

GOLF IN THE KINGDOM

A NEW MOVIE WITH THE IMPACT TO ELEVATE YOUR GAME—AND YOUR LIFE

Michael Murphy, co-founder of the renowned Esalen Institute in Big Sur, Calif., which is dedicated to the exploration of human consciousness and transformation, didn't know nearly 40 years ago that the first book he was about to write—*Golf in the Kingdom*—would have a profound impact on many people's lives.

After all, the book was about a game. But not just any game.

"I've learned beyond any doubt that golf provides many windows to the soul," Murphy says. "It demands tremendous concentration, partly because you are alone with yourself on the course. There's so much time to think, which is both an asset and a problem. But all that time makes golf a potentially transformational experience."

And now—40 years later, 1.5 million copies of his book later, countless extraordinary golf-related experiences related by his readers later—Murphy's fictional best seller itself has been transformed . . . into a movie unlike any other.

The film describes the experiences of a young man (Michael Murphy, played by Mason Gamble) who, en route to India on a quest for life's answers, stops to play a round at the famous Burningbush Golf Club in Scotland. While on the links, he is paired with a mysterious teacher named Shivas Irons (David O'Hara), who leads him through

a round of inner discovery that elevates his game and his life.

"The movie isn't loaded with CGI [computer-generated imagery] effects and breakneck action," says Mindy Affrime, producer of *Golf in the Kingdom*. "But if you have an open mind, it can have far greater entertainment value, transporting you to that intangible 'zone,' where athletes say great performance comes with little conscious effort."

Portraying that peak moment, or altered state of consciousness, in a film is extremely difficult. "What happens to a person internally when he or she has one of these mystical experiences on the golf course?" asks Murphy. "I don't think I've ever seen any movie try to portray that state of mind. We tried to push the envelope."

Filming on the Scottish-style links of Bandon Dunes (see "*Links to the Game's Soul*," facing page) delivered the perfect atmosphere and environmental backdrop for the task. Depicting the more difficult psychological angle was left to director Susan Streitfeld.

"*Golf in the Kingdom* isn't a typical, linear story," says Streitfeld, "and that's the main reason a film hadn't been created

to this point. I think the previous owners of the film-option rights, like golfers obsessed with technical instruction, weren't able to wrap their arms around the abstract concepts of the book. Instead of believing that the game 'is all about the walk,' as

Shivas Irons advises, they got bogged down with the details."

Even Streitfeld recalls that the past eight years of simply preparing to film the movie were full of anxiety because, she says, "I didn't know what would come of it. I wanted to make a film that would give an audience the experience Michael had when he met Shivas. I wanted everyone, golfers and non-golfers, to leave the theater having been moved."

Achieving that objective required a unique exploration of visual and audio techniques that authentically captured the pace, essence and beauty of the game—along with a large measure of nature's grace. Streitfeld, for example, says that due to budget constraints, the movie

had to be shot in a span of only 20 consecutive days (April 14–May 8, 2009), a time of year when coastal Oregon weather can be a major challenge. Amazingly, the crew didn't lose a single day of shooting.

Given its mystical nature, how will people react to the movie? "Golfers should look at it as an adventure in consciousness and explore the further reaches of their minds," says Murphy. "Some non-golfers may walk out, but others will find themselves transported out of ordinary awareness and into a world full of enchantment."

The movie will be released in July and August, 2011. To learn more, please visit golfinthekingdommovie.com. You can also follow us on Facebook.



DAVID O'HARA
as SHIVAS IRONS



MASON GAMBLE
as MICHAEL MURPHY



"LINKS" TO THE GAME'S SOUL

Golf in the Kingdom author Michael Murphy originally had modeled the home course of Shivas Irons after The Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland. After many years of film-rights options faded away, though, he was just as pleased when a fittingly unusual combination of acquaintances and circumstances determined the final shooting location to be the perfectly suited Scottish-style links of Bandon Dunes on Oregon's southern coast.

"When I was approached three years ago to host the filming," says Bandon Dunes owner Mike Keiser, "I was both excited and daunted. I thought Michael Murphy's book was breathtaking when I read it 30 years ago. I loved the idea of a movie being made here, but was anxious that anyone could really do justice to the book because it was so metaphorical, even strange, in its own way."

Keiser's apprehension turned to admiration upon viewing the end result, and he admits he's had many mystical experiences in his own "kingdom."

"Every time I go out on one of our courses, I see golf and the environment in the almost-spiritual way Michael has defined them so well in *Golf in the Kingdom*," Keiser says. "There is something about links golf that transports you to a different world, one of heightened senses, and appreciation and love of nature and the game. We claim, rather grandly, that Bandon Dunes offers golf as it was meant to be. As Michael has written, it's much more than a game."

GOLF IN THE KINGDOM LLC PRESENTS A MINDY AFFRIME PRODUCTION "GOLF IN THE KINGDOM"
DAVID O'HARA MASON GAMBLE TONY CURRAN FRANCES FISHER CATHERINE KELLNER JULIAN SANDS
JIM TURNER JOANNE WHALLEY RIK YOUNG and MALCOLM McDOWELL
MUSIC BY DAME EVELYN GLENNIE & IAN DEAN COSTUME DESIGNER ANGELA BILLOWS FILM EDITOR KATHRYN HIMOFF A.C.E.
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY ARTURO D. SMITH CONSULTING PRODUCER JONATHAN DANA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS
ADAPTED FROM THE NOVEL "GOLF IN THE KINGDOM" BY MICHAEL MURPHY
SCREENPLAY BY SUSAN STREITFELD PRODUCED BY MINDY AFFRIME DIRECTED BY SUSAN STREITFELD

PROMOTING PERSONAL GROWTH

Golf in the Kingdom's golf and life lessons are a perfect fit for helping The First Tee and the Tiger Woods Foundation give underprivileged children valuable opportunities to learn and grow through the game.

In addition to running private fund-raising screenings of the movie last year to benefit the Los Angeles and Monterey chapters of The First Tee and this year's premieres in New York City and Portland, Ore., *Golf in the Kingdom* LLC has brought groups of eager children from The First Tee and the Tiger Woods Foundation to Warner Brothers Studios for hands-on film editing experiences and tours.

The Shivas Irons Society (shivas.org), which provides "opportunities for community, discovery and transformation through golf," also has sent 100 disadvantaged youths to summer golf camps since 1995.



THE KINGDOM IS RENEWED

A new edition of the best-selling golf fiction book ever published, (over 1.5 million copies sold) will be released by Penguin Books to coincide with the movie's premiere. The book will include a new preface by the author. Look for it in bookstores, or visit penguin.com to order. Open Road Media has published e-book versions of *Golf in the Kingdom*, as well as three other books by Michael Murphy. Visit openroadmedia.com to watch videos of the author and learn more.