

Title – The levels of storytelling.

Program of Study – Film Production

Presentation Type – Physical Poster/oral presentation

Subtype – Creative and Artistic

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This paper examines how films tell stories, and what the audience understands consciously, and subconsciously. Films can have extreme clarity, and yet still have many hints of obscurity. From surface level understanding to the subconscious stories that are being told, film works to not simply tell a story, but force its audience to put the pieces of the puzzle together. An audience needs to be told what to think without knowing they are being told what to think. This paper discusses how to accomplish that through the underlying science of storytelling in lighting, framing, sound, and music in my own short film “*The Diving Bell*”. This film deals with the balance between clarity and obscurity, and the underlying levels of hidden storytelling. People feel emotion while watching a film. It is the film makers(s) job to make the audience feel the right emotions, at the right levels, at the right moments. This papers’ purpose is to find how lighting, framing, sound, and music tells a story to an audience.

Worldview Integration

“*The Diving Bell*” is a Christian film but that isn’t very obvious. I wanted to integrate Christianity into a film and have a Christian message but not be too obvious. Christian films can be corny, and honestly not very appealing to wide audiences more often than not. “*The Diving*

Bell” is about three people who have different faith experiences. Character one (named Samantha) is focused on worldly things and walks away from God. Character two (named Kina) is simply curious about the world and walks away from God. Character three (named Jackson) knows God exists but is on the fence about his relationship with God. Making films without being incredibly obvious about it, is not something new. The Erwin Brothers have been doing it for decades. Watching it and doing it are very different things, and I wanted to see how God can be glorified by what might be regarded as non-Christian filmmaking in some people’s eyes. I believe that we should be inserting Christian morals into everything we do as Christians. This can and should be done in film. Unfortunately, sometimes the world mocks Christian films, and sometimes it is for good reasons. Creating a film that brought in interest from non-Christians was my goal, as I want people to ask questions and in turn allow me to answer with the Gospel. This is extremely impactful in the American culture which we live in. The world flees away from “Christian” films because either they assume they are simply “not good”, or they want to avoid the message that is spoken in the films. “*The Diving Bell*” attracts people who want a good story, and they end up finding the Gospel. My Christian worldview has been with me through the creation of “*The Diving Bell*” and now into Research Week. I wish to keep sharing the Gospel in every way I can. This includes making films and researching them. I believe presenting this topic at research week will show people how to view the media they consume in a different manner, and see God in more than just church and actually see Him work in the world which they live in and experience day in and day out.