

Hollywood is known for producing intense plots, exciting thrillers, witty comedies and memorable romances. One of the characteristics that brings these movies to life are their characters, their morals and how the characters overcome their struggles. Despite how the personal ethics of Hollywood characters might make the films more stunning, their choices might not be what an average person would agree with.

AMBER LI STAFF WRITER

THE UGLY TRUTH

SYLVIA WINSTON Features Editor

Movies are not so much portrayals of what society is as they are portrayals of what society would like to be. This statement may be true to some viewers, but those who frown upon the choices of topics Hollywood has decided to touch upon over the last decade can argue with that.

According to many movie viewers, Hollywood has left its glory days, when "good teachings" would surface and hit the big screen, and has transitioned to an unwanted mentor on controversial issues. Themes that touch upon sexuality and abortion have become very taboo to the American public and very controversial to movie critics. The continuous portrayal of such topics continues to stir up fury among those who believe their stand in this world is being portrayed unfairly.

Sex, being one of the most controversial topics to convey on the big screen, has brought much concern to parents who believe their children should abstain from watching it. The upcoming movie adaptation of the novel "Fifty Shades of Grey" has yet to be released and has already stirred up some anger among the female population who believe their role is being depicted inappropriately. Sparing the explicit details the movie encompasses, "Fifty Shades of Grey" is among the many movies that will touch upon taboo subjects that do not necessarily convey positive morals.

In addition, even though lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) supporters have tirelessly worked to equate their rights among society, Hollywood's evocation has caused some quarrel. However, do not disregard the disputable debate in whether abortion is acceptable or not; Hollywood has somehow manipulated people's beliefs in past films.

Subjects like these do not only bring controversy, but confusion to the public. Whether morals are being tested or expressed accurately on the big screen is still debatable, but such movies continue attracting a large number of audience members. Why? There is no correct answer to this, but Hollywood cleverly entices people by offering them an alternate world in which others make difficult decisions. In other words, viewers are given the opportunity to sit back and enjoy the story in front of them.

Hollywood: A History of Hits

ELTON HO Copy Editor

Hollywood: the shining star of California, where imagination can become a reality. But all stars originate from mere dust; what made the modest little town of Hollywood develop into the symbol of fame and fortune it is now?

In the early 1900s, independent filmmakers began seeking a way to avoid Edison's moviemaking patents, which often involved them in legal troubles. They began relocating to faraway town of Hollywood, after hearing of its ideal filming conditions.

Over the next few decades, Hollywood prospered. To prevent influencing audiences with loose morals, the Hays Code set restrictions on what filmmakers could portray. The rules conformed to moral standards of the time, banning things such as villainous minister characters and interracial relationships. The Hays Code was replaced in 1968 with the ratings system still in use today.

After its "Golden Age," Hollywood encountered financial issues arose as made-for-TV movies became popular and as high-budget films became box office flops.

However, redevelopment projects, including the refurbishing of the famous Hollywood sign, gradually allowed Hollywood to make a comeback, its success continuing to this day.

The Hollywood Sign's Dimmed Light

JADE LIEU Features Editor

Most people believe in different things: religion, rules, or morals. Many have a sense of righteousness which conforms to what one believes is right. However, Hollywood and the media highly influence what people think is true, rather than what is right. Although some movies have shown signs of high morality, some movies today have little to no meaning at all.

"I think Hollywood creates movies based on what they believe will generate more revenue. It seems like they'll put anything out there nowadays," junior Toni Shyy said.

In a few of the movies in Hollywood today, the scripts are written in which makes an average human believe what is right and what is wrong. The topic of abortion has been debated on for a prolonged amount of time. In movies, they would be perceived as wrong and immoral to deprive an expecting human being of their lives. But in reality, many of the teenage moms today would rather choose the option of abortion due to fear or lacking financially, creating an unstable environment for the newborn.

"Hollywood portrays a false reality. In movies, they can set up any type of scenario so they drill false images and implant this 'alternate reality' into the minds of all the viewers watching," junior Shoha Tsuchida said.

While many want to achieve the same feeling that a movie scene might create, oftentimes, it is not in one's nature to act a certain way. Due to many movies lacking in the "meaningful department," some people have decided to be influenced by the cinema which caused their morality to decrease as well. Like a protagonist in a movie, hopefully one will learn to overcome the obstacle of illusion.

THE REEL SIDE OF HOLLYWOOD

MOOR graphics by
LESLIE HWANG

THE MOOR WEEKLY

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