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**“Movies, Movies, Movies  
by  
Tom Holbrook**

**I don't know how many get out to the movies on a regular basis but if you do, or even if you don't, I want to recommend a couple that you need to see... assuming by the time you read this they will still be in the theatres. If not wait for the DVD and rent them.**

**I don't know what you use as a determinant factor in choosing movies to see but I usually go by what others say about them and sometimes the opinion of those who get paid to review them. There are many movies I have yet to see because the reviews were bad, and the only way I'll watch them is by allowing Judy to pick out the flick of the night and she picks the panned one because of the starring cast. She's usually right in her choices because most times a good actor can rescue even a poor film but I don't like to take the chance.**

**The two movies I'm recommending today I saw as a result of her wanting to see them and, again, she was right on. “Amazing Grace” and “Potter” are the titles and each should generate a substantial box office take because they were intriguing, truthful and about subjects in which the majority of viewers are interested, i.e., battling man's inhumanity to man and true love in the midst of bigotry. Most importantly, at least to me, was they both had happy endings. That is a must for me... for me to really enjoy a movie there's got to be a happy ending... do what you want in the middle but bring it to a happy conclusion.**

**Don't bother telling me, “Well, you know Tom... life doesn't always have a happy ending,” or “Tom, you can't go around expecting everything to have an ending you'll be happy with.” I know all these things and I still don't want to see a movie with an unhappy ending. I don't like reading books without happy endings, and I'm a voracious reader. My feeling is this... I live in a society where there are unhappy endings... life is not fair and my life has had some unhappy endings which devastated and depressed me and the good Lord got me through them, but if I'm going to pay good money for entertainment I just don't think I want to spend the money on something that's going to remind me that the world in which I live is imperfect. I go to movies and read books (other than biographical works or some documentaries) for the sole purpose of escaping from reality for a short period time before I have resume my life among all the negative attitudes and unhappy scenarios the world throws into my path.**

**Anyhow, “Amazing Grace” is the story of a true hero of the downtrodden and his long struggle against the many slave ships that operated out of British seaports. William Wilberforce, a member of the British Parliament's House of Commons in the late 1700s and early 1800s, is our hero who struggled pretty much his entire adult life to abolish slavery and slave ships operating**

out of English ports. The movie circles around the subject of his conversion to evangelical Christianity in his mid twenties and his former pastor, John Newton who wrote the world famous hymn Amazing Grace. Newton was an ex-slave ship captain who converted to Christianity after an experience aboard his ship.

Don't think the movie is meant to be an evangelical tool... it isn't. Its goal is to tell the story of a young man with a vision for his life and how he sustains himself through defeat after defeat. The movie reminded me that anything worth fighting for is worth fighting the fight for as long as it takes to achieve the goal. You won't be disappointed in this movie.

The second movie, "Potter," is not about the precocious warlock wannabe, but looking in on the adult life of one of the world's most famous authors Beatrix Potter, also a native of Great Britain, who is known for her prolific production of children's books during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her most famous was "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," written in 1900 at the age of 34. Her family was rich and very bigoted toward Beatrix's involvement with anyone beneath her social station. Whether artistic license was used in the movie, or not, we still gain a great insight into the hurdles facing authors of the day in England, especially those of the female persuasion, and the events which inspired her stories..

A very sweet story with romance, intrigue, and a few hanky moments, "Potter" did a great job of manipulating our emotions which is critical in the criteria by which a movie should be determined good or not. Renee Zelleweger did an excellent job playing the title role. Again, you should not be disappointed in this movie.

For those of you who could care less about my feelings toward movies, even you would benefit from seeing these movies. For those of you who do not go to movies... you really need to start.

See you next week.

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