

# REVIEW

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film’s primary action set-piece: an underwater heist. Like the previous film’s Kremlin heist, the underwater break-in is clever and thrilling — which is really saying something, considering that water-based action sequences have a reputation for being extremely dull.

The bulk of the stunt takes place in an underwater chamber (after Cruise dives 120 into the chasm) and is comprised of impressively long takes. Prior to production, Cruise trained for weeks with underwater specialists. Some news outlets have reported that Cruise held his breath for over six minutes while filming the scene.

Cruise’s signature stunt in the previous film required him to scale the outside of the Burj Khalifa — the world’s tallest building. For “Rogue Nation,” Cruise set his sights significantly higher.

During one part of the film, Cruise holds onto the outside of a military transport plane as it takes off, eventually reaching 5,000 feet in altitude — not just once, but eight

times. The wind alone required Cruise to wear scleral lens in order to protect his eyes during the precarious flight.

These and other death-defying stunts found in “Rogue Nation” prove that Cruise’s dedication to the series is nothing short of audacious. The authenticity of the production also gives the thrills an organic energy and stronger sense of inventiveness — continuing to raise the stakes where “Ghost Protocol” left off.

Fans of the franchise are sure to be delighted and most casual moviegoers would be hard-pressed to dissatisfaction with the picture. Along with “Mad Max: Fury Road,” I’d name “Rogue Nation” as the most entertaining blockbusters of the summer season.

Oh, and that 5,000-foot plane stunt? That takes place within in the first two minutes of “Rogue Nation” — and I assure you, from that point on the film just keeps climbing.

“Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation” is rated PG-13 and is currently playing at Lakeland Cinema, Woodruff.

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# LAGS to road trip to Three Lakes

The Lakeland Area Genealogical Society is planning a trip to our neighboring town of Three Lakes. On Aug. 11, the group will meet at the Three Lakes Museum at the pre-arranged time for a personal tour of that facility. There will be time to browse after the tour so we can enjoy what is on display.

After the group will have lunch in town and then go to the Three Lakes Winery for a tour there.

The group feels lucky to have such interesting things to do with in the area.

LAGS is a group of local genealogists with varying degrees of experience and expertise in researching family histories. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month usually in the Minocqua Public Library. LAGS has activities at times that take us out of that site. There is usually an article in *The Lakeland Times* the

Friday before the meeting to explain what we will be doing.

The meetings at the library runs from 2-4 p.m. with a short business meeting and a program of interest to the members. For example, some of the future meetings will feature local health history with local speakers and the Civil War with speaker Paul Johnson.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Relay for Life



Members of the American Legion Post 89 Color Guard lead a group of cancer survivors around the track during the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life Northern Lights Survivor Recognition Lap Friday, July 31, at Lakeland Union High School, Minocqua. Dean Hall Lakeland Times

# MUSIC

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an international audience.

“The residency is a part of a bigger program called Connections and Opportunities, which offers four other formats supporting artists,” added Thompson.

During the month of October, Thompson will be performing live and sharing his art in the museum. “While performing, I will interact with people who are visiting the memorial and share my art in a very intimate way, giving visitors an opportunity to see and hear the instruments up close.”

Throughout time the flute has been used for various purposes including healing, meditation and courtship, Thompson explained.

“For me it was healing and calming,” he said. “Everyone needs healing, including me.”

Wanting to learn as much about the instrument as possible, Thompson educated himself about the construction, purpose and history of the flute.

“It’s enriching. The flute is enriching on many levels — emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally,” Thompson said, expounding on the emotional impact of playing the instrument. “I reflect on my journey every time I play.”

“Many of the Native American songs reflect what was important to us,” he added, reflecting on his people’s use of music during courtship.

“It was a disrespectful thing not to gain a woman’s respect before courting her,” Thompson explained. “Playing a song for someone reflected that person’s respect as well as respect for the community.”

In addition to playing, Thompson also makes flutes and shares his talent with others through a workshop at Dillman’s Bay Art Workshop Retreat. He is entering his fourth year at the workshop as an instructor.

“People are learning about the culture through the instrument,” Thompson noted. “Many of my students have left my event in tears because they didn’t



Dean Hall/Lakeland Times

**Darren Thompson, pictured performing in 2014, was recently recognized as an upcoming artist of month at Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation in South Dakota.**

*“I put all of my heart, all of my mind, all of my soul and all of my energy into performing with other people and their reactions are testament to that.”*

## Darren Thompson

think they had the capability to express themselves with such an instrument.”

Thompson has been described as a “one-of-a-kind” artist, but finds it a struggle to explain the label.

“I still haven’t developed the proper way to respond to that title. I share a lot of my personal journey and I am very approachable which may make me one-of-a-kind,” he said.

Focusing on preserving Native American music, Thompson also emphasizes the importance of one-on-one relation-

ships through the art. Preserving the art of the flute is important to give to the next generation, he said. “It defines who we are to the world.”

Humble and appreciative of what he has already accomplished, Thompson remains focused on growing as a Native American music artist.

“What is allowing me to do that (growth) is striving in other aspects in my life — being thankful and making sure that I’m always appreciative and vocal with those who have helped my

path because I didn’t do this alone,” he explained.

Thompson’s future goals consist of continual development of his workshop, continuing to reflect on his heritage through the instrument and simply moving forward. “I am extremely excited and proud to share this endeavor. I’m proud to share this with my community,” Thompson said. “There have been so many supporters from the Northwoods area and this is for them.”

Thompson’s next workshop at Dillman’s is scheduled for June 2016.

For more information, visit [www.darrenthompson.net](http://www.darrenthompson.net)

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