

mel gibson passion christi

Mel Gibson Passion Christi: An In-Depth Look at the Iconic Film and Its Impact

The film *The Passion of the Christ*, directed by Mel Gibson, remains one of the most significant and controversial movies in modern cinematic history. Released in 2004, the film depicts the final hours of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the suffering and crucifixion with visceral intensity. This article explores the origins of the film, its critical reception, theological themes, cultural impact, and the legacy of Mel Gibson's role in bringing this powerful story to the screen.

Overview of The Passion of the Christ

Background and Development

The Passion of the Christ was conceived and directed by Mel Gibson, an actor and filmmaker known for his intense storytelling. Inspired by his own faith and a desire to depict the suffering of Jesus with authenticity, Gibson spent several years developing the project. The screenplay was based on the four Gospels of the New Testament, with particular influence from the visions of Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich, a 19th-century German mystic whose writings detailed the Passion.

Gibson faced numerous challenges during production, including securing funding, casting, and navigating religious sensitivities. Despite these obstacles, the film was completed and released to widespread anticipation.

Plot Summary

The film chronicles the last 12 hours of Jesus Christ's life, focusing on his arrest, trial, scourging, crucifixion, and death. The narrative is rooted in biblical accounts but emphasizes the physical and emotional agony Jesus endures. The story highlights the themes of sacrifice, redemption, and divine love, aiming to evoke empathy and reflection among viewers.

Critical Reception and Box Office Success

Audience and Critical Response

The Passion of the Christ garnered a polarized response upon release. Many praised its powerful visuals, emotional depth, and faithfulness to biblical narratives. It was lauded for its cinematography, makeup effects, and Gibson's directorial vision.

However, critics and audiences also voiced concerns about the film's graphic violence and perceived anti-Semitic undertones. Some religious leaders appreciated the film's spiritual message, while others criticized its portrayal of Jewish characters, leading to ongoing debates about its interpretation.

Financial Performance

The film was a commercial hit, grossing over \$600 million worldwide, making it one of the highest-grossing R-rated films at the time. Its success demonstrated the strong interest in religious cinema and the ability of faith-based stories to reach broad audiences.

Themes and Symbolism in The Passion of the Christ

Religious and Theological Significance

The movie emphasizes themes central to Christian theology:

- **Sacrifice and Redemption:** Jesus' suffering is portrayed as the ultimate act of love and salvation for humanity.
- **Divine Passion:** The film aims to depict Jesus' compassion and willingness to suffer for mankind's sins.
- **Fulfillment of Prophecy:** The narrative aligns with biblical prophecies about the Messiah's suffering and death.

Visual and Artistic Elements

Gibson's use of stark imagery and intense close-ups amplifies the emotional impact. The film's use of language, primarily Aramaic, Latin, and Hebrew, adds authenticity and immerses viewers in the historical context.

Symbolism plays a vital role:

- **Blood and wounds:** Visual representations underscore the brutality and sacrifice.
- **Darkness and light:** Contrast highlights themes of evil and divine goodness.
- **The crown of thorns:** Symbolizes mockery and suffering but also spiritual kingship.

Controversies and Criticisms

Accusations of Anti-Semitism

One of the most contentious aspects of the film involves accusations that it perpetuates anti-Semitic stereotypes. Critics argued that some scenes, especially those depicting Jewish authorities and mobs,

foster negative stereotypes and contribute to historical anti-Semitism.

Gibson and supporters maintain that the film aims to depict the biblical account faithfully and emphasizes the universal nature of suffering and salvation.

Violence and Graphic Content

The film's unflinching portrayal of violence has been both praised and criticized. While some view it as necessary to depict the real brutality of crucifixion, others consider it excessively graphic and potentially traumatic.

Mel Gibson's Role and Influence

Director and Producer

Mel Gibson's vision was central to the creation of *The Passion of the Christ*. His intense dedication and personal faith shaped the film's tone and message. Gibson's approach combined traditional biblical storytelling with cinematic artistry, creating a visceral experience that aimed to move viewers emotionally and spiritually.

Impact on Gibson's Career

While the film was a commercial success, it also drew controversy for Gibson's outspoken views and personal struggles. Nevertheless, *The Passion* remains a defining work in his career, showcasing his ability to tackle profound and challenging topics.

The Cultural and Religious Legacy of The Passion of the Christ

Influence on Religious Cinema

The film revitalized interest in faith-based movies, inspiring numerous productions exploring biblical themes. It demonstrated that religious stories could achieve mainstream success and provoke meaningful dialogue.

Spiritual Reflections and Devotion

Many viewers reported that the film deepened their faith, prompting prayer, reflection, and discussions about Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. Churches and religious groups often used the film as a tool for evangelism and spiritual growth.

Contemporary Relevance

Decades after its release, *The Passion of the Christ* continues to be studied and referenced in discussions about faith, cinema, and cultural perceptions of religion. Its impact extends beyond entertainment, influencing how religious narratives are portrayed in popular culture.

Conclusion

Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* is more than just a film; it is a cultural phenomenon that challenged audiences worldwide to confront the depths of suffering and the power of divine love. While it remains controversial, its artistic achievement and spiritual message have cemented its place in cinematic history. Whether viewed as a profound religious statement or a provocative work, *The Passion of the Christ* exemplifies the profound influence cinema can have on faith and culture.

If you want to learn more about Mel Gibson's involvement in the film, its production process, or its ongoing influence, numerous documentaries, interviews, and scholarly articles are available that delve deeper into this remarkable cinematic journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the significance of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' in film history?

Mel Gibson's *'The Passion of the Christ'* is considered a groundbreaking religious film for its intense portrayal of Jesus Christ's crucifixion, its use of Aramaic and Latin languages, and its impact on faith-based cinema since its release in 2004.

How did Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' influence Christian film productions?

The film set a new standard for Christian cinema by demonstrating that faith-based films could achieve mainstream success and critical recognition, inspiring many filmmakers to produce more religious-themed movies.

What controversies surrounded Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ'?

The film faced criticism for its graphic violence and portrayal of Jewish characters, which some argued could incite anti-Semitic sentiments. Additionally, Mel Gibson's personal controversies impacted the film's reception in certain circles.

How accurate is Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' in depicting the biblical events?

While the film draws heavily from the Gospels and Christian tradition, some scholars note artistic license and interpretive choices that may differ from historical or theological perspectives, aiming to evoke emotional and spiritual responses.

What was the commercial success of Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ'?

The film was a huge box office hit, grossing over \$600 million worldwide, making it one of the highest-grossing R-rated films and a significant success for faith-based cinema.

What impact did Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ' have on religious communities?

The film deeply resonated with many Christian audiences, inspiring renewed faith, devotion, and interest in the Passion narrative, while also sparking discussions about religious representations in media.

Has Mel Gibson spoken publicly about his motivations for making 'The Passion of the Christ'?

Yes, Mel Gibson has expressed that his faith and desire to portray the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ authentically motivated him to create a film that would inspire and challenge viewers spiritually.

Are there any upcoming projects related to Mel Gibson and 'The Passion of the Christ'?

As of October 2023, there have been discussions and rumors about potential sequels or related projects, but no official announcements have been made regarding new films directly connected to 'The Passion of the Christ'.

Additional Resources

Mel Gibson Passion Christi: An In-Depth Examination of the Controversial Biblical Epic

In 2004, filmmaker Mel Gibson released *The Passion of the Christ*, a film that not only challenged traditional portrayals of the last hours of Jesus Christ but also ignited widespread debate across religious, cinematic, and cultural spheres. Titled succinctly as *Mel Gibson Passion Christi*, the film marked a pivotal moment in religious filmmaking, blending visceral storytelling with controversial artistic choices. This long-form review delves into the film's origins, thematic elements, reception, and lasting impact, providing an exhaustive analysis suitable for critics, scholars, and cinema enthusiasts alike.

Origins and Development of The Passion of the Christ

Mel Gibson's Personal Vision and Religious Motivations

Mel Gibson, an actor and director known for gritty, intense films like *Braveheart*, embarked on the project driven by deep personal faith. He envisioned a film that would portray the suffering of Jesus with uncompromising realism, aiming to evoke a visceral emotional response from viewers. Gibson's evangelical beliefs played a significant role in shaping the narrative, emphasizing themes of sacrifice, redemption, and divine love.

In interviews, Gibson expressed his desire to create a film that would "bring people closer to Christ" and serve as a visual prayer. The project was rooted in his interpretation of the Gospels, particularly Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, with a focus on capturing the physical and spiritual agony endured by Jesus.

Scriptural Sources and Artistic Influences

The screenplay, penned by Gibson and Benedict Fitzgerald, drew heavily from the Gospel accounts but also incorporated apocryphal traditions and medieval passion plays. Gibson's reference points included:

- The Four Gospels (primarily Matthew and John)
- Medieval depictions of Christ's Passion
- Traditional Latin and Aramaic liturgies
- Theologian writings emphasizing Christ's suffering

Visually, Gibson sought inspiration from classic religious art and horror films, aiming to create a stark, haunting atmosphere that would resonate viscerally.

Production Challenges and Choices

The production faced notable hurdles, including:

- Funding: Gibson financed a significant portion himself, contributing approximately \$30 million.
- Language Authenticity: The film was shot primarily in Aramaic, Latin, and Hebrew to enhance authenticity.
- Violence and Gore: Gibson insisted on realistic depictions of violence, resulting in scenes that many found disturbing.
- Casting: The cast, largely unknown internationally, was selected for their ability to portray raw emotion.

The meticulous approach extended to makeup, set design, and cinematography, emphasizing realism over stylization.

Deep Dive into Thematic Elements

Violence and Suffering: Artistic Intent or Exploitation?

One of the most discussed aspects of *The Passion of the Christ* is its graphic depiction of violence. Gibson argued that portraying Jesus' suffering authentically was crucial to understanding the depth of his sacrifice. Critics, however, debated whether the film crossed into sensationalism.

Key points include:

- The extensive use of practical effects and prosthetics to depict whipping, scourging, and crucifixion.
- The deliberate pacing of intense scenes to evoke emotional engagement.
- The contrast between the brutality and moments of tenderness, highlighting the duality of divine love and human cruelty.

Some viewed the film as a powerful spiritual meditation, while others saw it as overly graphic or exploitative.

Theological and Symbolic Interpretations

Beyond its visceral impact, the film employs numerous symbolic and theological motifs:

- The portrayal of Satan as a recurring figure, representing evil's presence.
- The inclusion of visions and dreams, emphasizing Jesus' spiritual torment.
- The emphasis on the physicality of Christ's suffering as a reflection of divine love and redemption.

Gibson's focus on suffering aligns with traditional Catholic theology, emphasizing the atonement and sacrificial love.

Language and Cultural Authenticity

Shooting in Aramaic, Latin, and Hebrew was a deliberate choice to ground the film in historical authenticity. However, it also posed challenges:

- Subtitles became a point of contention, with some viewers feeling they detracted from immersion.
- The linguistic choices aimed to evoke a sense of immediacy and realism, immersing audiences into the world of 1st-century Judea.

Reception and Controversies

Critical Response

The Passion of the Christ received polarized reviews from critics:

- Praise focused on its technical mastery, intense emotional power, and religious authenticity.
- Critics lauded Gibson's direction, cinematography by Caleb Deschanel, and the performances, particularly Jim Caviezel's portrayal of Jesus.
- Conversely, some critics found the violence excessive, with accusations that the film exploited suffering for shock value.

Review aggregator scores:

- Rotten Tomatoes: Approximately 50% approval
- Metacritic: Score around 49/100

Religious and Cultural Reactions

The film was embraced enthusiastically by many Christian communities, who saw it as a profound spiritual experience. However, it also faced criticism:

- From Jewish groups: Concerns over alleged anti-Semitic portrayals, especially regarding the depiction of Jewish authorities and the crowd's role.
- From secular audiences: Claims that the film's violence overshadowed its message.
- From scholars: Debates over historical accuracy and theological implications.

Gibson's outspoken defense of the film's portrayal of Jewish figures as representatives of a broader systemic evil sparked ongoing controversy.

Impact on Cinema and Popular Culture

Despite the controversies, The Passion of the Christ achieved remarkable commercial success:

- Grossed over \$600 million worldwide, making it one of the highest-grossing R-rated films.
- Spawned numerous parodies, paratexts, and discussions about religious filmmaking.
- Inspired debates about artistic responsibility when depicting religious themes.

The film's success also led to increased interest in biblical epics and faith-based cinema.

Lasting Legacy and Critical Evaluation

Artistic and Cinematic Significance

The Passion of the Christ is often praised for its technical achievements:

- Cinematography: Use of chiaroscuro lighting to symbolize spiritual darkness and divine illumination.
- Sound Design: The visceral audio effects amplified the realism of suffering.
- Score: Composed by John Debney, the music underscored the emotional gravity.

Gibson's unflinching approach set a new benchmark for religious filmmaking, emphasizing raw emotional and sensory engagement.

Controversies and Ethical Debates

The film remains controversial due to:

- Its graphic depiction of violence and potential desensitization.
- Allegations of racial and religious stereotyping.
- The question of whether the film promotes a particular theological perspective at the expense of historical nuance.

Gibson's own statements about the film's purpose and his faith have kept the debate alive.

Influence on Future Films and Media

The Passion of the Christ influenced subsequent religious films and documentaries, encouraging filmmakers to explore faith through intense realism. It also sparked discussions about:

- The boundaries of artistic expression in religious contexts.
- The role of cinema as a tool for evangelization.
- The importance of cultural sensitivity and historical accuracy.

Conclusion: A Complex Legacy

Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* remains a landmark in religious cinema—an uncompromising portrayal of suffering that succeeded in inspiring faith-driven audiences while provoking controversy among critics and critics of religious symbolism. Its artistic achievements are undeniable, yet its provocative nature invites ongoing debate about the responsibilities filmmakers bear when depicting sacred narratives.

The film's enduring legacy is a testament to its power to evoke emotion and challenge perceptions. Whether viewed as a masterpiece or a cautionary tale, *The Passion of the Christ* exemplifies how cinema can serve as both a mirror and a catalyst for deeper spiritual and cultural reflection.

As discussions about faith and art continue, Mel Gibson's *Passion Christi* will undoubtedly remain a central reference point—an intense, visceral exploration of the ultimate sacrifice that continues to resonate in the collective consciousness.

Mel Gibson Passion Christi

mel gibbon passion christi: Jesus and Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ Kathleen E. Corley, Robert L. Webb, 2004-08-25 An exciting and engaging book that will appeal not only to academics but to the film-viewing public, educated lay-persons and students. Not only will the book aid this audience in a greater appreciation of the film 'The Passion of the Christ' but perhaps more importantly it will enable the reader to distinguish between both the contents of the film and the contents of the Gospels and between the contents of the film and what may be historically reconstructed about Jesus. Furthermore the book will aid the reader to appreciate the contributions that the study of the Gospels and the historical study of Jesus can make to the discussion of the film 'The Passion of the Christ'. *Jesus and Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ* is edited by Kathleen E. Corley, Oshkosh Northwestern Distinguished Professor and Professor of New Testament at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Robert L. Webb, an independent scholar living near Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The other contributors are: Dr. John Dominic Crossan, Professor Emeritus of religious Studies at DePaul University, Illinois. Dr. Helen K. Bond, Lecturer in New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at New College, University of Edinburgh, UK; Dr. Craig A. Evans, Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College, Nova Scotia, Canada; Dr Mark Goodacre, Senior Lecturer in New Testament at the Department of Theology, University of Birmingham, UK; Dr. Glenna S. Jackson, Associate Professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio; Dr. Scot McKnight, Karl A. Olsson Professor in Religious Studies at North Park University, Chicago, Illinois; Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; Alan F. Segal, Professor of Religion and Ingeborg Rennert Professor of Jewish Studies at Barnard College, Columbia University, New York; Dr. W. Barnes Tatum, Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Greensboro College, North Carolina; David J. Goa, Curator Emeritus at the Provincial Museum of Alberta and a Fellow of the M.V. Dimic Institute for the Study of Culture at the University of Alberta.

mel gibbon passion christi: Mel Gibson's Passion Zev Garber, 2006 Some essays are from a symposium held Mar. 30, 2004 at Purdue University.

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The Christ - Die Passion Christi gibt hierauf die entscheidenden Antworten. Die katholische Radikalität macht Gibsons Meisterwerk zu einer der größten Provokationen für die westliche Gesellschaft.

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mel gibson passion christi: Jewish Scholarship on the Resurrection of Jesus David Mishkin, 2017-09-07 The Jewish study of Jesus has made enormous strides within the last two hundred years. Virtually every aspect of the life of Jesus and related themes have been analyzed and discussed. Jesus has been "reclaimed" as a fellow Jew by many, although what this actually means remains a matter for discussion. Ironically, the one event in the life of Jesus that has received significantly less attention is the one that the New Testament proclaims as the most important of all: his resurrection from the dead. This book is the first attempt to document Jewish views of the resurrection of Jesus in history and modern scholarship.

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mel gibson passion christi: Die Passion Christi Reinhold Zwick, Thomas Lenten, 2004 Die anhaltende Kontroverse um Mel Gibsons Jesusfilm bewegt sich vor allem um drei Problemfelder: die Gewaltdarstellung, die Zeichnung der jüdischen Gegner Jesu und die Theologie des Films, insbesondere das in ihm vertretene Konzept von Opfer und Sühne. Immer wieder begegnen Fragen wie: Liegt die explizite Darstellung von brutalster Gewalt nicht auf der Linie alter und neuer Passionsdarstellungen in der bildenden Kunst? Steht der Film nicht in einer ehrwürdigen Tradition der Passionsfrömmigkeit - von der mittelalterlichen Kreuzesmystik bis zu Clemens Brentanos Das Bittere Leiden unseres Herrn Jesus Christus nach den Visionen Anna Katharina Emmericks, jenem Buch, das den Regisseur erklärtermaßen entscheidend inspiriert hat? Fällt der dem Film verschiedentlich vorgeworfene Antijudaismus nicht auf die Evangelien als seine Vorlagen zurück? Feiern wir nicht in der Eucharistie eben jenes Opfer, das der Film zwar drastisch, aber grundsätzlich doch in der richtigen Perspektive anvisiert? Ist es nicht der grausame Tod am Kreuz, der uns erlöst hat? In vielerlei Hinsicht sind Theologie und Kunstgeschichte durch den neuen Passionsfilm angefragt. Bei einem Symposium an der Katholisch-Theologischen Fakultät Münster, zu dem die Forschungsgruppe Kulturgeschichte und Theologie des Bildes eingeladen hatte, nahmen ausgewiesene Fachvertreter aus der Perspektive ihrer Disziplin Stellung. Der Band enthält Beiträge von Martin Ebner, Andreas Gormans, Reinhard Hoeps, Otto Huber, Thomas Lenten, Thomas Schärfl, Martin Stuflesser, Jürgen Werbick und Reinhold Zwick.

mel gibson passion christi: *The Folly of the Cross* Richard Viladesau, 2018-05-01 The Folly of the Cross is the fourth book in Richard Viladesau's series examining the aesthetics and theology of the cross through Christian history. Previous volumes have brought the story up through the Baroque era. This new book examines the reception of the message of the cross from the European Enlightenment to the turn of the twentieth century.

mel gibson passion christi: *The Bible in Film — The Bible and Film* J.Cheryl Exum, 2021-10-18 Biblical scholars and students are finding the role of the Bible in film an increasingly absorbing and rewarding topic. There are films that retell biblical narratives and there are films that allude to the Bible or otherwise build on or appropriate biblical themes and images. The eleven lively and provocative articles in this volume explore both types of film, showcasing the cinema's impact on the

perception of the Bible in modern culture. Originally published as issue 1-2 of Volume 14 (2006) of Brill's journal Biblical Interpretation. For more details on this journal, please click [here](#).

mel gibbon passion christi: 2004 Sara Grosvald, 2012-02-14 This work includes international secondary literature on anti-Semitism published throughout the world, from the earliest times to the present. It lists books, dissertations, and articles from periodicals and collections from a diverse range of disciplines. Written accounts are included among the recorded titles, as are manifestations of anti-Semitism in the visual arts (e.g. painting, caricatures or film), action taken against Jews and Judaism by discriminating judiciaries, pogroms, massacres and the systematic extermination during the Nazi period. The bibliography also covers works dealing with philo-Semitism or Jewish reactions to anti-Semitism and Jewish self-hate. An informative abstract in English is provided for each entry, and Hebrew titles are provided with English translations.

mel gibbon passion christi: Elenchus of Biblica , 2005

mel gibbon passion christi: Kaiphass. Der Hohepriester jenes Jahres Rainer Metzner, 2010-06-30 The high priest Caiaphas is one of the important figures in biblical history who received little attention or sympathy in the judgement of posterity. Since the time of the old church the highest representative of the Jewish society in the time of Jesus was assessed as a wicked enemy of Jesus and the leading apostles in Jerusalem. This image obscures the religious and political efficiency of a man, who worked with great success in his office for a long period of eighteen years. What do we know about the historical Caiaphas? And what is the image of this man in the New Testament and afterwards? The present study tries to answer these questions in view of the history, the exegesis and the reception history. Der Hohepriester Kaiphass gehört zu den bedeutenden Figuren der biblischen Geschichte, denen im Urteil der Nachwelt eine geringe Aufmerksamkeit oder Sympathie entgegengebracht wurde. Seit der alten Kirche wurde der höchste Repräsentant des jüdischen Tempelstaates zur Zeit Jesu als bössartiger Feind Jesu und der führenden Apostel in Jerusalem betrachtet. Dieses Bild verdeckt die religiösen und politischen Leistungen eines Mannes, der achtzehn Jahre lang mit Erfolg amtiert hat. Was wissen wir über den historischen Kaiphass? Und welches Bild hat sich von ihm im Neuen Testament und in der Zeit danach ausgeprägt? Die vorliegende Studie versucht, diese Fragen historisch, exegetisch und wirkungsgeschichtlich zu beantworten.

mel gibbon passion christi: After The Passion is Gone J. Shawn Landres, Michael Berenbaum, 2004 Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* topped box office charts and changed the American religious conversation. The controversies it raised remain unsettled. In *After The Passion Is Gone: American Religious Consequences*, leading scholars of religion and theology ask what Gibson's film and the resulting controversy reveal about Christians, Jews, and the possibilities of interreligious dialogue in the United States. Landres and Berenbaum's collection moves beyond questions of whether or not the film was faithful to the gospels, too violent, or antisemitic and explores why the debate focused on these issues but not others. The public discussion of *The Passion* shed light on a wide range of American attitudes--evangelical Protestant, mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish--about media and faith, politics and history, Jesus and Judaism, fundamentalism and victimhood. *After The Passion Is Gone* takes a unique view of vital points in Christian-Jewish relations and contemporary American religion.

mel gibbon passion christi: The Christian Cross in American Public Life John R. Vile, 2024-01-23 The cross is one of Christianity's most distinctive symbols, increasingly cutting across Catholic/Protestant and other denominational divides. Although the US acknowledges no official religion, a variety of both Christian and non-Christian denominations have flourished. Crosses dot the landscape, sometimes towering over it and at other times simply marking a grave or the site of a traffic accident, or providing a place for contemplation. Courts continue to decide whether it is better to remove long-standing crosses on public property to protect the separation of church and state, or whether removing such symbols might be misinterpreted as expressing hostility towards religion. Whether marking identity, triumph, love, grief, or sacrifice, the cross remains important in American life and continues to be the subject of works of art, music, literature, and political,

religious, and social rhetoric, all of which this volume addresses in an accessible A-to-Z format.

mel gibson passion christi: *"Agency, Visuality and Society at the Chartreuse de Champmol"* Sherry C.M. Lindquist, 2017-07-05 Grounded in archival sources, this interdisciplinary study explores the profound historical significance of the mausoleum of the Valois Dukes of Burgundy - the Chartreuse de Champmol. Although the monument is well known as the site of pivotal works of art by Claus Sluter, Melchior Broederlam, Jean de Beaumetz and others, until now art historians have not considered how these works functioned at the center of a complex social matrix. Sherry Lindquist here considers the sacred subjects of the various sculptures and paintings not merely as devotional tools or theological statements, but as profoundly influential social instruments that negotiated complex interactions of power. Lindquist's sophisticated discussion coordinates analysis of primary sources with the most up-to-date scholarship in the field of art history, not only with respect to late medieval Burgundian art, but also to more theoretical questions pertaining to reception.

mel gibson passion christi: The Vatican Diaries John Thavis, 2014-02-25 The New York Times-bestselling inside look at one of the world's most powerful and mysterious institutions For more than twenty-five years, John Thavis held one of the most remarkable journalistic assignments in the world: reporting on the inner workings of the Vatican. In *The Vatican Diaries*, Thavis reveals Vatican City as a place struggling to define itself in the face of internal and external threats, where Curia cardinals fight private wars and sexual abuse scandals threaten to undermine papal authority. Thavis (author of *The Vatican Prophecies: Investigating Supernatural Signs, Apparitions, and Miracles in the Modern Age*) also takes readers through the politicking behind the election of Pope Francis and what we might expect from his papacy. *The Vatican Diaries* is a perceptive, compelling, and provocative account of this singular institution and will be of interest to anyone intrigued by the challenges faced by religion in an increasingly secularized world.

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mel gibson passion christi: Filme im Grenzbereich Murad Erdemir, Matti Rockenbach, 2014 Im Reich der Sinne (Japan, Frankreich 1976), Mann beißt Hund (Belgien 1992), Die Passion Christi (USA 2004), 9 Songs (Großbritannien 2004) und 7 Days (Kanada 2010): Das vorliegende Werk porträtiert diese Filme, die nach ihrem Erscheinen nicht nur Beifall, sondern auch Empörung hervorriefen, und unterzieht sie einer medienrechtlichen und partiell auch interdisziplinären Betrachtung. Hervorgegangen sind die fünf schriftlichen Ausarbeitungen aus dem von Professor Dr. Murad Erdemir konzipierten und geleiteten Kolloquium Filme im Grenzbereich: Göttinger Studenten diskutieren Kino kontrovers, abgehalten an der Juristischen Fakultät der Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in den Jahren 2011 und 2012. Zur Wahrung größtmöglicher Authentizität wurde den Autoren formale und inhaltliche Eigenständigkeit zugebilligt. In entsprechend unterschiedlicher Art und Weise nähern sie sich ihrem Skandalfilm und richten den Fokus auch auf solche Aspekte, die sie bei der Rezeption persönlich besonders bewegt haben.

mel gibson passion christi: Creating Jesus Dennis Kennedy, 2024-10-15 *Creating Jesus* is a book for general readers on the Gospel of Mark as the earliest surviving witness of the life of Yeshua of Nazareth. Dennis Kennedy applies his expertise in literary and performance studies to examining Mark as a literary and historical document and describes in straightforward style how it differs from the other Gospels, what it meant in its time, and how it has been used in history. He investigates the oral Jesus tradition before Mark, the radical act of writing about a crucified preacher from the hinterland, the expansion of the Messiah cult in the Roman Empire, and the character of the faith that the earliest Gospel proposes. Interspersed with incidents from Kennedy's own education, *Creating Jesus* seeks to reveal why Mark was written, the great influence it has had, and how it might question the nature of Christianity in the present.

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