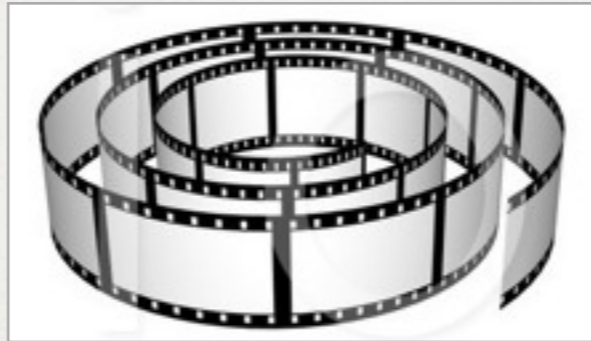


# EMBODIED VISIONS

REBECCA VER STRATEN-MCSPARRAN

# CHRISTIANS IN HOLLYWOOD: THEN AND NOW

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- Caution or Silence: 20 years ago
- A New World: Curiosity, Acceptance or Rejection



10,000 CHRISTIANS  
IN HOLLYWOOD?

# ENGAGING HOLLYWOOD

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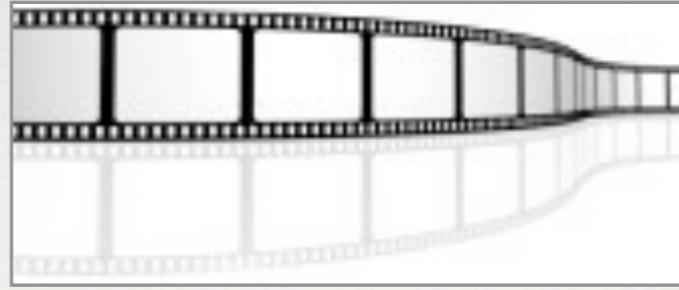
- A Creative Art:  
The Content-Makers
- A Collaborative Art:  
A Faithful Presence
- Gatekeepers





# THEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO FILM

DOING THEOLOGY INVOLVES  
BOTH EXPERIENTIAL AND  
CRITICAL THINKING



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“The first demand any work of any art makes upon us is  
surrender.

Look, Listen. Receive.

Get yourself out of the way.

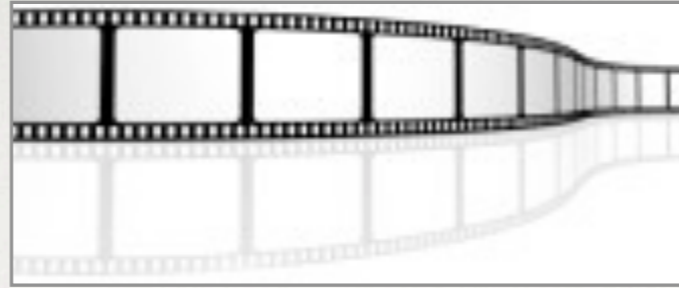
There is no good asking first whether the work before you  
deserves

such a surrender,

for until you have surrendered  
you cannot possibly find out.”

-C.S. Lewis, *An Experiment in Criticism*

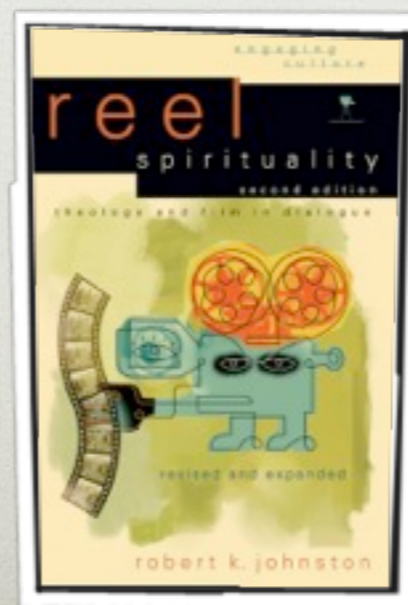




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# **THE THEOLOGIAN/CRITIC'S APPROACH TO FILM**

**FROM  
REEL SPIRITUALITY  
BY ROBERT K. JOHNSTON**



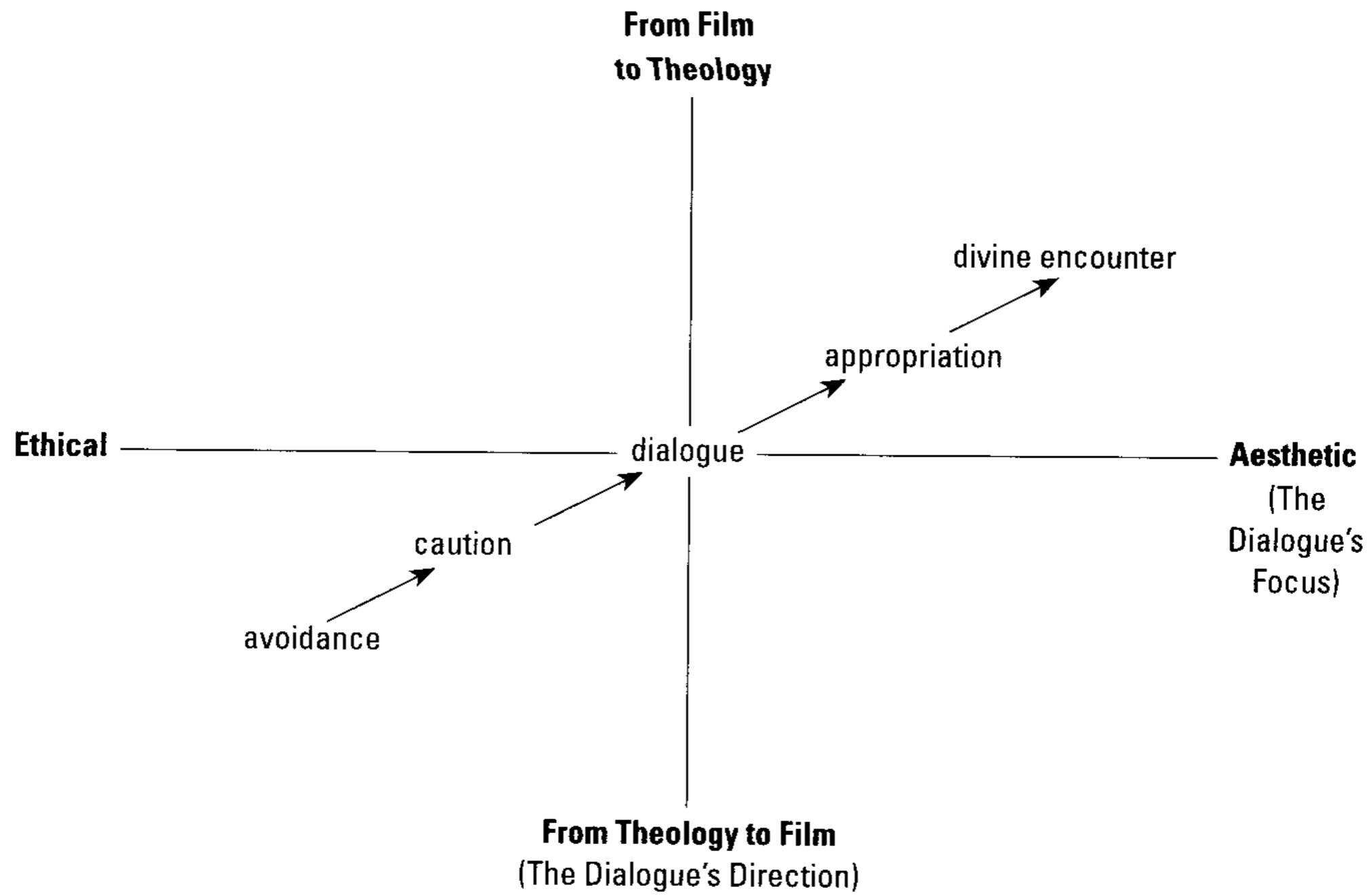


Figure 3.2 The Theologian/Critic's Approach



# PLATO AND ARISTOTLE GO TO THE MOVIES

ADAPTED FROM  
RON AUSTIN, IN A NEW LIGHT: SPIRITUALITY AND THE MEDIA ARTS

# PLATO'S IDEALISM

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- Story presents a model for behavior or is driven by a message
- Conflict is mythic and ideal
- Westerns, Superheroes



# ARISTOTLE'S PURGATION OF EMOTION

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- Moral guidance may or may not be present.
- Story leads into the more subjective realm of inner conflict where we explore to face our fears and desires.
- By identifying with the characters, our deep feelings and inner conflicts rise to the surface and are purged, or at least confronted.
- Drama, Art Film



# THE DEADLY AND THE HOLY IN CINEMA

DEADLY CINEMA PARADES  
AS HOLY ONLY TO MASK  
WHAT IS TRULY HOLY. THE  
TRULY HOLY REQUIRES US  
TO PAY ATTENTION, TO  
STRUGGLE TO GRASP  
HOLD OF IT.

-KARTINA RICHARDSON

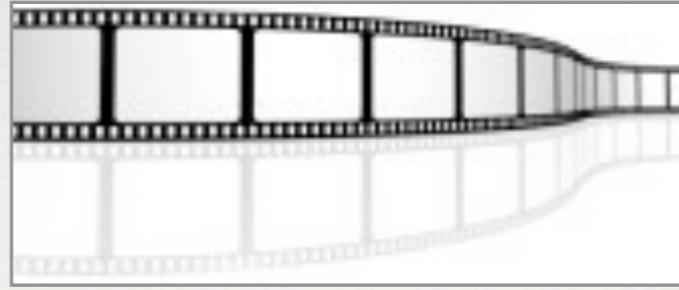


# CONSIDERING CHRISTIANS IN SCIENCE AND FILM

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- A Plethora of Options
- Experts Needed in Each Discipline
- A Caution - Propositional Consequences
- A Suggestion - Provocateurs and Evocateurs





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"Not everything can be named. Some things draw us beyond words. Art can warm even a chilled and sunless soul to an exalted spiritual experience. Through art we can occasionally receive--indistinctly, briefly--revelations the like of which cannot be achieved by rational thought.

It is like that small mirror of legend; you look into it but instead of yourself you glimpse for a moment the Inaccessible, a realm forever beyond reach. And your soul begins to ache."

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Nobel Lecture