include Buddhist and Tibetan folk dances as well as monastic chanting. The monks will be accompanied by Tibetan musical instruments such as the gyaling (Buddhist oboe), and the Dhungehen, which is a long horn.

"The group is composed of ten monks ranging in ages from 22 to 62," said Bob Fennessey, publicist for WOW Hall, in a recent press release. "The eldest is the leader, the Venerable Geshe Konchok Tsering, considered one of the leading authorities on Tibetan Buddhism."

The proceeds of the concert will go to the Northwest Tibetan Cultural

Association as well as to Gaden Shartse.

"We plan to use the profits to fund two main projects: building a cultural center here in the Northwest and bringing His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, to Portland in the near future," said Jampa Lathang, vice president of the Northwest Tibetan Cultural Association.

Gaden Shartse Monastic College is also in need of the funds, as it relies mainly on agriculture for the provision of its needs, according to a press release.

"The college was founded in 1969, 10 years after 100,000 Tibetans followed the Dalai Lama into India after the Communist takeover of China," Fennessey said.

"Shartse is recognized as one of the finest learning seats for Tibetan culture and religion."

The doors will open at 7 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

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