

Christian Filmmaking: A Call to a Higher Form- by Chris Staron

Okay, here are my recommendations for good Christ honoring/ sharing films.

*Luther

*Time Changer (a MUST see for all people interested in movies, writing, radio, tv)

*Mercy Streets

*Flywheel

There really, truly are great Christian films out there that do have the gospel message in them. Unfortunately the most popular ones left a bad taste in everyone's mouths and have Christians running for the safety of "clean films". We have the opportunity as Christians to make something SO MUCH greater than just a good story or good characters. We have the ability to share the GREATEST message in history with the world. Yes, we may not get the audiences numbers we would if we cut out the gospel, but its not about us, is it? Instead, the true joy of making gospel films is that we are not making them for us; instead, we are making them as servants of God.

I have never met a person who didn't like Christian films once they saw good ones. It's like people who bash Christian music. Usually, they don't know the vast variety of good stuff, especially in the punk or hard rock scenes. I urge everyone who reads this not to be angry at how direct I am being, but instead, to take the challenge to really dig into good Christ honoring films. Films that the secular world cannot make. When they try, they get poor counterfeits of the real thing.

Something that really sticks with me comes from when I was at the WYSIWYG festival 2 years ago and some people showed a Christian gang video they made. It was shot on VHS. It was poor quality, with bad sound. BUT, they had the Holy Spirit with them and many of the real gang members who acted in the film came to Christ because of that project. And more came to Christ when they showed the video! Now THAT is power. THAT is something Hollywood cannot duplicate.

When I'm standing before the throne of God, I don't want to say to Him, "God, I did that movie because I thought it would make a good story" or "sure they used Your name in vain, but it was realistic!". No! I want to go before Him and say, "God, I was so hungry to share You with the world that I gave up my desires for an oscar in order to reach just one more person".

Don't you want to say that?

Be encouraged! God does lift up those who serve Him! It's tougher, infinitely tougher than doing a secular film! But God SO incredibly blesses you through it.

To answer a big question in the Christian world: why are Christian films struggling so much? The answer is because there are not enough of them made. If there were more

made, we could get a market for them because people would finally have access to a selection and a variety. If you go to a Christian film distributors site like www.christiancinema.com, you'll see that they have the same films on sale all the time. There is no new buzz about a new film because they just are not turned out fast enough. In Hollywood it is the new thing that gets the market going. If there were only 2 Hollywood films a year you can bet there would be no big business in it. Instead, they have so many films coming out there are magazines and scores of film sites. You see the point? We cannot have a market until more are made.

And THAT is why we need you to aid in making Christian, Christ honoring, gospel sharing, quality, high production value, films. We need everyone for this. Not more Christians who make films, but real Christian filmmakers.

Believe me, as a person currently working in camera, while we prepare for our next project and work with a distributor on our last ones, it is EASY to get into the secular world. Anyone can do it. And the money is good once you are in. But accept the challenge to step up to the plate and play on God's team. Remember Gideon and the Midianites? God whittled down the army so He would get all the glory. Well, gang. We're the small army. Let's go make some noise.

-Chris Staron