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# The Theology of Battlestar Galactica: American Christianity in the 2004-2009 Television Series

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*Loyola Marymount University*

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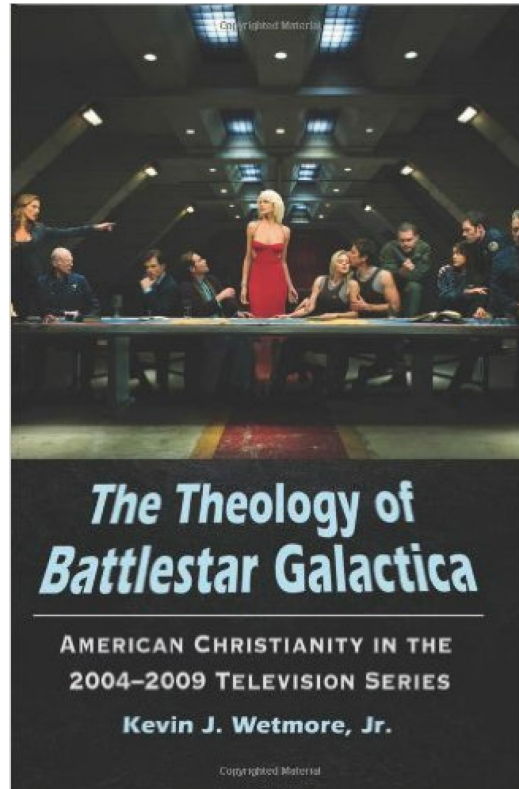
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## Faculty Pub Night – Spring 2014

Date: February 25, 2014

Speaker: Kevin Wetmore



### About the Author

Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr. is Professor and Chair of Theatre Arts with areas of expertise in Japanese theatre, African theatre, Shakespeare, Asian cinema, horror cinema, Greek tragedy, stage combat and comedy. He has degrees from Bates College, the University of Leeds and the University of Pittsburgh, where he completed his doctorate in Theatre and Performance Studies.

He is the author of *African Sky: Modern African Adaptation of Classical Greek Tragedy* (McFarland, 2001), *Black Dionysus: Greek Tragedy and African American Theatre* (McFarland, 2003), *The Empire Triumphant: Race, Religion, and Rebellion in the Star Wars Films* (McFarland, 2005), *Shakespeare and Youth Culture* (Palgrave 2006), *Back from the Dead: Reading Remakes of Romero's Zombie Films as Markers of Their Times* (McFarland 2011), *Post-9/11 Horror in American Cinema* (Continuum, 2012), *The Theology of Battlestar Galactica* (McFarland 2012), and *Modern Asian Theatre and Performance 1900–2000* (with Siyuan Liu and Erin B. Mee, Methuen/Bloomsbury, 2014) as well as the editor or co-editor of eleven more volumes, including *Modern Japanese Theatre and Performance* (Lexington, 2006), *Suzan-Lori Parks: A Casebook* (Routledge 2007) *Revenge: East and West* (Palgrave, 2008), *Portrayals of Americans on the World Stage* (McFarland, 2009), *Catholic Theatre and Drama* (McFarland 2010), *Black Medea: Adaptations for Modern Plays* (Cambria, 2013), and *The Methuen Drama Anthology of Modern Asian Plays* (with Siyuan Liu, Methuen, 2014), among others. He is also the author of numerous articles on theatre, cinema, Japanese culture, popular culture, horror, and performance.

Dr. Wetmore is also an actor, director, stage combat choreographer, and comedian. He's worked in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, New York, New Haven, New England, old England and South Africa with many award-winning productions to

his credit. He's also appeared in several films and television, and was the Founding Artistic Director of the Unseam'd Shakespeare Company.

### **About the Author's Work**

The reimagined television series *Battlestar Galactica* (2005 to 2009 on the Sci Fi Channel), features religion and theology among its central concerns – but does not simply use its myriad faiths as plot devices or background material. *Battlestar Galactica* is, in and of itself, a theological text. Over the course of 87 episodes and two television movies, the series' narrative arc explores the meanings of salvation, prophecy, exile, apocalypse, resurrection, and messianism, and clearly demonstrates the working of a divine will in a material world. The book offers a systematic theology for each of *Battlestar Galactica*'s invented religions and surveys echoes of American Christianity in the groundbreaking series.