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**Hollywood History & Mythology**

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, January 24, 2015, 12:12 PM

This forum thread is for Hollywood History & Mythology posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. For purposes of encouraging discussion, you may decide to separate your responses into SEPARATE posts. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it
RE:Hollywood History & Mythology

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[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**My personal and academic views on Hollywood History & Mythology**

by Jose Camarillo - Monday, January 26, 2015, 3:10 PM

From a personal standpoint I enjoy history, so I enjoy watching "historically based" movies. It does bother me when a movie is very inaccurate because they are suppose to be portraying something that happened, but instead they completely changed it to something else. I do understand that it is hard to be 100% accurate and not have all the excitement that Hollywood movies have. The historical inaccuracies in school don't bother me as much. I feel that most schools make an attempt to provide their students with accurate information. A lot of school try to balance everything they are going to teach because of state standards, so I do cut schools a break when they don't represent the Underground Railroad exactly like it was. I understand what the Underground Railroad was, and how it worked pretty close to how it actually worked.

Academically I dislike the Hollywood movie inaccuracy thay is becoming more and more accepted. I feel like it takes away from the actual history of the event. With the continued acceptance of inaccurate information I feel like "historically based" movies could see a decline in quality as far as accuracy goes. In schools I believe they really fight to balance how accurate to be in some cases. For all the parents that want the kids to reciev the raw and unedited version of history there are just as many parents that want the kids to learn a much more refined version, so they aren't exposed to anything they may not be ready for. Parents are very influential to the learning proces, so I think they play a big role in what information their kid recieves. I'm not as offened by inaccuracies in schools because they have to answer to a lot more people than Hollywood does.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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History & Mythology

by [Christopher McCay](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 8:26 PM

I am a huge history buff, I enjoy historical moves especially when they are accurate. From what I read, there were some added scenes to the movie to make it more interesting, otherwise it was very accurate. I would like to see the movie it seem very intriguing. Hollywood has a track record of stretching the real history or bending it to make someone seem more "evil" than they truly are. I'm not usually a fan of hollywood for this reason, but there are a few movie i like due to their high level of accuracy.

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Re: Hollywood and history

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 9:31 PM

Personally when it comes to Hollywood movies that are wrongly portraying historical events, it makes me mad. To me, it is just like when Hollywood makes a movie out of one of your favorite books and completely screws it up. You know what is supposed to happen because you've read the book and you know what is wrong and inaccurate because you've studied the history. So when you come across movies that completely change events it is extremely frustrating.

When I look at this from an academic standpoint, I pretty much still have the same opinion. I really believe the truth of our past should be taught to us exactly how we know it to be. Yes teachers and schools can make the information a little more kid appropriate by either censoring some of the history or doing whatever they need to do in order to make it appropriate but like I said, I strongly believe that we deserve to learn about this world history as it really was.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Hollywood and history

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Thursday, January 29, 2015, 9:17 PM

I can agree with your portrayal on historical movies. It is completely frustrating to watch a historically inaccurate movie that does not share more facts. You would expect the movie to be what you read in history books. However, without the vital information, it can change what you learn throughout your life. Of course, without drama, special effects, and action, it wouldn't be as entertaining.

Again, I agree with your opinion on the second paragraph. History should be taught how it was meant to be. In schools, they teach broad topics, but if a person wants to learn more about a certain topic that was not taught in a history class; they would have to do plenty of independent research. In elementary through high school, I would believe the history class has to be age appropriate for students to understand at their mental level, but students should learn more about untold stories they have not heard of.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Hollywood and history

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 9:02 PM

I completely agree with you as far as people needing to do their own independent research on topics that go untold or even topics that are vaguely touched on. The thing that frustrates me the most is how naive I was back in my early history classes because I assumed my teachers were teaching me accurate history events but later I find out that I was misinformed on several different aspects of not only American history, but the worlds history.

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Re: Hollywood and history

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 9:57 PM

You make a good point about learning content at a level appropriate to age, but should we trim the parts we don't like out for younger people or simply rule that the content in its entirety should wait? Learning can be hard, unlearning can be even harder.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Majestic Hollywood & Mythology

by [Adam Graves](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 9:48 PM

I get why in Amistad they had characters referring to the pending civil war and making it sound as if it was as going to happen any day, it was to make for dramatic effect. They have to add a little fabricated history to get a return on their \$75 million dollar investment. I haven't seen the movie and although Eric Foner didn't think it made for a gripping accurate account of history I still want to watch it. I mean come on Morgan Freeman, Matthew McConaughey and Anothly Hopkins have to put on at least a performance that is better then a bore as described as Foner. I know he's a historian and has a bias and can understand how he viewed the movie. I only hope that after I watch it that I don't end up eating my words. It's on Netflix, so either I'm going to like it or I'll never get those 155 minutes back.

With that said, I do believe that in an academic environment that we should be giving an accurate account of history. I feel that I've learned more in history 201 and in this class then I received in my previous schools. Schools should be teaching history as it was and without any myths or manipulation.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Academia vs Entertainment

by [Stanley Cates](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 10:35 PM

The purposes of a Hollywood films are to be entertaining dramatizations; and more to the point; to make a profit. In general I think it's safe to say that Americans; with exception (for some reason) to a film about a certain flightless antarctic bird; don't line up excitedly and pay large sums of money to watch "boring truth" documentaries in movie theaters. You can't really blame that industry for this. Money is the grease that keeps the wheels of Hollywood rolling. That being said I personally don't have a problem with the mythology presented by Hollywood, though I will suggest the fact that as a society we're so impressionable as to believe that anything presented to us on a screen is true is a problem. In parallel to that I find the use of such dramatizations used in an academic setting to be both unsettling and lazy.

Regarding what students learn in textbooks I am disturbed. I find it to be a sugar coating on history. In the case of the underground railroad in particular the historian David Blight makes a statement I find particularly interesting; he says; to the affect; that if all the sites claiming to be part of the underground railroad really were; slavery wouldn't have lasted until 1860. Shortly before that he describes the railroad as "mythology", describing communities' needs to be connected to the aiding of fugitive slaves, and I share that sentiment. This would suggest to me that as a society we've created our own fictive narrative of the way things were to escape our own dark chapters in history. If people can formulate links to the solutions of past societal atrocities then society can; in a sense; absolve itself of guilt. This ignoring of historical facts in favor of a "happier" version may actually contribute to the impressionability I described above. Either way I'm not

impressed with the current fallacies being proliferated through the primary school academic scene.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Truth about History

by [Trinidad Delgado](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 10:38 PM

Some movies based on a true story have put historically accurate information, but sometimes it can be over dramatize, or too much "Hollywood," which can alter the actual truth behind the event that took place. Many historians try to put the scenes in place by taking examples based on the story, so it is accurate. When you see a movie, for instance, a movie based on the Civil War, it can rather be just another screening that we somewhat know about. If the directors did not put drama or action into the movie, nobody would pay to see it. I anticipate that historical movies are to entertain, and to give facts to the people, who are unfamiliar with docudramas.

From elementary through high school, I was taught about the same historic events that took place in America, but each teachings were different. I assumed that what I read in my history books was all that occurred in America with limited information. If I wanted to know more about a particular incident beyond my history book, I would have to do research. Pertaining to true based movies, it would spark my curiosity to wanting to know more about the truth that took place. The only disappointment is that lower-grade history books didn't go into depth about all U.S. occurrences. There a lot of undocumented stories that we are unaware today. In general, for people to be more knowledgeable and non-bias, they should incorporate all true facts in our history books.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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personal view on history & mythology

by [Kevin Humphries](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 10:49 PM

I believe that hollywood changes history to make cohesive narritives at the expense of historical accuracy. Without a narrative and characters to attact to film viewers wouldn't be able immerse themselves in the experience the film offers. I personally support this type of alteration, if the film can make people curious of the time period or events on display then what is the real harm?

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Hollywood movies vs actual truth

by [Natasha Vanderwall](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:43 PM

I'm mixed on how I feel about Hollywood exaggerating historical stories. I haven't seen Amistad, but I have read about the case in a previous class years ago. From what I saw in the clip I don't agree that it would be a bore, but I do believe that they manipulated the true story a bit to get their end result, which is to make millions on a movie. I do love it when a movie tells the actual story with no exaggerations, but that makes for a boring movie and something that should be on the history channel. For me when I watch a Hollywood made movie I'm ok with the exaggeration as long as they aren't manipulating the truth. I like looking up facts I hear in movies to see if they add up and how much of the story was true. That's why I watch movies made about historical events.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Underground railroad in school

by [Natasha Vanderwall](#) - Monday, January 26, 2015, 11:55 PM

To be completely honest, I was told 3 completely different stories on the underground railroad. In elementary school they made it seem as though it was an actual railroad system just for runaway slaves. It was very confusing for me when I got my first school history book, reading about slavery and the underground railroad and seeing that what I was taught was the furthest from the truth. I wish that for the sake of our country that we were all taught the same thing and no exaggerations to our past. Everyone should know the truth about America and how we have made it to today. We leave out the important facts that either make a person look really bad or really good. That's the same with the underground railroad. Facts are left out to make it seem as though it was a huge network of blacks and whites working together. That's what I was taught even up into my senior year of high school. So personally and academically I'm against exaggeration when it comes to a learning environment. Just put all the facts out there and let the students make their own opinion on Americas past.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Underground railroad in school

by [Morgan Steinmetz](#) - Friday, January 30, 2015, 10:53 PM

It's funny that you mentioned that over the years you have heard different explanations as to what exactly the underground railroad system was because as I look back on my previous history classes from high school and even middle school, I realized my teachers explanations never matched up. So it makes me wonder if it was the lack of knowledge from all of my previous teachers or if was them teaching me and my classmates what they were told to teach us. That being history but a modified version of it or a so called "simplified" version of history. Now that I actually think about it, if I combined what I was taught from my previous teachers I wouldn't know how to describe the underground railroad to someone.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Truth and entertainment

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Friday, January 30, 2015, 11:02 PM

OK, first off...anybody else notice that David Blight (the professor talking about the underground RR) looked and sounded exactly like Harrison Ford? Just thought I'd point that out.

When it comes to Hollywood entertainment, I've never had a big deal with directors taking artistic liberties with history. Sometimes, the point is EXACTLY to alter history and provide an alternate history (ie Inglorious Basterds, which was an excellent movie). I personally don't mind when movies like "Amistad" or "Apocalypto" take liberties, because the point is less to give a history lesson, and more to provide an engaging theatrical experience which conveys a deeper meaning, truth, etc. I do enjoy when movies make a point to be accurate though. I personally thought the recent Alamo movie was pretty good, despite its negative reviews. So really, as long as the director or movie is honest with the viewer that they aren't watching an exactly accurate historical picture, I'm fine with it. The movies I take issue with are the ones which in a way try to convince the viewer they are being completely accurate even when they aren't. Then it becomes dishonest and I take issue (the recent "Lone Survivor" movie was like this. Great movie, but they exaggerated and changed a lot of things, yet still tried to tell people it was historically true).

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Truth and education

by [Dalyn Stram](#) - Friday, January 30, 2015, 11:24 PM

While I don't take a huge issue with entertainment taking artistic liberties with history, I

take a huge issue with education/schools/textbooks taking liberties or outright lying to you about history. Sadly, I think this has become rampant in our schools the past couple decades. It seems there has been an agenda to whitewash certain aspects of history while demonizing or throwing mud on other aspects, and it seems highly political to me. In my opinion, no other study has been more politicized than that of history. Students can take a science, math, english, etc, class and hear little to nothing controversial or political, but take a history class and depending on how your teacher/professor falls politically or philosophically, you could get two entirely different versions of history. Sometimes you get straight propaganda. I think it's incredibly dangerous to mislead kids even slightly, because what you teach a kid is usually what sticks with them for life. We have a lot of kids today believing exaggerations or sometimes even straight out lies, because that's what they've been taught, and of course they believe their teachers. As I've grown and expanded my educational experience, I've definitely felt a little misled about certain issues. It's strange when you learn something you were taught as a kid simply wasn't true. However, it's even more of a shame that we have so many higher level schools and colleges still misleading our students on certain issues. Not only is it wrong, but as older students, they should be capable of finding out the truth for themselves as well. What happened to self-education? We all need to take a stronger stance on encouraging self-education and making sure that what you believe is true. I've always been a heavy reader - especially of historical novels (I was originally a history major) - and so there's a lot of history I've discovered both after the fact and before that sort of boggled my mind. Why hadn't any of my teachers mentioned this? Isn't this important to know? I have friends who have gone through the history program at UO who have a very liberal view of historical events (UO is immensely liberal). And then I have friends from other colleges who have a more conservative view. History is incredibly tough to teach, but I wish more schools and teachers would take an active approach at teaching history as straightforward and unbiased as possible. Is it possible to teach history without bias or agenda? An honest approach that deals with human as people, good and bad, warts and all? An approach that doesn't seek to label or judge people hundreds or thousands of years ago by our 21st century standards? I think it is.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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Thoughts on Movie Accuracy

by [Parker Denison](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10:05 PM

I am really on the fence about whether or not I prefer accuracy or entertainment when it comes to hollywood movies. Part of me would like to see the most thrilling and entertaining movie possible, even if it means bending the truth a little bit. However, another part of me hates the feeling after seeing a movie and realizing what I was just told was a lie. I guess when it really comes down to it, it depends on the topic of the movie. If the movie is about something I am very interested and familiar with I definitely want it to be entirely accurate, but If I'm watching a movie on a less interesting topic I won't mind if hollywood spices it up a little.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Movies will be movies

by [Michael Silva](#) - Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10:44 PM

History is something most people enjoy to learn and to share with friends and family. The Hollywood movies don't usually bother me, considering we know as educated people that the accuracy of the movie will be low to moderate at best. The issue though is that once we see the movie how many of us truly sit down and study the topic afterwards? The issue stands that the movie ends up being the only information we tend to have on the subject, be it true facts or Hollywood fiction. As it was stated in class, those who saw the movie on the events of the Alamo were "bored" by it. Reality has a hard time keeping up with the Hollywood glamour. As it was said by Professor Eric Foner, the movie made points but they were the wrong points. As for the history books leaving out special details such as the underground railroad sites being few and far between and run mostly by

African Americans, people have the need to be remembered in a good light. Explaining this point further people didn't want to think that they were standing by while atrocities happened. They wanted to feel that something was being done about it and they didn't need to lend their aid to them. America has a habit of covering up its "morbid" past. Just as a parent wouldn't want to tell their child they used to do something regrettable in their own past, so the child doesn't think poorly of them.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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