working bibliography on film & culture
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Also see DVD bibliography at http://www.scriptureworkshop.com/film/dvds_on_film.html.


Anker, Ron M. *Catching Light: Looking for God in the Movies*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004. (After an outstanding introduction to the author’s concept of Light (capital ‘L’ emphasized) as it can be discovered in movies, the book immediately diagnoses thirteen or so movies in fantastic detail, including Godfather and Spielberg.)


Beaumont, Douglas M. *The Message Behind the Movie: How to Engage with a Film without Disengaging your Faith*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009. (This book serves as a good introducing to the discussion of the importance of films to the evangelical community. Note, the author’s posture is displayed in many ways. For example, he is against horror films as a whole, and warns that viewing or discussing horror films should be well out of the realm of Christian education and understanding.)


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1 The student should be advised at how young is the field of film studies among evangelicals. While there are not yet standard major evangelical publications, there are many recent works. Several evangelical schools have started offering film studies courses and a few have launched programs; also many evangelical publishers have released multiple books on various aspects of film and theology. Only a small portion of the following list are books by evangelicals. Thank you to several students for pointing out selected texts, and esp. Robb Edwards for providing a few annotations—on Anker, Beaumont, Fleishman, Clive 2007, McNulty 2007—as well as annotations on DVDs Gangland and Tales from the Script at web address listed above (2011).


Cunningham, David S. Reading is Believing: The Christian Faith through Literature and Film. Brazos, 2002. (The book presents teaching the Apostle’s Creed through interaction with literature and film.)


Fitzgerald, F. Scott. The Last Tycoon: An Unfinished Novel. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1941. (This is a work of fiction by a Hollywood insider oriented around a studio head at the time of Hollywood’s booming years. The novel is published along with Fitzgerald’s notes, since he died before completing it. The notes offer insight into the novelist’s craft, considering different ways to create suspense without losing the reader and alternate story directions, and so forth.)
Fleishman, Avrom. *Narrated Films: Storytelling Situations in Cinema History*. Baltimore: John Hopkins Press, 1992. (Fleishman looks at how the camera “tells the story” to the audience. Fleishman looks at narration in films from the classical period to the present [one-third of the book], and then looks at five different narration methods: voice-over; dramatized; multiple; written, and mindscreen narration. For each type of narration, he uses two films to illustrate his points.)


Godawa, Brian. “Beyond Sex & Violence, and Redemption in the Movies (parts 1 and 2).” 
*Cornerstone* 25/110, 26/112.


Marsh, Clive, *et al*, eds. *Explorations in Theology and Film: Movies and Meaning.* Blackwell, 1998. ________, *Theology Goes to the Movies: An Introduction to Critical Christian Thinking.* New York: Routledge Publishing, 2007. (This book sets about a brief discussion on theology and film, as a relevant means by which Christians can begin to engage the narratives of modern films and work out issues and themes within each movie. The book covers twenty-three film titles lumped in categories reminiscent of standard church theology: God, human beings, Spirit, redemption, sacraments, church, and the end. Marsh speaks little of each movie itself, other than a brief paragraph or two. Instead, he focuses on viewer experiences and issues within the film. This is followed by extensive discussions on biblical similarities, and finished with some brief working conclusions for each group of films.)


McNulty, Edward N. *Faith and Film: A Guidebook for Leaders*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. (This book offers itself as a resource for leaders who wish to engage a group or church with cinema. In the first part of the book, McNulty discusses the age old objections by most evangelical Christians concerning thematic materials, and the lack of direct reference of God in modern films. He gives various reasons why we should engage these films with a Christian worldview in order to find elements of faith within certain films, and the significance of this to our lives. Following this is a great section of parables and film, essentially showing how narrative stories in film can often mirror biblical stories that believers draw truths from. He gives some brief (and somewhat inadequate) advice on how to be a good critic of film, before beginning the bulk of the text, which is the individual guides to selected movies.)


Mraz, Barbara. *Finding Faith at the Movies*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2004. (This book is a handbook/guidebook for group or church leaders who will be teaching classes or discussions on finding Christian spiritual aspects within films.)


Wall, James M. *Church and Cinema: A Way of Viewing Film* (Eerdmans, 1971).

Walliss, John, and Lee Quinby, eds., *Reel Revelations: Apocalypse and Film* (Sheffield Phoenix, 2010).


