

Arts and Entertainment

MEL GIBSON'S "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Film introduces controversy and emotion

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During his time on earth, Christ was the center of controversy, so it is only fitting that the movie depicting his final hours and crucifixion also be surrounded by controversy.

Still, controversy or not, the movie has grossed over 117.0 million dollars at the box office. The Christians have come out of the woodwork, hopeful of Mel Gibson's depiction of Jesus Christ, while others' curiosity is peaked on the truth behind the anti-Semitism rumors.

Coincidentally, Truth is what the audience receives: every bloody inch. Never before has the crucifixion of Christ been so accurately portrayed.

One movie critic has said he refuses to go see the film due to the conventional portrayal of Christ: the peaceful, serene, loving God incarnate, whose death on the cross is romanticized in Baroque picturesque style.

I have nothing against

Baroque style, nor do I have anything against the picture of a loving, kind, gentle God (I believe He is). However, this movie shatters the traditional romantic picture of crucifixion.

We all crave reality; evi-

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dence in this is our entertainment. Video games must appear as if we could touch the surroundings, movies cannot have a cheesy apparent blue screen.

Yet at the same time, we continue to keep Christ's death on the cross as unreal as possible.

Up until "The Passion of the Christ," most Christians, including myself, did not realize how much Christ suffered as well as the gruesome death he died in order that we may have life.

Mel Gibson's work in movies such as, "Braveheart" and "The

Patriot" has given him the experience necessary to tackle the violent scenes necessary to accurately portray the crucifixion. As for anti-Semitism,

Mel Gibson decided to have his hands filmed nailing Christ to the cross. When each race (Jew, Roman, etc.) is portrayed in the film, there are good people who realize an innocent man is being wrongfully accused, as well as the evil who eagerly take part.

The cast is untouchable. One cannot speak high enough about their work. Most notable is James Caviezel ("The Count of Monte Cristo") playing the role of Jesus Christ. If given the role of Christ, many actors would crumble; however, Caviezel's stage presence remains strong throughout the film.

Maia Morgenstern, new to the American screen, also attracts the audience's attention as Mary, Jesus' mother.



Photo Courtesy of Newmarket Film Group

Maia Morgenstern as Mary and Monica Bellucci as Mary Magdalene in "The Passion of the Christ"

Through her, viewers are allowed to see Jesus as the man He was on earth, as well as the sacrifice of the mother who bore and raised Him.

The cinematography is amazing. Each shot is full of meaning. The flashbacks allow the audience to temporarily escape the violence. It also acts as salt to those who have not read the bible by giving them enough of the story of Jesus' ministry to make them curious for more.

Also, if the audience members watch closely, they can see traces of Gibson's Catholic beliefs seep into the film.

"The Passion of the Christ" is a must see for those who are mature enough to view the horrors. Viewers must realize that this movie is an accurate portrayal of Christ's crucifixion and death. There is no shelter from the violence, and younger children should not attend.



HollywoodJesus.com

Photo courtesy of www.hollywoodjesus.com

James Caviezel as Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ." The film opened in theaters across America on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25.