



List Movies

List Theaters

Search by area

Go

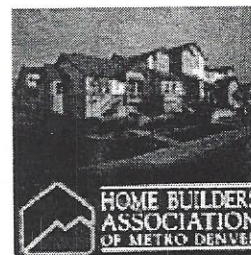
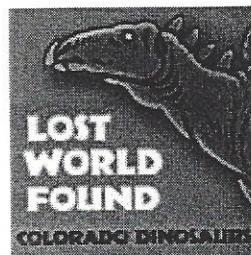
## Seven Years In Tibet (PG-13)

The story of mountain climber Heinrich Harrer, who escaped a British prison camp in Asia at the beginning of World War II and found refuge in Tibet, where he became a tutor of the young Dalai Lama.

Starring Brad Pitt, David Thewlis, and B.D. Wong. Directed by Jean-Jacques Annaud. Sony Pictures.

### Showing in Denver on 10/21/97:

Theater Name	Showtimes	Amenities
AMC Seven Hills 10	( 5:30 ) 8:15	<b>SDDS</b>
AMC Southbridge Plaza 8	( 5:30 ) 8:30	
AMC Tivoli 12	1:20 ( 5:20 ) 7:55 10:30	
Mann Theatres Bowles Crossing 12	( 1:40 3:40 4:50 ) 6:40 7:50 9:40	
Mann Theatres Cherry Creek 8	( 1:50 5:00 ) 8:00	<b>THX</b>
Mann Theatres Cherry Creek 8	( 1:20 4:20 ) 7:20 10:15	
Mann Theatres Colony Square 12	( 12:25 3:30 ) 7:00 10:10	<b>SDDS</b>
Mann Theatres Olde Town 14	( 1:30 4:30 ) 7:30 10:30	<b>DC</b>
Mann Theatres Union Square 6	( 2:00 5:00 ) 8:00	
United Artists Continental 6	( 12:30 3:55 ) 7:25 10:45	<b>THX SDDS</b>
United Artists Cooper 5	( 1:00 4:00 ) 7:00 10:05	
United Artists Cooper 6	( 4:00 ) 7:00 10:00	
United Artists Denver West Village 12	( 12:25 3:30 ) 7:00 10:15	<b>THX SDDS</b>
United Artists Starport Park Meadows 6	( 1:30 4:30 ) 7:15 10:20	<b>THX SDDS</b>
United Artists Thornton Town Center 10	( 4:00 ) 7:30 10:20	<b>SDDS</b>
United Artists Village 4	( 1:00 3:50 ) 6:50 9:50	



### digitalcity Review

#### Seven Years in Tibet Good, but No Spiritual Adventure

by Peter Jones on October 13, 1997

Seven Years in Tibet Worth Seeing

Any film that asks viewers to sympathize with a socially retarded Nazi will face challenges from the very beginning. Jean-Jacques Annaud's *Seven Years in Tibet* tries to get around that problem, not by showing how far a morally bankrupt person can rise, but by virtually ignoring the true life lead character's racist foibles.

Set against the backdrop of World War II, the movie is based on an autobiographical tome by Heinrich Harrer, a self-absorbed Austrian mountain climber who supposedly reached spiritual enlightenment while living in Tibet with the young Dalai Lama. The film begins in 1939. Harrer (Brad Pitt), aloof and lacking in niceties, coldly leaves his very pregnant wife at the railroad station. Determined to climb the Nanga Parbat peak in the Himalayas, he and friend Peter (David Thewlis) are setting off on what's intended to be a four-month quest. The team fails to conquer the difficult peak, however. Instead, they are interned in a British P.O.W. camp. After escaping, the two men wander through sundry misadventures, eventually winding up in Lhasa, Tibet, where Peter falls in love, and Harrer finds the Dalai Lama.

Despite elegant cinematography, detailed sets and a well-intentioned indictment of the Chinese invasion of Tibet, this at once timely and historical drama is plagued by one basic flaw. *Seven Years in Tibet* never demonstrates any of Harrer's alleged "spiritual enlightenment." The film simply presumes Harrer has become a better person and instructs the audience to equate that with spirituality. By movie's end, Harrer has certainly become a nicer guy. But then again, he really wasn't much to begin with.

The problem is compounded by Becky Johnston's (*Prince of Tides*) script. Generally lacking in emotional substance, the screenplay pales against the marvelous wide-screen shots of the Andes mountains (doubling for the too-difficult-to-film Himalayas). *Seven Years in Tibet*, though never scaling its potential peaks, is still a reasonably entertaining odyssey, especially if you come expecting a scenic adventure yarn. Pitt, bleach blond and Aryan, is credible as Harrer, though the actor spends so much time concentrating on his Austrian accent, his character is not always convincing.

Pitt's best scenes are those with the pre-teen Dalai Lama (playfully recreated by 14-year-old Bhutanese actor Jamyang Jamtsho Wangchuk). The movie's dramatic high point is its stark portrayal of the Chinese invasion. Although one must anticipate this outcome in any historical film about post-World War II Tibet, the expectation does nothing to lessen the shock of the sheer brutality and senselessness.

*Seven Years in Tibet* should gauge whether recent media attention on China has heightened public interest in the Tibetans' plight. Martin Scorsese's *Kundun*, a full-fledged biography of the Dalai Lama, is slated for release this Christmas. Hopefully, Scorsese sees the dramatic and emotional potential of fusing Tibet's awe-inspiring landscape with the tragic, near mythic true story of the nation's people.

**Peter Jones has been a movie journalist in the Denver area since the early '80s and currently edits the trade journal *Exposed* and *CineScene*, the quarterly newsletter of the Denver Film Society.**

---

[List Movies](#)[List Theaters](#)[Member Reviews](#)[Feedback](#)[Help](#)

---

Copyright © 1997 Digital City, Inc. All Rights Reserved.