

What's Wrong With the Movies

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The trouble with the movies is that they are lacking in culture. The outer impressiveness of movies is very great—the perfect settings and costumes, and the skillful use of the camera; but most movies have an inner emptiness. That is, the plot is hollow and does not have any real meaning. The motives behind the action cannot stand up under closest analysis. Most movies appeal only to the eye and emotions and not to the mind.

The movie industry has substituted a commercial culture for a real culture. Producers are interested mainly in whether their pictures will make a profit; therefore they must make them appeal to the greatest mass of people. To do this, they must make the pictures as spectacular as possible, with famous stars, with much action, and with the usual, and very much

overplayed, "boy meets girl" routine. This combination has been forced upon movie patrons for so long that they no longer see anything wrong with it and never bother to analyze it to see how silly are some of the pictures produced by Hollywood. As long as the profits keep coming in, the producers will not risk making cultural pictures, in which there is a chance of a loss.

The movies have great educational and cultural possibilities. They should make people more clearly aware of man's real needs and should not exclude man's inner life. If people would not attend cheap pictures, Hollywood would be forced to raise its standards and maybe realize that culture is not just a form of entertainment but that it is a way of life.