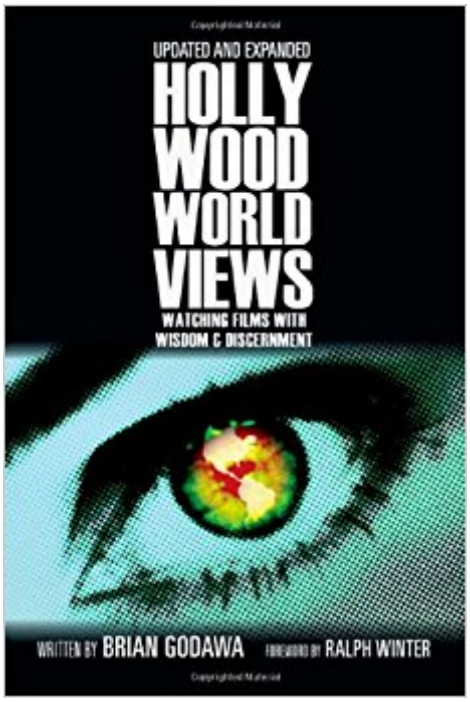
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Hollywood Worldviews: Watching Films With Wisdom & Discernment



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Synopsis

Do you watch movies with your eyes open? You buy your tickets and concessions, and you walk into the theater. Celluloid images flash at twenty-four frames per second, and the hypnotic sequence of moving pictures coaxes you to suspend disbelief and be entertained by the implausible. Unfortunately, many often suspend their beliefs as well, succumbing to subtle lessons in how to behave, think and even perceive reality. Do you find yourself hoping that a sister will succeed in seducing her sibling's husband, that a thief will get away with his crime, that a serial killer will escape judgment? Do you, too, laugh at the bumbling priest and seethe at the intolerant and abusive evangelist? Do you embrace worldviews that infect your faith and then wonder, after your head is clear, whether your faith can survive the infection? In this thoroughly revised and updated edition of his popular book, Brian Godawa guides you through the place of redemption in film, the tricks screenwriters use to communicate their messages, and the mental and spiritual discipline required for watching movies. Hollywood Worldviews helps you enter a dialogue with Hollywood that leads to a happier ending, one that keeps you aware of your culture and awake to your faith.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Any Christian wanting to understand modern film from the viewpoint of its message, its moral premise, will find Godawa's Hollywood Worldviews a must-read. A film must be approached from more than one direction to do justice to it, but an understanding of its worldview is a requirement. There is no better book available on the subject." (Jack Hafer, producer, and chairman of cinema and media arts at Biola University)

Check out Brian Godawa's website for more info and links! His 2002 movie, To End All Wars (Kiefer Sutherland, Robert Carlysle) also has its own website.

This is a really great book that is a must-have in your library, especially if you are wanting to know about the worldviews in movies. In this book, Brian really goes into detail about the different worldviews (biblical, humanistic, neo-paganisic, etc) and how they are portrayed in movies. He also goes into detail about how the themes, concepts, and ideas found in movies are also in the Bible, and covers how they are used for very different reasons.This is a resource needed in your library to help you gain clearer insight into what worldview is portrayed, and how to understand the agenda in Hollywood. I always knew that a creator's worldview is portrayed in their works, but I wanted a more deeper understanding of how they are portrayed. This book helped immensely, especially in helping understanding the worldview in the media I watch. Not just movies either. But also Anime, Video Games, Comics/Manga, etc.I could go into more detail, but I will keep this spoiler-free. You'll have to buy Hollywood Worldviews to really dig in. It will be worth the investment.

I have looked behind the veneer of the cinematic art of movies since I became a Christian. It annoys most people. They say: "can't you just enjoy the show?"...Nope, I cannot. This book will make matters worse for me because it confirms what I suspected all along.... a deliberate mindset is being broadcast from Hollywood that involves all kinds of humanistic and anti-Christian ideas. Godawa is well qualified to write on this subject along with his co-writer. He also has some positive views on many films as well. As a matter of fact, Godawa is not suggesting to avoid movies, but he wants us to understand the underlying motivation and philosophies of the film-makers. He includes suggestions on some films to watch after discussing certain ideologies in the various chapters. Give this book to one of those "enjoy the show" people to read...who knows, maybe a light-bulb will be lit.

Godawa offers a way of looking at the worldviews that underlie the movies, with specific examples. He explains the various worldviews represented in different movies, clearly enough that you can apply what you learn to other movies as well. He does this with depth and yet an engaging clarity that is really helpful to the reader. Almost anyone will be a better, more involved movie watcher after reading Godawa's book. It is good enough to bear reading again in a few years, and I plan to do so.

I am in the midst on reading several books on the topic of faith, theology and film and thus far, this is

probably the most thorough books out there that I have read. I would say that if you are watching to exploring this subject and are looking for a place to start this is probably the best book to begin with. It does delve into a lot of philosophy which is necessary to understanding for this subject but I think it does so in a mostly understandable way. This is really a great book. I'm sure I will be referencing it a great deal in the future. Highly recommended!

Fantastic insight into the worldview messages of Hollywood films. Godawa very lucidly captures these messages and how they oppose the Christian message, but is also quick to point out where films exhibit traits that are conducive to it. He manages to do truth telling without being preachy. His sections on how Jesus has been presented in films over the years and how the Christian faith has been presented are excellent. The book is overall an eye opener and stimulate a desire to watch some films you haven't seen before so as to engage in this sort of worldview analysis. Very enjoyable read!

Brian Godawa tackles the issue of how to watch movies and be a discerning Christian at the same time. He believes extremes are wrong, whether it's the belief of being able to watch any and every movie that comes out (and not have it affect you) or being a Christian prude and declare that all movies are evil. He does an admirable job disecting movies--many of which were released in the past decade--and explaining the message that the producers are trying to convey. I esepcially appreciated the different charts that he laid out, including p. 37 and a comparison of The Matrix, Christianity, and Greek religion. Very helpful.I found myself agreeing with Godawa in many places, including his analysis of various films. At other places, I found myself disagreeing out loud. Besides disagreeing with his analysis of certain films, let me give one example where I did not click with Godawa. In the appendix, much space was used to show how the Bible has sex, violence, and profanity, thus almost making it seem that watching practically any movie would be A-OK. He tempers this, especially in the last few pages, but I still think it's apples and oranges if we were to say that we can watch whatever we want because such issues are dealt with in the Bible. In a way Godawa acknowledges this and says that "a sense of balance is what a Christian needs...Christians tend to be either cultural gluttons or cultural anorexics. It seems we either avoid all movies or watch too many of them." I agree with him that, if we pick our movies wisely, there is much to gain. I found it interesting, though, that many of the movies talked about in the book are probably those movies I myself would avoid, either because they were lame (as many movie critics would attest) or are so morally objectionable that I would have to ask, Can you really get anything good out of a dumpster

full of garbage?Two other criticisms are the inclusion of "director's cut" notes throughout the book, which in reality was multiple promotions of his web site. Several times I wished that Godawa would have further expanded on a particular topic in his book rather than ask us to go to his site. Isn't this why we buy a particular book? Couldn't he have expanded it to include the issues his sites had, including unpublished chapters? I appreciate the fact that he had other information available, but I didn't look up one reference. Finally, how could a book like this not include an index, especially one that would have incorporated the different movies talked about in the book. Since he talked about a movie more than once, I found myself thumbing backward to see what else he had said about that particular film. Not being able to look in an index was extremely frustrating. It might have also been a benefit for the reader if Godawa provided his personal ratings of the books he reviewed, perhaps giving us an idea of movies that he feels we should or should not see. These ideas would have given Hollywood Worldviews a more complete feel.My criticisms aside, I still feel that this is worthy of a look by the discerning Christian moviegoer.

Bought a used version. It came during the window said. Very happy it came in good conditions with no problems. It also is an amazing book.

I am still reading this, but it's written really well. The only thing is that it's a few years old, so none of the latest movies are discussed. I would love to see an updated version.

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