



Shania

a life in eight albums

Barna-Alper Productions presents SHANIA - A Life in Eight Albums

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS Laszlo Barna, Phyllis Platt, Catherine Tait FEATURING Meredith Henderson, Reva Timbers, Shenae Grimes, Eric Schweig, Gordon Tootoosis, Darrell Dennis, Lynne Cormack, Diego Klattenhoff, Christopher Ralph, Lubomir Mykytiuk, Katie Bolland, Devon Bostock AND Megan Follows WRITTEN BY Shelley Eriksen
PRODUCED BY Phyllis Platt PRODUCER Brian Dennis EDITOR George Roulston DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY Norayr Kasper PRODUCTION DESIGNER Rocco Matteo
MUSIC COMPOSED BY Robert Carli MUSIC SUPERVISOR Ron Proulx COSTUME DESIGNER Joyce Shure CASTING Stephanie Gorin

CBC Radio-Canada

a film by JERRY CICCORITTI





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A motivating story of triumph that proves that dreams can come true.

An intimate dramatic portrait of Shania Twain, one of the most successful female artists of all time, from her childhood singing in bars to the cusp of international stardom.

Cute and with a powerful voice, eight year old Eileen Twain (Reva Timbers) sings in bars, talent shows and telethons – anywhere that Sharon, her mother (Megan Follows, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Open Heart*), thinks there might be a chance to be discovered or any money to be made. Even now, she knows what she wants: to sing her own music. From her adoptive father (Eric Schweig, *Skins*, *The Last of the Mohicans*) and grandfather (Gordon Tootoosis, *Legends of the Fall*, *Lone Star*), Eileen learns a different reality – the richness of First Nations' music, traditions and ceremony. There is hardly any food on the table, the family is poor, but they are strong and united.

The Twains' fortune turns around when her father starts a tree planting business, which gives Eileen (Shenae Grimes, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, *The Soccer Show*), now in high school, the opportunity to become the lead singer for a garage rock band: spandex, leggings and all.

Years go by and Sharon will do anything to see her daughter in Nashville. A little time after, Sophya (Meredith Henderson, *The Song Spinner*, *The Fearing Mind*), Eileen's chosen artistic name, with her newly appointed manager Mary Bailey (Lynne Cormack, *Man in the Mirror: The Michael Jackson Story*), heads for the country music capital only to return defeated five months later.

Never giving up, Eileen moves to the big city with the help of symphony conductor and theater producer John Kim Bell (Darell Dennis, *Sue Thomas*, *F.B. Eye*, *The Associates*). There is a clash of talents and passions that unavoidably sparks romance. She may be singing to larger crowds, but she is still not singing her own songs.

Her parents come to visit and find a tuned down version of their bubbly girl. "Is this who you really are?" asks her mother before they leave.

The phone rings. It is her grandfather. There has been an accident. A truck hit her parent's car. It is fatal, no survivors.

Devastated by the loss of her parents but driven by the wholesome sense of family that she grew with, Eileen selflessly puts her dreams on hold for two years to care for her siblings. She is only 21 –smashingly beautiful, strong and talented-, and already a working single mother to her brothers and sisters. As time goes by she is needed less and less at home and is ready to face Nashville again. She hears the name, "Shania". "What does it mean?" she asks. "On my way"...

Determined to make it big, and motivated always by memories, the love of her father, the strength of her mother and the wisdom of her native grandfather, Eileen goes back to Nashville where she records her first album; still not herself, an important element is still missing: her own music. She tries to convince the recording company to allow her to sing her songs, but it looks like no producer is interested.

She is frustrated and depressed. So much to give inside, but no one seems to understand her. On the verge of giving up the phone rings:

- Hello?
- Is Shania Twain there? This is Mutt Lange.
- Mutt?
- Yeah, Mutt, It's a nickname
- God, I hope so; this is Shania.
- I'm a pretty big fan of yours... I hear you are looking for a producer...

That night Shania Twain, the star, was born. Seventeen months later, they finished recording "The Woman in Me", which sold 16 million copies.

Genre: Drama
Length: 90 Min.
Language: English
Director: Jerry Ciccoritti (*Life of the Saints*, *Trudeau*)
Producer: Brian Dennis (*Open Heart*, *The Eleventh Hour*, *The Associates*)

Available Format: Digital Betacam



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