

# The Piano: An Australian Screen Classic



## The Piano (Australian Screen Classics) by Alta H Mabin

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 8145 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 113 pages

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The Piano is a 1993 Australian romantic drama film written and directed by Jane Campion. The film stars Holly Hunter, Harvey Keitel, Sam Neill, and Anna Paquin. It tells the story of Ada McGrath (Hunter), a mute Scottish woman who is sent to New Zealand in the 1850s to marry a wealthy landowner, Alisdair Stewart (Keitel). Ada brings her beloved piano with her, and it becomes a source of both solace and conflict in her new life.

The Piano is a visually stunning and emotionally powerful film. Campion's direction is masterful, and the performances from the cast are all excellent. Hunter is particularly brilliant as Ada, and she brings a great deal of depth and nuance to the role. The film's cinematography, by Stuart Dryburgh, is also stunning, and it captures the beauty of the New Zealand landscape.

The Piano was a critical and commercial success. It won numerous awards, including three Academy Awards for Best Actress (Hunter), Best Original Screenplay (Campion), and Best Supporting Actress (Paquin). The film also won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

The Piano is an important Australian film. It is a powerful and moving story about love, loss, and repression. The film is also a testament to the talent of Jane Campion, who is one of Australia's most acclaimed filmmakers.

## **Themes**

The Piano explores a number of complex themes, including:

- **Love:** The film explores the different types of love, including romantic love, familial love, and self-love. Ada's love for her piano is a powerful force in her life, and it helps her to survive the challenges she faces.
- **Loss:** The film also explores the theme of loss. Ada loses her husband and her daughter, and she is forced to leave her home and her country. These losses are devastating for her, but she is able to find strength and hope in her music.
- **Repression:** The film also explores the theme of repression. Ada is a mute woman, and she is unable to express her emotions directly. This

repression leads to a number of problems in her life, but she is eventually able to find a way to express herself through her music.

## **Characters**

The Piano features a number of complex and well-developed characters. The main characters include:

- **Ada McGrath (Holly Hunter):** Ada is a mute Scottish woman who is sent to New Zealand to marry a wealthy landowner. She is a strong and independent woman, but she is also deeply wounded by the loss of her husband and her daughter. Ada's love for her piano is a powerful force in her life, and it helps her to survive the challenges she faces.
- **Alisdair Stewart (Harvey Keitel):** Alisdair is a wealthy landowner who marries Ada. He is a kind and gentle man, but he is also somewhat naive and unable to understand Ada's emotional needs.
- **George Baines (Sam Neill):** George is a Scottish engineer who is hired by Alisdair to repair Ada's piano. He is a kind and compassionate man, and he is able to understand Ada's emotional needs in a way that Alisdair cannot.
- **Flora McGrath (Anna Paquin):** Flora is Ada's young daughter. She is a bright and curious child, and she is able to communicate with Ada in a way that no one else can.

## **Legacy**

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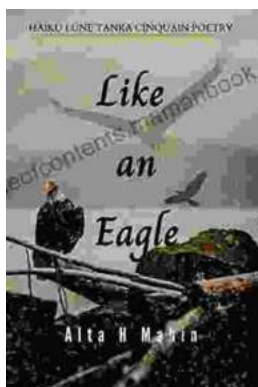
Piano has had a lasting impact on Australian cinema, and it continues to be studied and admired by filmmakers and audiences around the world.



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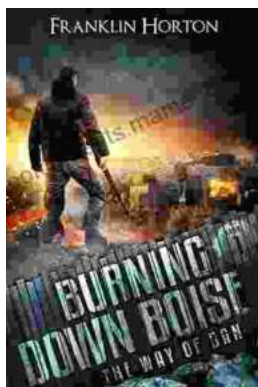
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