

Review from SLIFF jury

“Òran na h-Eala”



A British drama inspired by the classic movie “The Red Shoes” it tells the story of the Scottish ballerina, Moira Shearer and her career.

Moira is a young girl who has spent her whole life learning ballet and trying to become a successful dancer. She gets the chance to star in a movie. The director expects the young girl to take the offer as it is a great opportunity in his eyes, but does the main character think the same way?

The following scenes portray the ballerina’s doubts and concerns. She is being torn between her willingness to devote herself to dance and her desire to become a star. A great scene that depicts the main character’s emotions was the spinning sequence, Moira is spinning while being surrounded by Mr. Powell and Mr. Pressburger. This scene is written with light, red lights interchanged with white ones create an illusion of flashing beacons that cause an alarming feeling. Big shadows are also created by those lights, they are heavy and their glare forces Moira to weigh up the difficult decision pressing on her.

The actress Shannon Davidson splendidly manages to portray a complex character, who appears both weak and tender, whilst also being fierce and holding her ground. She also manages to dance, sing, perform and act at the same time, moreover she did it in a very persuasive manner.

This is a movie full of attention to detail. Starting with the opening credits, honoring everyone who participated in the creative process. The name of the movie comes from Scottish Gaelic and translates as “Song of the Swan”, and it’s symbolic of Moira Shearer’s inner struggle in making the hardest decision of her life.

