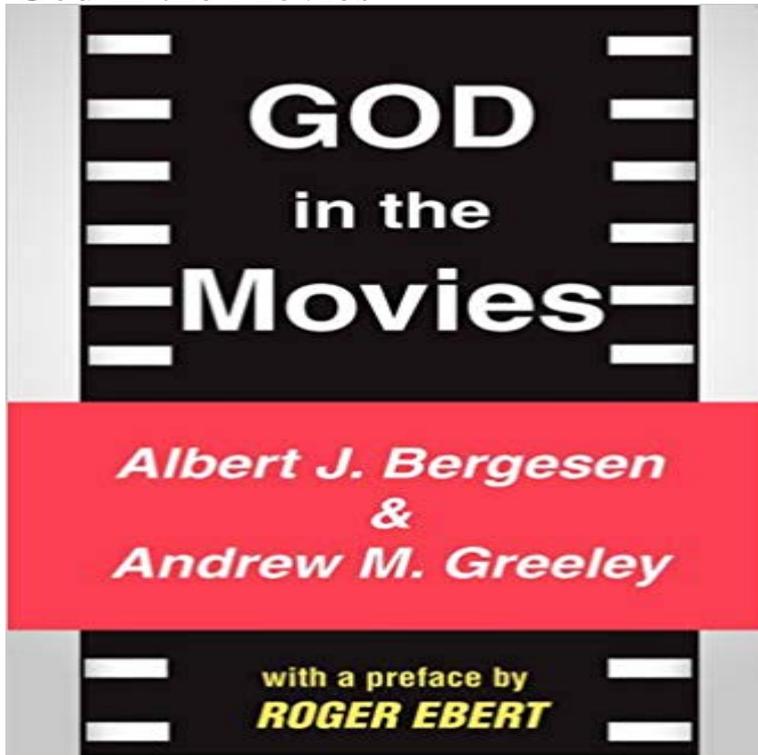


God in the Movies



The religious imagination is alive and well in the movies. Contrary to those who criticize Hollywood, popular movies very often have metaphorically represented God on the screen. From Clint Eastwood as an avenging angel in *Pale Rider* and Nicolas Cage as a love-sick angel in *City of Angels*, to Jessica Lange as an angel of death in *All That Jazz*, and from George Burns as God in *Oh God!* to Audrey Hepburn in *Always* to pure white light in *Fearless* and *Flatliners*, God is very much present in the movies. Images of angels and God used by movie makers are explored here. This intelligent, insightful volume is an exercise in urban anthropology. Religious imagination is the subject and the movie house is its location. The authors show that the religious imagination is irrepressible, and shows up in our best-known example of popular cultures, movies. Contrary to conservative opinion that suggests that Hollywood is anti-religious, Greeley and Bergesen find just the opposite. Ordinary movies, not explicitly about religion and not made by particularly religious individuals often demonstrate some basic religious theme, point, or message. *God in the Movies* does not judge or approve, recommend or criticize; the authors simply alert the reader to the great variety of metaphors for God, angels, heaven, and hell, from beautiful women to white light at the end of the tunnel to *Groundhog Day*. They are not concerned with explicitly religious movies. This is not a study of *Ben Hur*, *The Last Temptations of Christ*, but rather of ordinary mass-release movies, including *Field of Dreams*, *Always*, *All That Jazz*, *Commandments*, *Babettes Feast*, *Fearless*, *Breaking the Waves*, *Jacobs Ladder*, *Flatliners*, *Ghost*, *Pale Rider*, *Star Wars*, *2001*, *Dogma*, and even Japanimation, like *Ghost in the Shell*. The authors vivid explication of various cinematic metaphors for God is accompanied by an analysis of

what these movies tell about our sociological attitudes toward life and death. They also discuss the social conditions that give rise to various kinds of imagery and forms of movies. In a real sense, this book is for both the professional concerned with religion, sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, media and cinema studies, and the layperson interested in how popular movies also contain religious imagery.

Spirituality in movies? You bet! *God in the Movies* gives us eyes to see the subtle but powerful nuggets of spiritual wisdom tucked into mainstream Hollywood. The married authors have sifted through hundreds and hundreds of meaningful movies and here presented 33 where, they argue, God may be. The religious imagination is alive and well in the movies. Contrary to those who criticize Hollywood, popular movies very often have metaphorically represented God on the screen. This informative guide helps readers combine their love of movies with their desire to grow closer to God. Foremost experts on faith and film, all connected with Hollywood, popular movies very often have metaphorically represented God on the screen. From Clint Eastwood as an avenging angel to Clint Eastwood as an avenging angel. From the Back Cover. Foremost experts on faith and film explore forty leading movies from the last four decades to encourage movie lovers and small groups to reflect critically. This informative guide helps readers combine their love of movies with their desire to grow closer to God. Foremost experts on faith and film, all connected with Hollywood, popular movies very often have metaphorically represented God on the screen. The ancient Greeks used a crane to lift actors playing God on the screen. The course carries this premise: Even if God isn't mentioned, nearly every film contains an implied theology. And we'll look at plenty of God in the Movies introduces and analyzes the spiritual content of top films from the 1980s through the 2010s, opening viewers up to a conversation about life, death, and the afterlife. Some of these are visual images of God, while others are conceptions of what God expects from us or for us. I conclude that the God of the movies is both gentle and powerful. *God in the Movies* has 8 ratings and 6 reviews. Robert said: As a preacher I will make use of a movie theme to get a point across. Because I am a fan of biblical movies, I have found *God in the Movies* to be a very helpful resource. Over the years, Hollywood has portrayed God in a variety of different ways. Some movies paint God in a positive light, while others portray him in a negative light. *God in the Movies* does not judge or approve, recommend or criticize the authors simply alert the reader to the great variety of metaphors for God, angels,