



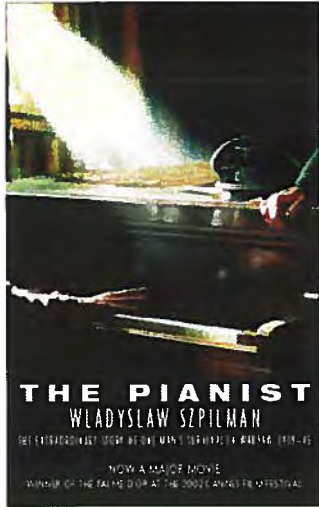
THE PIANIST

THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF ONE MAN'S SURVIVAL IN WARSAW, 1939-45

Wladyslaw Szpilman

Published in Phoenix Paperback on 31st December 2002 at £7.99

Now a major movie by Roman Polanski
**WINNER OF THE PALME D'OR
AT THE 2002 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL**
The Pianist will be premiered in London on 15th November 2002
and is due for general release in January 2003.



0-75381-405-6

"Vivid and anguished ... compulsive reading"
The Sunday Telegraph

"You can learn more about human nature from this brief account ...
than from several volumes of the average encyclopedia"
The Independent on Sunday

"The images drawn are unusually sharp and clear ... Szpilman
refuses to make a hero or a demon out of anyone"
Literary Review

"an icy, nerveless but remarkably readable memoir"
The Sunday Times

"We are drawn in to share his surprise and then disbelief at the
horrifying progress of events, all conveyed with an understated
intimacy and daliness that render them painfully close ... riveting"
The Observer

**BEFORE WORLD WAR TWO 3.5 MILLION JEWS LIVED IN POLAND
AFTERWARDS JUST 240,000 WERE LEFT**

This is the powerful, raw memoir of a young Jewish pianist who survived in the Warsaw ghetto - against all odds.

Famed for its bleak humility, **The Pianist** was first published in Poland in 1946, immediately after the horrific events it describes. It caused much controversy and has not been reprinted in Poland since. A unique and important holocaust account, its timing restrained the sentimentality and passion years of reflection create, leaving us with a calm, composed and intensely powerful eye-witness account.

This new edition is published to coincide with the release of the film adaptation of **The Pianist**, which won the coveted Palme D'Or at Cannes this year, by celebrated director Roman Polanski. Polanski's childhood parallels that of Szpilman - both Jewish Poles they escaped deportation from their home cities, watched as their families were sent to labour camps to die and were saved from certain death by non-Jewish Poles.

With a foreword by Szpilman's son, who only discovered his family history when he found **The Pianist** in his father's house, and an epilogue by Wolf Biermann, this edition includes diary extracts from the German officer who saved Szpilman's life, Captain Wilm Hosenfeld, who died just a few years later in a POW camp in Stalingrad.

After the war Szpilman returned to playing piano on Polish radio and became a great and renowned composer of classical works, film scores and popular songs.

For further information please contact
Sophie Mackrell in the Phoenix Publicity Department
020 7520 4429 som@orionbooks.co.uk