



Journal of Religion & Film

Volume 19 | Issue 1

Article 14

1-28-2015

Tig

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Recommended Citation

McDavid, Jodi (2015) "Tig," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 19 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol19/iss1/14>

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Tig

Abstract

This is a film review of *Tig* (2015), directed by Kristina Goolsby and Ashley York.

Author Notes

Jodi McDavid is an instructor in Folklore and Gender & Women's Studies at Cape Breton University. She earned her BA at St. Thomas University (New Brunswick) and her MA and PhD from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her PhD dissertation was on anticlericalism in folk and popular culture. Her current research interests include vernacular religion, digital culture, the folklore and popular culture of children and adolescents, and gender and women's studies.



Tig
(2015)

Directed by Kristina Goolsby / Ashley York

Tig is a documentary about stand-up comedian Tig Notaro, who famously got on stage the day she was diagnosed with cancer and did her set on dealing with the aftermath of her diagnosis. In quick succession, Notaro had C. Difficile, her mother died unexpectedly, and she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

The film traces her years after this as she deals with the outcome of her increased popularity due to the infamy of her set about cancer. While the film has little to do with religion, one section might provide a good jumping off point to class discussions. While in remission from breast cancer, Notaro undergoes a procedure which may increase her chances of a recurrence in order to attempt to harvest eggs to allow her to have a child. In one of her sets, Notaro talks

about how, “God never gives you more than you can handle,” and she later responds “I guess God was right, I can handle this.”

Notaro’s illness, her outlook, and her choices as discussed in the film may also provide an interesting addition to a course on death and dying or ethics.