



Search forums

Forum 2

Hollywood History & Mythology

• [Subscribe](#)

Hollywood History & Mythology ►

Display replies in nested form

Move this discussion to ...

Move



Hollywood History & Mythology

by Joe Escobar – Friday, January 22, 2016, 9:30 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Hollywood History & Mythology topic.

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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Hollywood History & Mythology

Sum of ratings: –

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



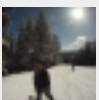
Hollywood history

by Devlin Wynn – Friday, January 22, 2016, 11:42 PM

honestly personally when i hear about the exxagerations and misinformation that are given in this movie it makes me feel bad. i mean here we are sugarcoating what actually happened historically and how we acted towards african americans really during all this and focusing also mainly not on the slaves but on the moral growth of the white charecters. this relates to the folklore of the underground railroad which i can't believe how loose that story has become in classrooms . this relates because us as a socety like to have this silver lining in where we make our culture not feel so terrible by saying oh well a lot of whites came out to help the slaves and were great people. sugarcoating and exagerating stories like this academically really leaves the stories to be further manipulated into who knows what later down the line

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Amistad review

by Taylor Trujillo – Sunday, January 24, 2016, 7:11 PM

I haven't personally watched Amistad, but have only heard of the tale in my earlier years of schooling when learning about slavery. After reading more about it, and learning the correct history that truly happened in the Slave revolt that occurred on the Amistad I can say that I don't agree with how the movie portrayed the history. The movie instead of following someone that was actually within the slavery, followed a white man named Theodore Joadsen, detouring us in a direction that follows him as one of the main people in history regarding slavery, which isn't the case. it is also is mis-leading in the sense that it gives the feel that the moral of the story is somehow about the white community coming to some sort of self realization, and gaining moral growth out of realizing that the slaves are actually people just like them. I feel like this takes away from the bigger picture here, and sugar coats how hard the slaves worked for, and wanted their freedom. Hollywood movies in general

do have a history of over glorifying things, or changing thing to what they feel would appeal more to the audience. For them to do this in an attempt to portray a significant time in history it needed to be more accurate, with a main character that would help properly depict that time in history, and help us as an audience learn the proper history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Hollywood is not telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth!

by [Michaella Ensele](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 5:07 PM

My personal issue with all the myths that Hollywood has created is that I was a child in the public school system that got taught about certain events in history the wrong way, fortunately for me I continued my education and learned the right way in high school and now in college. In the video about the underground railroad I can see the view point of northern states wanting to have locations that were apart of the underground railroad so that they could be connected to history in that aspect but if it didn't happen, it didn't happen. I can see why people want to portray the workings of the underground railroad in some tight knit unit that a lot of white people wanted to help but if you see what it is in it's true light it is just as or even more amazing. The African American slaves had to fight for their freedom and they were risking everything just to be free in the northern states.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Accountability for the Facts

by [Kamron Bratlie](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 9:51 PM

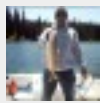
On a personal level, I feel like there is always going to be some exaggeration when telling a story. This is partially due to time. The farther an event is away from the present, the foggier the details become. This is especially true when there is no living record anymore. So naturally, some details are going to be assumptions of the truth. However, if there is a gap in a story that is crucial to the outcome, it is important to state that the information isn't known, or at least have a disclaimer for historical representations.

Academically, the truth should always be presented in an analytical and unbiased perspective. No matter how heinous or graphic the truth is, it should not be sugar coated or exaggerated to suit the needs of a particular group of people. I feel like we are in an important age of information and more truths are being revealed. Hopefully the self-policing nature of the internet will hold historians to be more accountable and source references.

Keeping historical truths from the public is a huge injustice. When information is kept out of the public sphere, this inhibits any analysis and possible ways to solve future problems.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



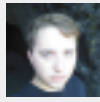
The Good and the Bad

by [Andrew Kilmer](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 10:39 PM

As I was reading through our topics for forum 2, I found myself watching the movies researching their validity. This process forced me to learn more about my own American history. I feel that Hollywood or fictional books based on real events serve an important purpose in the preservation of our history, I also feel that if left unchecked, these works of fiction could destroy our history (or at least an accurate perception). I had never heard of the ship that was mentioned in this forum. I watched the trailer, read the text and then proceeded to look at the unbiased historical data that I could find. If this process is completed then our history is prompted by the story, but kept alive by the skeptical, who want to know the true. Not unrelated look up the true history of the movie *Hoosiers* or *Rudy*. I'm doing my part to keep history accurate, I can enjoy the film, but know the true. Spoiler the real stories are not nearly as dramatic.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by [Samuel Figura](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:05 PM

I think people should identify what is false and what is fact. I think the importance of a higher education will provide the consumer with more knowledge in that matter. That is why a history class is so important. I have learned that the media is very good at distributing knowledge, and it has the power to wrongfully inform many viewers. It is the job of the production team and the makers to tell the public whether or not it is accurate or not accurate.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: History that's wrong?!

by [Jade Sotelo](#) – Monday, January 25, 2016, 11:46 PM

The fact that so many key facts have been left out and or exaggerated astonishes me. When I was reading the small articles and watching the short clips on what really happened compared to my past years in school learning history it showed how much detail was either left out or tampered with. Movies have always been known to either exaggerate or be completely off base. It's understandable because the movie industry has to make movies so they twist and turn things around to sell movies. This is totally fine but we as consumers and "sponges" as I call us need to know that it is not correct and make sure we are absorbing the correct information. It makes me scared that our future generations might be learning the wrong things. I am a little worried because I know what I learned in my years of school and it makes me think what did everyone else hear or learn ??

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



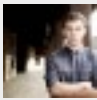
Re: History that's wrong?!

by [Michaella Ensele](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 10:58 PM

The fact that Hollywood twists and turns the facts of history to sell movies is a big dilemma. In class on Tuesday Mr. Escobar showed us a great example by presenting an article about The Alamo. This review talks about how The Alamo was historically correct but described as being very boring and that the author would have rather it be more exciting than historical. While on the other hand you have the Amistad film that went so far off of history but was in most people's opinions a more exciting movie. I think that in the article written by Eric Foner he says it best "they should direct students not to this highly flawed film, but to the local library. There they will discover several shelves of books on slavery and slave resistance, from academic tomes to works for children. Maybe, in this era of budget cuts, some of that \$75 million could have more profitably been spent on our public libraries."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: History that's wrong?!

by [Jade Sotelo](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 7:30 PM

This is totally true, when I was younger I went to libraries and read and let my imagination make the story interesting. Now society doesn't see facts and what really happened entertaining so they believe that lying and and creating a false history story is a good thing. Yes it looks good on paper and the money they make but they don't see what it's doing to our nations past and what really happened.

This has been going on I feel if I asked someone about a historical event that also had a popular movie about it and I had done proper research on it that they wouldn't know the correct story behind it but they would know the movies story. Our school system is slowly getting altered this way too and I am afraid for our nations history and the founding fathers story.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Believing in good, hiding the bad

by [Jordan Hevern](#) – Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 1:47 AM

Honestly, its hard to believe anything that comes out of the medias mouth, especially when the person giving and showing you the story of tragic events or country changing news, is someone who is profiting off peoples lack of knowledge and lack of interest to question their stand point. Personally, when i hear something about the

early world, and how the United States got to this point, and where it came from, I am always hesitant to believe. People who right our textbook are profiting off students and teachers. These things happened before the thought of ever having whites and black coincide next to each other. Before things could be saved on the internet, there is no way of knowing exactly what all these historical figures that either we idolize, hate, sympathize for really went through or said. Yes there is some documentation that has been kept over the years, and with politics and people with money, its easier to gather information on, because they had the funds to keep their name going. In school I remember when I first learned about World War 2. I had to do an oral report about Adolf Hitler. When searching for information, I found out and read things that made me sick because of the horrendous way he treated people. I also found claims, and information advocating for him, and saying that he was a righteous man, that he would never do these horrible things. As a kid, I didn't know better, and I couldn't tell right from wrong, and good news from bad news. I don't believe kids at such a young age should learn about these hateful crimes and acts, because its hard at that age to decide if these things are true or not.

I think that schools like to dumb stuff down and make it seem not hateful as it really is. How could people in our own country treat other people like this, when now you are brought up to know people are equal. But if there are teaching of these kinds at that age, they need to honest, they need to know the cold facts, so they can see how the world used to be, and where it can never go again. I think that the media has wanted to tell people, even adults that even with slavery there was still some good in it. Stated in the video by Professor David Blight, the north wanted to believe that they were helping free slaved blacks. So they convinced themselves that they did all they could. The underground railroad worked, just weren't efficient. They helped, but did not solve the problem. I said earlier, we want to believe people are good and that things like this wouldn't of happened in our first world country, that we wouldn't be so blinded by the color of our skins to see the suffering, we as Americans, caused. There are an abundant of things that I don't know happen from this time period, and probably never will. But we have to be able to make sense of it all, and not rely on the media or even a textbook to give us accurate information, but to seek it for ourselves,

Regarding the movie, I have never seen it, and by the sounds of the article, it sounded like it was about how heroic whites were. That they wanted to change, that they were voices for the slaves. Which I am sure is correct in a sense, because there were people who didn't want slavery. Showing that movies in school, probably gets the reaction of people thinking “well why didn't every slave use the underground railroads if they were that easy to escape from”. But like Professor Blight said, that would of made slavery end way earlier than it did. Personally its frustrating hearing things about movies “based on a true event”. Was there people out there writing everything that was said in this time frame, was their more documentation of verbal communication that I am not aware of? Where are these facts coming from?

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

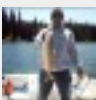


Re: Hollywood History & Mythology
by Philip Engel – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 9:44 PM

I find that these falsehoods in our history portrayed in the media to be somewhat predictable because in our society most people are not going to a theater to learn about a subject they are interested in but to be entertained by a subject they may have been interested in. I also feel that some historical accuracy has been kept from us because varying opinions on a subject can reault in a different telling of what actually happened. An example of this happening in our society today is in the south, where some school curriculums are cutting out aspects of slavery from their textbooks.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



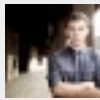
History vs entertainment
by Andrew Kilmer – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 10:03 PM

I have noticed a trend of post regarding the false information put out in Hollywood movies. I really enjoyed watching the new Star Wars Movie, but I don't believe in Darth Vader or Yoda. Movies are made for entertainment. If I was to get college credit for my Netflix account, I could skip this class by watching movies depicted in the era. I personally think that I can be entertained by a film and then learn the history. If my education was based on the shows I watched, I would have a P.H.D. in Sports. I believe we have to hold ourselves responsible for the information we take as fact. Anytime I see the words "based on a true story" I

become skeptical on the historical accuracy of the film. I recently watched Amistad, it was a great movie! The story was told well and I enjoyed it. Then I went to class and read about true accounts of the events. From a strictly academic stand point I imagine it would be nice if all media was historically accurate, but I have a feeling production companies would go out of business due to the lack of ticket sales.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: History vs entertainment

by [Jade Sotelo](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 7:55 PM

I see your point that Movie producing companies would potentially go out of business but thats not what we are saying to be 100% accurate. I personally would be fine that when movies say "Based on a True Story" that they also include that the movie should not be used for educational purposes or that they have changed the movie around. This will allow viewers to enjoy movies but also to know that this version of history has been altered and is not to the last letter accurate.

Also I disagree with you on that we should be accountable with what we take in as fact and not true. Children are the most vulnerable and they are completely dry sponges waiting tom absorb anyone everything they hear and watch. Yes action packed and fairytale endings are amazing and on high demand but we need to make sure that our chlordane and future know the true stories and really know what happened.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



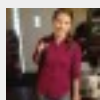
Re: History vs entertainment

by [Andrew Kilmer](#) – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 8:22 PM

Thanks for the response. Your point about children is well taken. I understand what you mean, but I look at it from a different point of view. My view point is that of a parent. I have son's both in middle and high school. They learn all sort of things from teachers and media. This is a totally different discussion, but the point is, I try and teach them to think for themselves. My kids often quote a movie or the internet and try and give me facts that I know are false. This is a teachable moment that the media has brought to light. The views of the media, colleges, books, family members and friends have some degree of personal bias and understandings. I teach my children to question and challenge those views, some times they are wrong, but we will learn the truth regardless if we do the research and don't take what we here as concrete facts.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Fake History and Fact Checking

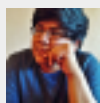
by [Jessica Driver](#) – Wednesday, January 27, 2016, 11:33 PM

This issue makes me realize how important it is to look into things you hear. We all know not to trust everything we see in movies or on the internet, but knowing that historical sites and children's textbooks are lying to us (even in part) is an eye opener. It makes me realize the value of historians such as Blight and Foner who spend their lives studying these things and can help separate fact from fiction. I believe there is value in knowing the truth in any situation.

While I love learning, I find it frustrating that the world of information at our fingertips is all potentially faulty. I could spend my whole life reading all that has been said on the period we've covered so far, and I still wouldn't be to the bottom. To investigate even one small issue can be overwhelming.

This brings us to the reason I'm taking history classes. Many people pay little attention to these classes which, though required, can seem boring and irrelevant. But if we learn nothing else from this class, the principle of fact checking may prove to be worth the price of the class if used well.

This is a skill I am still trying to learn. Sorting good sources from faulty ones can be a headache, especially with so much irrelevant information to go through. Do any of you make a habit of fact-checking? If so, do you go deep enough to know your sources are reliable? How do you know they are, and can you do it quickly?



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology– Underground Railroad

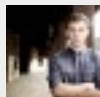
by Joel Silva-Rivera – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 12:12 AM

How do you personally AND academically respond to these exaggerations, or more correctly, these falsehoods, when the media form changes, to “historically based” Hollywood movies (*Amistad*) and to what students learn in school textbooks (about the Underground Railroad)?

- Academically these exaggerations or falsehoods (“myths”) about the Underground Railroad that are created by Hollywood movies and how history from the Underground Railroad is being withheld from student school textbooks are just ways of degrading slavery. What I mean about that is that a long time ago America did something (something = slavery) horrible and now America is creating “myths” and withholding the complete truth from student school textbooks about many aspects of the Underground Railroad so the image of America isn’t as tainted as already viewed from slavery. (I hope I made myself clear)
- My personal response is simple we make up these falsehoods and withhold information from the Underground Railroad from student school textbook because its human nature. Think about it whenever someone does something horrible they make things up or/and start to do things to make themselves look like a better person.

Are you concerned when historical truth has been either kept from you, either by spreading/persistent mythology or by outright manipulation?

- Yes, I am concerned about historical truth being kept from me because sometimes when I make a decision I based off my decision on what history has passed. So, when it turns out to be “mythology” or outright manipulation it really makes me think about how my decision making.



Movie controversies

by Jade Sotelo – Saturday, January 30, 2016, 7:45 PM

As I was reading some articles and reviews of this movie "Selma" which is a potential Oscar winner due to its amazing acting and how it was portrayed. Reading reviews on its accuracy was very shocking too because it was pretty accurate but there are arguments relating big parts on how the president was portrayed relating to his support and relationship with Martin Luther and so this movie might not get an Oscar. This topic is one that is know all around the nation because it was a historical event that shouldn't be changed around. This event marked the change in history for blacks all around the United States. This is just one movie that had changed plots and key parts to make money and sell a movie.