Embodied Visions

Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran
Christians in Hollywood: Then and Now

- Caution or Silence: 20 years ago
- A New World: Curiosity, Acceptance or Rejection
10,000 Christians in Hollywood?
ENGAGING HOLLYWOOD

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

Ralph Winter
John Lee Hancock
Dan Lin
DeVon Franklin
Scott Derrickson
Melanie Knox
Doing theology involves both experiential and critical thinking.

Theological Approaches to Film

Doing theology involves both experiential and critical thinking.
“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
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

- Story presents a model for behavior or is driven by a message
- Conflict is mythic and ideal
- Westerns, Superheroes
Aristotle’s
Purgation of Emotion

- 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

• A Plethora of Options

• Experts Needed in Each Discipline

• A Caution - Propositional Consequences

• A Suggestion - Provocateurs and Evocateurs
"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