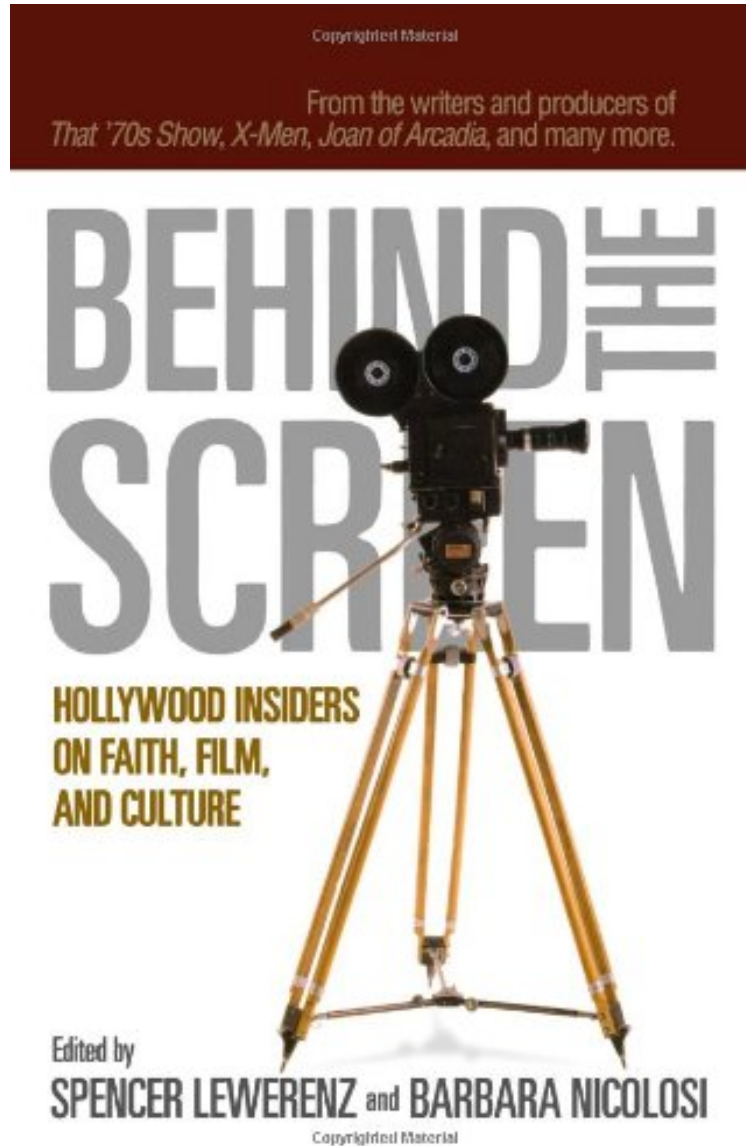


Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film, and Culture

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From Brand: Baker Books : Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film, and Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Behind the Screen: Hollywood Insiders on Faith, Film, and Culture:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Coming to Hollywood By Sarah Beach There are plenty of wet-behind-the-ears dreamers who come to Hollywood hoping to break into screenwriting. And some of those dreamers

are Christians. The business isn't easy to start with, but when one is also trying to live a particular type of faith-life, it can get complicated. So I appreciated this book very much. Some of the writers, like Ralph Winter, describe occasions where they made choices (like spending time with family instead of taking a job in London) that non-believers in Hollywood really do not understand. I think hearing of those sorts of choices is an important lesson to anyone (not just Christians) who wants to get in to Show Business. There's a wide variety of essays here, each valuable. From how to prepare oneself for being in the business, to recommendations on learning craft (very important in my mind), to the thoughtful matters of content in one's stories, there is something here on all of these. The end result, I hope, is to make it clear to the dreamers that they need to be well rounded, in their craft and in their lives, when they make the leap into the film television business. Everyone hoping to pursue this career needs to give some thought to these matters. And the words of wisdom in this book should help that process.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Written by people who know of what they speak

By Cheryl Russell

Behind the Screen is a collection of essays written by Hollywood writers and producers longing to integrate their faith and work. Their years of experience shine through in thought provoking essays regarding culture, faith and the entertainment industry. These are people that know of what they speak, and those that 1) wish to make a living in the entertainment industry and 2) think they know how to *fix* Hollywood need to read this book and take its words to heart. I initially read this book in one sitting, but there is too much contained in these pages for just a one-time read. While I'm not a screenwriter and won't be moving to Hollywood, this book resonates with me as a writer, for much of its wisdom is applicable to writing as a whole, and life in general. The essays in this book are thought-provoking and in a few instances, have even challenged me--- something a book rarely does for me these days. Behind the Screen is a book that will remain on my shelves for a long time to come.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Conversational Guide to the Hollywood Industry by Christian Insiders

By praxishabitus

As a broad orientation for what's happening in applying faith through the Hollywood entertainment industry, this book is both interesting and practical. It offers a mix of history, theology, and advice without jargon that is particularly helpful to those wanting to enter the industry or who are just curious about the spiritual possibilities today. The writers know what's going on in the industry today and share their perspectives and experience. I also recommend a great book Hollywood Faith: Holiness, Prosperity, and Ambition in a Los Angeles Church. There's quite a bit of historical background given from the beginning of the industry until now. It also includes a lot of depth in exploring the lives of Christians trying to make it in Hollywood while living out their Christian faith. Lots of great insight on Christianity in Hollywood right up to today.

When it comes to Hollywood, Christians too quickly wash their hands of popular culture and leave this immensely influential media to unbelievers. In truth, the industry is listening. There is a church in Hollywood, but too often their work is unrecognized. Behind the Screen offers a glimpse of Hollywood insiders who, through their jobs on movie sets, behind TV shows, and in radio broadcasts, work together to give glory to God. With contributions from the writers and producers of such productions as Joan of Arcadia, Mission Impossible, Batman Forever, That '70s Show, and others, believers everywhere are encouraged to join with the church in Hollywood and do their part in closing the gap between Christianity and culture.

From Publishers Weekly

Starred . This thought-provoking collection of essays on Hollywood includes contributions by Christian writers for both film and television. After a hard-hitting, impressively self-reflective opening piece on the history of Hollywood's tortured relationship with Christianity, essayists expound on a number of topics, from how to survive mostly secular Tinseltown with one's faith intact to exploring reasons why the industry is so secular in the first place. Refreshingly enough, the book's tone is almost completely nondefensive; these authors are culture makers who want to seamlessly integrate their beliefs with their work and art. One standout essay is Thom Parham's "Why Do Heathens Make the Best Christian Films?" It asks why, when non-Christians have been making faith-filled masterpieces like The Lord of the Rings, Chariots of Fire and The Shawshank Redemption, believers are wasting their energy on "unwatchable" dreck like The Omega Code. Readers also shouldn't miss movie marketer Jonathan Bock's proactive essay "Love the Cinema, Hate the Sin." (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Behind the Screen is must reading if you've ever cast a stone at Hollywood. -Kevin Miller, HollywoodJesus.com -- HollywoodJesus.com

This book puts a refreshingly positive spin on a rarely covered topic. -Stephen Rees, Library Journal -- Library Journal

From the Back Cover

Hollywood: Devil's playground or God's mission field? Joan of Arcadia, Mission Impossible, Batman Forever, and That '70s Show have been some of the biggest productions in film and television. But did you know that Christians have been behind the scenes of these and other box office ratings smashes? Industry professionals Spencer Lewerenz and Barbara Nicolosi have discovered that the church is very much alive in Hollywood--and making a difference! Behind the Screen presents the fascinating look at Hollywood through the eyes of Christian writers, producers, and executives living out their faith behind TV shows, on movie sets, and in studio offices. In their own words, they will take you behind the screen to reveal what Hollywood thinks of God and what you can do to close the gap between Christianity and culture. "Behind the Screen is filled with insights from Christian media professionals who challenge us to stop grousing and start using the power

of storytelling to broadcast hope. Do yourself a favor--turn off the TV, skip the movie opening this weekend, sit down, make yourself a tub of popcorn, and read this book."--David McFadzean, producer, Home Improvement, What Women Want, and Where the Heart Is