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Jack Torrance's (Jack Nicholson) Stunt Axe
The Shining (1980)

Jack Torrance's (Jack Nicholson) stunt axe from Stanley Kubrick's seminal horror masterpiece The Shining. Wielded throughout the film's unforgettable climax, Jack's axe is central to some of cinema's most chilling moments: from the murder of Hallorann (Scatman Crothers), to the pursuit of Wendy (Shelley Duvall), to the iconic chase through the Overlook Hotel's snowbound hedge maze, where Jack ultimately freezes to death still clutching the weapon.

The image of Nicholson's deranged Jack stalking the Overlook's corridors remains as powerful today as it was upon the film's release. His most famous line, the ad-libbed "Here's Johnny!" - delivered as he hacks through a door with the axe - has become one of the most quoted and enduring moments in Hollywood history.

This stunt axe is one of several lightweight versions created as safer alternatives to the production's "hero" axe, used during action sequences and shots where actors were in close proximity to the blade. Lightweight versions also ensured Nicholson didn't become exhausted by carrying a heavy axe for extended periods of time.

Constructed from a lightweight hard foam, with a faux-wood painted handle and a wedge-shaped axe head clad in metalized sheeting, the piece is a masterclass in Kubrick-era practical prop design. The current owner acquired the axe from an industry professional based at Elstree Studios, where much of The Shining was shot. The axe exhibits signs of production use, with minor areas of paint loss visible along the handle. The condition of this axe is remarkable when not only considering its age and evident use, but also when compared to its counterparts. Dimensions: 36.25" x 11.75" x 1.5" (92 cm x 30 cm x 4 cm)

Estimate: \$50,000 - 100,000



36.25" (92 cm)

