

Home Video Review: Kubrick's *The Shining*, a timeless horror flick

by Melissa Roberts
staff writer

Director Stanley Kubrick and novelist Stephen King came together in 1980 to produce what many consider the scariest movie of all time. They may have done just that. *The Shining* still competes with today's high priced horror movies.

The Shining, based on King's earlier novel of the same name, is a story of Jack, Wendy, and Danny Torrance. Jack (Jack Nicholson) is the formerly alcoholic writer who had become sober after an injury he caused to his son.

Wendy (Shelley Duvall) is the obedient wife, who puts up with everything Jack decides to do or whatever he tells her she is going to do. Their son, Danny (Danny Lloyd), resorts to having an imaginary friend named Tony, after being taken away from his friends in Vermont to move to Colorado to benefit Jack's writing career.

Tony is not just an ordinary imaginary friend; Tony helps Danny understand that he has "the shining"—which is an ability to pick up psychic vibes from the present, past, and future. Danny keeps "the shining" to himself, while his family lives a relatively quiet life.

In the beginning "the shining" introduces to the viewers the seriousness of the deaths that have occurred at the hotel. At first, the idea of a little boy being able to see things that have happened or are going to happen seems a bit unreal, but later this adds to the growing climax of the plot.

Desperate for some peace and quiet so he can write, Jack takes a job of looking after the Overlook Hotel while it is closed for the winter season, due to the bad weather that strikes the Colorado mountains. Set about 30

miles up a twisting road in the Rocky Mountains, the Overlook Hotel is set in the area where the Donner Party was lost years ago.

During the interview the owner of the hotel tells Jack about a tragedy that struck the hotel in 1970. In 1970, Mr. Gordon, the man who took care of the hotel during the off season, had gone crazy because of the isolation during the winter.

Mr. Gordon had killed his two

Director Stanley Kubrick knows how to make an effective horror movie....A lot of small details throughout the whole movie lead to a very suspenseful ending.

daughters and wife with an ax and stacked them in room 237, then stuck a gun in his mouth and killed himself too. The owner of the hotel tells Jack of this tragedy to ensure that this tragedy will not strike again.

On closing day of the Overlook Hotel, the Torrances move into their new home at the hotel and get a grand tour and instructions. Danny's feeling of what had happened in the hotel get stronger and stronger and often leave the boy completely terrified of his new home. The head cook at the Overlook Hotel also has "the shining" and begins to explain the phenomenon to Danny.

As much time passes, Jack becomes frustrated with his writing and becomes hostile towards Danny, and Wendy and Jack begin to get "the shining" too, getting visions of Mr. Gordon, the past caretaker of the hotel who brutally slaughtered his family.

Mr. Gordon seems to be giving Jack ideas to kill his family as well.

The winter gets heavier and Jack gets crazier and crazier, as he sabotages the SnoCat (the only method of transportation from the hotel). Finally all three realize what is going on; and while Wendy and Danny fight for their lives, Jack is on a rampage to eliminate them.

If it isn't scary enough that Jack is crazy and chasing both Danny and Wendy around the house, both Wendy and Jack start getting "the shining" themselves.

Blood running from the elevator, ghosts sitting in the dining room and Danny running from the wrath of Jack contribute to the suspense and drama of the movie.

The dark scenes along with the hallowing music inform you that this a classic horror movie. Director Stanley Kubrick knows how to make an effective horror movie.

In old horror flicks it is often a dialogue of "I'll go answer the door" or "I better see what is scraping on the window," but *The Shining* is far from this. It is so straight forward, without any tricks you have no idea what is going on. There are thrills in each room and you don't know what will be around the next corner.

Unfortunately, only about 45 out of the 144 minutes of the movie is filled with suspense; but the other 99 minutes are filled with enough plot so you don't get bored. A lot of small details throughout the whole movie lead to a very suspenseful ending. What details seem small and minute, in the end, turn out to be major parts of the plot.

This movie ranks right up there with recent movies like *Scream* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. This is a perfect movie to rent when you are ready for a scary, suspense-filled time.

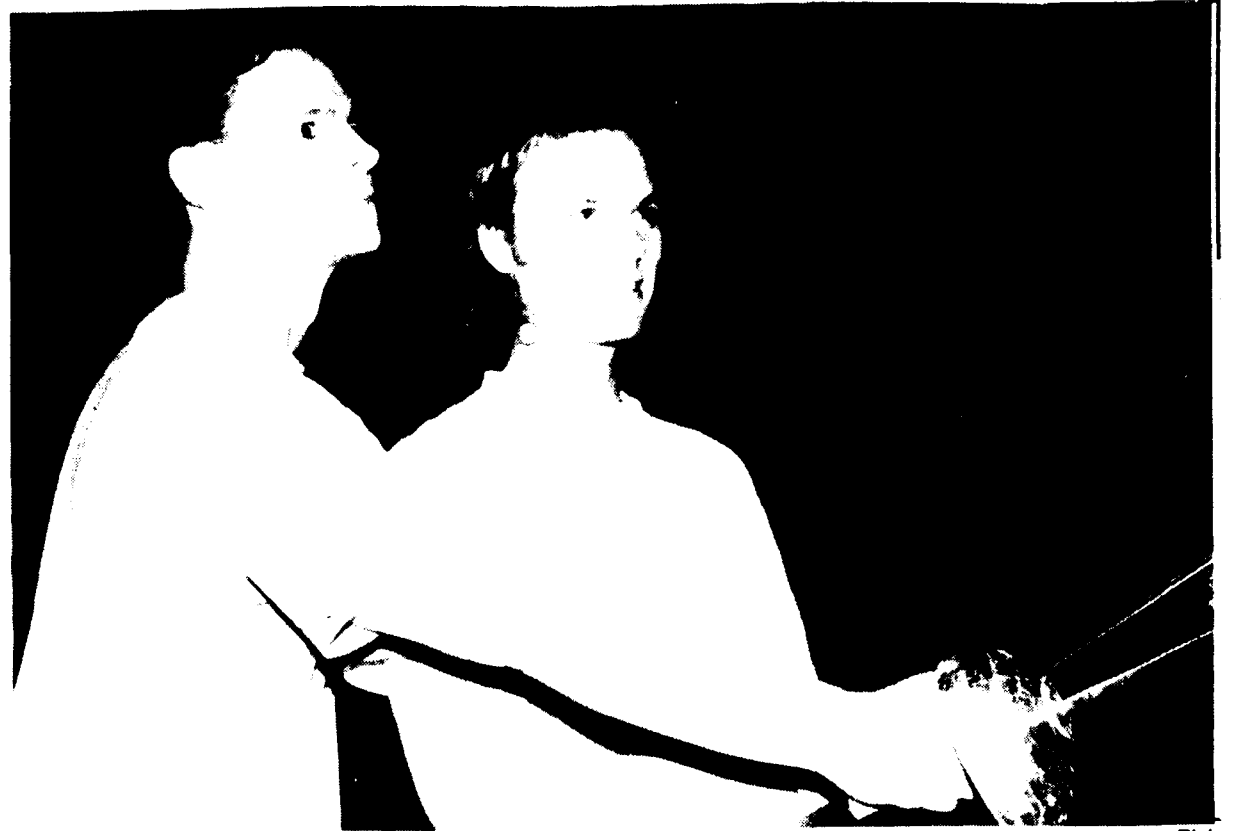


photo by Jason Blake

Pirate King (RJ Frelin, left) and Frederic (Michael Lechner) collaborate forces in *The Pirates of Penzance*, the spring musical which runs March 25-29.

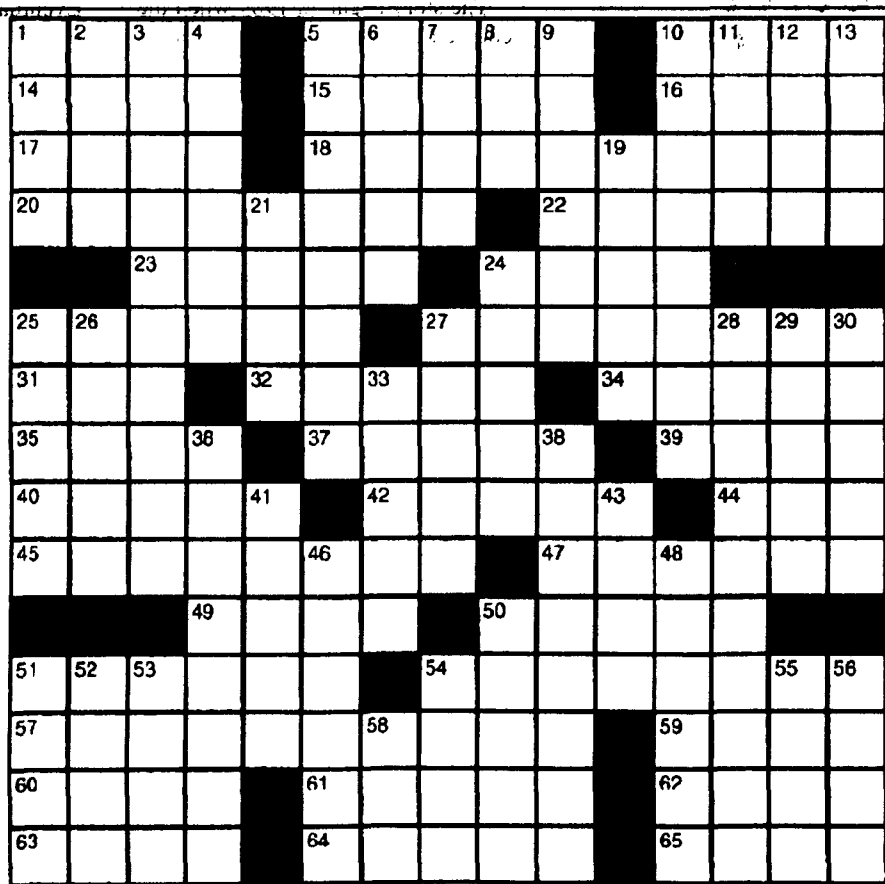


photo by Jason Blake

The gang of singing and dancing pirates rehearse their parts for Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*.

join *The Collegian* staff call 898-6488

- ACROSS
- 1 Apple PCs
 - 5 Alaskan language
 - 10 Plenty
 - 14 Woodwind
 - 15 Actress Diamond
 - 16 Roman tyrant
 - 17 Donations to the poor
 - 18 Lizardlike amphibian
 - 20 Language of Katmandu
 - 22 Make happy
 - 23 Make happy
 - 24 "Star Wars" princess
 - 25 Stomach ills
 - 27 Danger signal
 - 31 Prize money
 - 32 Spooky
 - 34 Cut off
 - 35 Rouse to action
 - 37 Roadside furrow
 - 39 Caper
 - 40 Goofed
 - 42 Raj's title
 - 44 Sample
 - 45 Detects by scrutiny
 - 47 At any time
 - 49 Berry and Norton
 - 50 Brownstone entrance
 - 51 Crocheted coverlet
 - 54 Cries noisily
 - 57 Disastrous
 - 59 Runny cheese
 - 60 Garden of
 - 61 Nary a soul
 - 62 Singular
 - 63 Potential plant
 - 64 Reverberating instruments
 - 65 Brings to a close

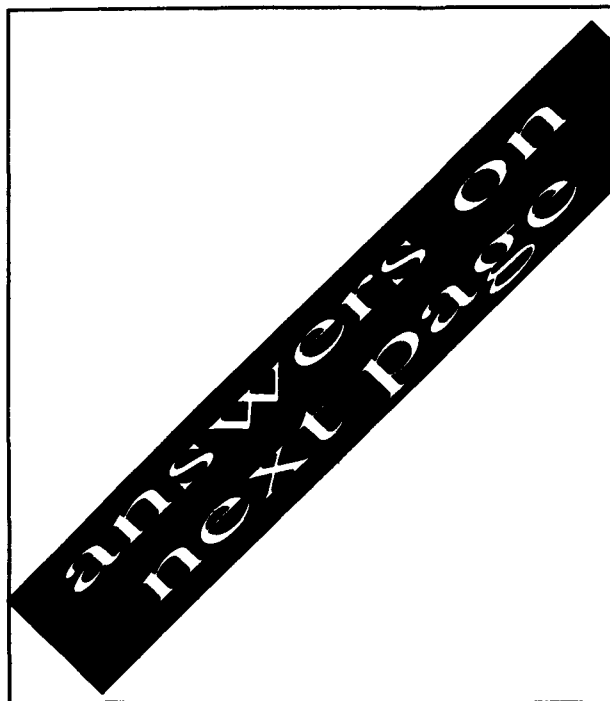


© 1998 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

2/19/98

- DOWN
- 1 Ecstatic cry
 - 2 Having the skill
 - 3 Garbage squeezers
 - 4 Opening word
 - 5 Estimated
 - 6 Tenancy term
 - 7 Model

- 8 Actress Thurman
- 9 Packed down
- 10 Hardened by heat
- 11 Queen of Sparta
- 12 Raw minerals
- 13 Barreled (along)
- 19 John Smith, perhaps
- 21 Attract
- 24 Bloodsucker
- 25 Bumped higher
- 26 Peter, the actor
- 27 Gam and Moreno
- 28 Role for Madonna
- 29 Remove moisture again
- 30 Donahue and Aikman
- 33 Gets up
- 36 Swabbie
- 38 Interruptions
- 41 Reverie
- 43 Amorphous



- mass
- 46 Baseball unit
- 48 Balance
- 50 Suspended
- 51 Top cards
- 52 Grow less
- distinct
- 53 Merriment
- 54 Blessing
- 55 Tough coat
- 56 Catches a glimpse of
- 58 Also

