ESSAY COLLECTIONS


Includes several historical chapters about the relationship between Christianity and film, and chapters on specific categories including redemption, apocalyptic, and Jesus and Christ-figures.


A valuable companion for the Christian wishing to become a more thoughtful and discerning film viewer. Includes chapters on Theological Approaches to Film Criticism; Image and Music; Responding to Film Ethically: Moving Beyond the Rating System, and more. Very comprehensive bibliography.


In addition to providing a good overview of the film and faith dialogue, this book offers useful suggestions on how it can actually move forward. The essays are by recognized scholars and fall into one of six sections, such as Moving Beyond a Literary Paradigm and Extending Our Conversation Partners.


This insightful book explores forty-five recent popular movies for theological substance. The films are organized by theme into three parts—Identity, Community, and History—and represent many genres. The general bent is that of emergent/post-liberal Christianity. The author draws convincingly on theology, popular culture, and critical theory, and is eager to learn from those outside the church.
[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN1995.5 .D38 2005]

Densely-packed essays touching on many relevant topics: religion and popular culture, audience reception, the star system, similarities between religion and cinema, and popular vs. art-house cinema. Includes reasonably detailed readings of seven Hollywood films and a useful bibliography.


Older yet still relevant, the articles here interact well with both theology and film theory. After attempting to stake a place for theology within film studies, the book uses a number of films and filmmakers as occasion for exploring such themes as redemption and liberation. Closes with article “A Future Agenda for Theology and Film”.


Thirteen essays, each on a movie in which Catholic characters feature prominently. The book amounts essentially to a history of Hollywood through its relationship—on and off-screen—with Catholics and the Church. At the same time, each essay is a model of intelligent critical engagement with a film text and can be read on its own.

**NON-ACADEMIC ESSAY COLLECTIONS**

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BS2565 .M27 2001]

This unique 3-volume set matches appropriate films to each of the readings in the Lectionary’s 3-year cycle. Each chapter follows a basic format: Synopsis, Commentary, Dialogue with the Gospel, Key Scenes and Themes, For Reflection and Conversation, and a brief closing prayer by the authors. Ideal for faith and film groups.


Shorter (3-4 page) essays on fifty films with representations of the divine. Mostly written by non-religious critics and scholars with film choices ranging from predictable (*Groundhog Day*, *Babette’s Feast*, *Ordet*) to delightfully unexpected (*Love Affair*, *Utamarro and His Women*).

**Reverse Shot**  
[Available online: http://www.reverseshot.com/legacy/spring04/index.html]

This issue of the online journal *Reverse Shot* features sixteen essays on films “reflective of a spiritual tendency in cinema – through the medium’s very form, within or without of the narrative, or where the work reproduces the spiritual within the writers themselves”. Thoughtful and lively meditations on an eclectic set of films – similar to *The Hidden God.*
AESTHETICS


[St. Michael’s 2nd Floor – PN1995 .S417]

A seminal text, totally unique in its concern with aesthetics. Examination of films by Ozu, Bresson and Dreyer reveals certain formal properties – “austerity and asceticism” – best suited for expressing the spiritual. Dated somewhat by its tendency to distinguish too neatly between sacred and profane; otherwise a good place to start exploring the neglected role of style in the film-faith dialogue.

JOURNALS

*Journal of Religion and Film*

[Available online: http://www.unomaha.edu/jrf/]

This peer-reviewed online journal “examines the description, critique, and embodiment of religion in film.” Contains substantial reviews of current movies as well as lengthy essays written in academic style (“In this paper I will argue that…”). The contributors are scholars from a variety of faith backgrounds.

PRESCRIPTIVE REVIEWS

*Decent Films*

[Available online: http://www.decentfilms.com/]

Essay-length critical reviews of popular movies “from the perspective of the historic Christian faith”. Includes a four-part ratings system which evaluates films for artistic and entertainment value, moral and spiritual value, overall recommendability, and age-appropriate audience. Most of the reviews are written by Steven Greydanus, film critic for the weekly newspaper *National Catholic Register*.

*Film Reviews, Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting*


Fairly detailed reviews of over 1200 films produced between 2000 and 2009. Slightly less stress on moral and spiritual content than *Decent Films*.

*USCCB Movie and Family Video Reviews*

[Available online: http://www.usccb.org/movies/]

Short reviews with ratings for over 8000 movies. Prepared by the Office for Film and Broadcasting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

*Movie Concordance*

[Available online: http://www.textweek.com/movies/movies.htm]

An index to spiritual themes (e.g. covenant, humility, Pentecost) in particular movie scenes.
FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

**ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials.**
[Available online for UofT use: www.library.utoronto.ca/]

Over one million bibliographic citations to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion.

To search for articles about a particular movie, type “films” into the first box and select the “SU Subjects” field; type the film’s title in the second box below and select the “TI Title” field.

To search for articles about movies on a particular subject, type “films” into the first box and select the “SU Subjects” field; type a search term (e.g. “redemption”) in the second box below.

Now includes all the content of the online Catholic Periodical and Literature Index. For Catholic journal articles published between 1930 and 1980 use the print version of Catholic Periodical and Literature Index (St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area - AI 3 .C3).

**Index to Film & TV Periodicals**
[Available online (1972 – present) for UofT use: www.library.utoronto.ca/]

Citations to over 300,000 articles from more than 300 academic journals and popular magazines.

**International Index to the Performing Arts**
[Available online (1864 – present) for UofT use www.library.utoronto.ca/]

Citations to articles from over 240 performing arts periodicals including over 60 film periodicals. More recent citations also include a summary of the article.

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