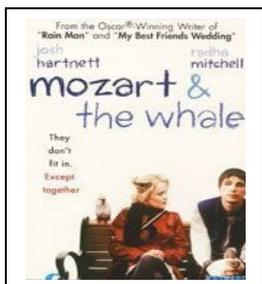


AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

Mozart and the Whale (2005 – DVD)



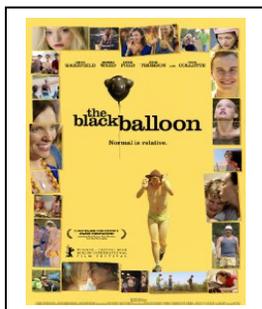
Mozart and the Whale (released as *Crazy in Love*^[1] in some parts of Europe^[2]) is a 2005 romantic comedy-drama film starring Josh Hartnett and Radha Mitchell, and directed by Petter Næss. Based on a true story about love between two savants with Asperger's syndrome, a kind of autism, whose conditions sabotage their budding relationship.

Don't forget to watch the 2nd DVD in the pack on the making of the movie because the person in real life that the movie is based on (and the actors) have some profound comments they make about the movie and Asperger's Syndrome.

Director: Petter Naess

RATED PG-13

The Black Balloon (2008 - DVD)

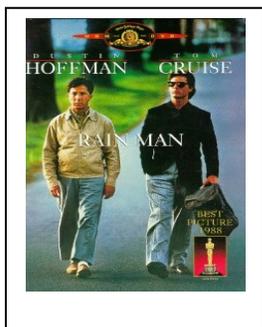


All Thomas wants is a normal adolescence but his autistic brother, Charlie, thwarts his every opportunity. Will Thomas, with the help of his girlfriend, Jackie, accept his brother? The family dynamics and community attitudes really stand out.

Director: Elissa Down

RATED PG-13

Rain Man (1988)



In this film, Dustin Hoffman portrays an Autistic Savant whose influence helps his self-centered younger brother to grow up. In the story, selfish yuppie Charlie Babbitt's father left a fortune to his savant brother Raymond (Tom Cruise) and a pittance to Charlie; they travel cross-country.

Director: Barry Levinson

RATED R

Jam Jar – TV documentary 1995

Jam Jar is the classic 1995 autism documentary which features best selling autistic author, Donna Williams. It follows Donna in her daily life on a farm in rural Wales with her first husband, a man on the autistic spectrum. Here they live according to a different culture and rules that are taken for granted in the world beyond their own. Donna becomes our tour guide showing us the person beyond the labels on the 'jam jar'. **Director and Writer: Simon Everson**
RATED UK12+ YEARS

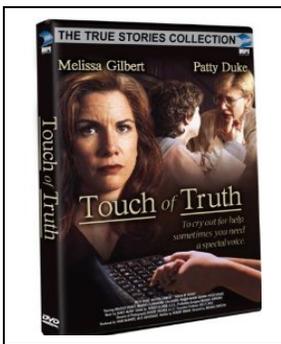
Mary and Max (2009) ANIMATION



A tale of friendship between two unlikely pen pals: Mary, a lonely, eight year old girl living in the suburbs of Melbourne, and Max, a forty-four year old, severely obese man living in New York.

Director & Writer: Adam Elliot
Australia

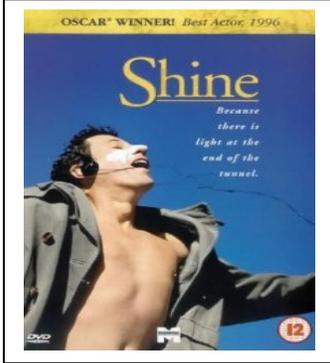
Cries from the Heart (1994) (aka Touch of Truth)



Cries from the Heart (aka *Touch of Truth*) is a 1994 television film directed by Michael Switzer and starring Patty Duke and Melissa Gilbert, who had co-starred together in three prior films. Michael is an autistic 7 year old child. He cannot speak or write. His mother, Karen, sends him to a special school to help him learn. Michael is taught to use a computer in order to express his feelings. Upon this, Michael reveals his fear of one of the orderlies at his school. He reveals he was sexually abused by his guardian there, Jeff. Then ensues a courtroom battle, is Michaels evidence reliable?

Director: Michael Switzer
RATED M

Shine (1996)



Based on the true story of Australian pianist David Helfgott, this delightful movie charts the early and traumatic years. Telling the story in flashback we see David as he grows up and into a child prodigy while his father abuses him and his siblings with the memory of his childhood in Europe and the loss of his family in the concentration camps. David finally breaks away from his father and goes away to study overseas, he later suffers a breakdown and returns to Australia and a life in an institution. Many years later he is released and through several twists of fate (in reality even more unlikely than film portrays) he starts playing a piano in a bar before finally returning to the concert hall.

Director: Scott Hicks

RATED PG