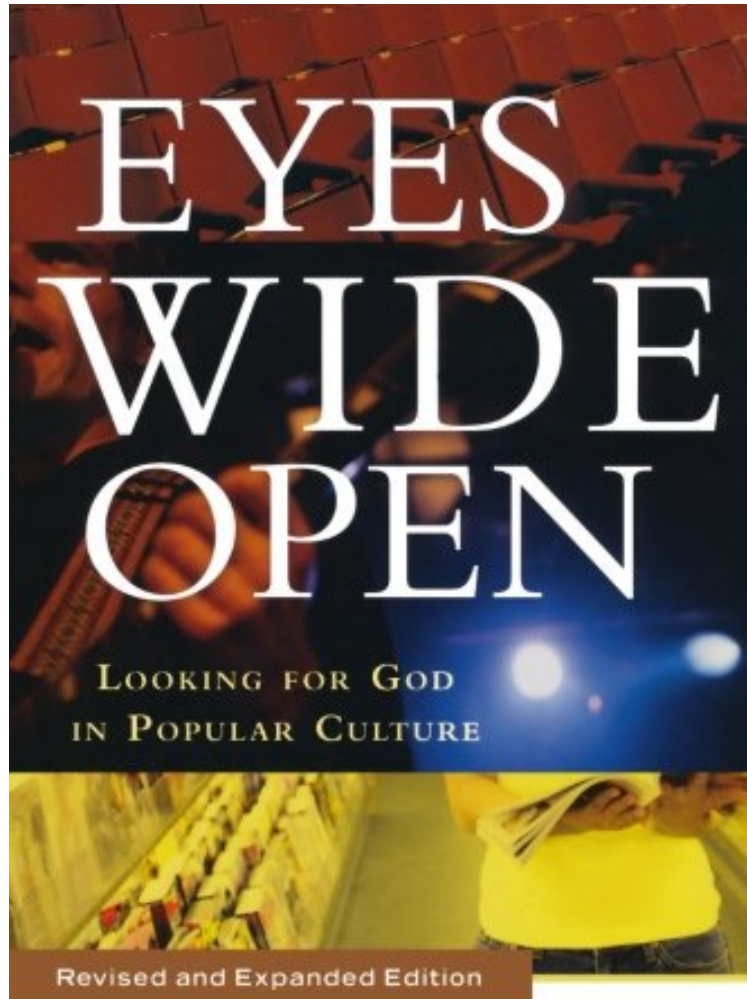


(Mobile book) Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture

Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture

William D. Romanowski

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William D. Romanowski : Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Eyes Wide Open: Looking for God in Popular Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The balanced approach to art (and especially film) in this book is encouraging but not easy, for it requires one to watch and view ...By CustomerOriginally written in 2001 and then revised in 2007, a decade has passed in commercialization and film and cultural development since this book's

publication. Yet Romanowski's engagement with popular culture is insightful and challenging. The balanced approach to art (and especially film) in this book is encouraging but not easy, for it requires one to watch and view and actually think about what one is seeing. But the book on the whole is a call to critical engagement with the arts, and especially film. He is pretty harsh when it comes to the mindless boycotting and protests by Christians and evangelicals of Hollywood and the movies produced therein, for they support and offer up just as mindless an engagement with the world as the melodramas which make the movie industry so much money. The writing tone is conversational and engaging, and I found each chapter a pretty concise and easy read. He provides summary notes and interaction questions at the end of each chapter, which make it an excellent book for youth groups or small groups to utilize. Honestly, I think everyone could stand to read and think about what he talks about in the book. Many major films, classics now, are talked about, and a few are engaged at a little more in depth level (like Titanic and Pretty Woman), and the observations and implications of what they say about life and happiness and gender roles, etc., is as fascinating as it is chilling - with implications which I think modern women's rights, LGBT, and even other liberal groups would find appalling if they actually recognized it. If you like actually thinking about film and what it says to us and what it says about us, you'll love this book. If you love the movies, I think you'll be fascinated by this book. And if you find yourself complaining about Hollywood or the 'horribleness' of movies these days, read this and be challenged on where you truly need to engage and critique popular entertainment. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Brandon Item was received as promised! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A rare thoughtful look at how one's faith might/ought to ... By Noonan A rare thoughtful look at how one's faith might/ought to give shape to one's engagement with popular culture. While the examples are dated the thoughtful consideration given to the intersection of faith and pop upturn is timeless

Grounded in Christian principles, this accessible and engaging book offers an informed and fascinating approach to popular culture. William D. Romanowski provides affectionate yet astute analysis of familiar, well loved movies and television characters from Indiana Jones to Homer Simpson, and he speaks with historical depth and expertise on films from Casablanca to Crash and music from Bruce Springsteen to U2. Romanowski's confessional approach affirms a role for popular culture in faithful living. Practical, analytical approaches to content, meaning, and artistic style offer the tools to participate responsibly and imaginatively in popular cultural activities. An engaging read, this new edition introduces students and thoughtful readers to popular culture one of the most influential forces in contemporary society.

From Publishers Weekly Calvin College professor Romanowski writes for the millions of "Christians who drink beer" those who, in tension with evangelical mores, partake of the fruits of popular culture, from Titanic to Bruce Springsteen to ER. His scope is ambitious, including a theologically informed chapter on the nature of culture itself, to treatment of sex, violence and materialism, to a thoughtful exposition of the story structure of the typical Hollywood film. Though he wants to reach a broad audience, readers new to the subject may be put off by Romanowski's sometimes ponderous and often didactic prose, and they will not be helped to explore the subject further by his reliance on numerous unnamed "scholars" and "theorists" who are quoted without accompanying footnotes or bibliography. As the phrase "Christians who drink beer" illustrates, the book is also marred by its tendency to use the word "Christian" to refer to a particular subset of North American Christianity. The focus on big-grossing films and acts sometimes limits Romanowski's obviously fertile mind: a concluding appendix on the movie Titanic has something of the flavor of a college term paper. Still, this book will be an encouragement to evangelicals looking for an alternative to moralistic criticism of popular culture. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Romanowski (communications, Calvin Coll.; Pop Culture Wars) here helps the reader evaluate popular culture from a Christian perspective. He points out that all elements of pop culture reflect the beliefs and assumptions of current society and argues that it is important to consider the products of contemporary culture objectively and rationally, neither mindlessly rejecting nor na?vely accepting them. The book includes a thought-provoking examination of the Hollywood mythology that still permeates our culture and the cumulative effect of unrealistic approaches to complex problems of life. Nonetheless, pop culture can often provide a useful starting point for dialog. Romanowski feels that good popular art, effectively examined, is often more useful for Christian discussion than much self-consciously religious material. In support of his argument, he provides a good list of questions to apply to such analysis. A good book of its type; for public libraries. C. Robert Nixon, M.L.S., Lafayette, IN Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Publisher Praise for Eyes Wide Open "When Eyes Wide Open first came out we celebrated! It was just the text we were looking for. In our media-saturated age we felt we needed a resource that could both equip students to understand the nature of the genres they consume and give them the 'eyes' to bring appropriate critique as well. Romanowski's book has done that for us and more. At Geneva College we have used it for the last several years in one of our core classes. How could we be anything but enthusiastic to see the new edition? As a sociologist I struggle to get my students to see how their own habits connect to the broader society in which they live, what C. Wright Mills called the 'sociological imagination.' I have seldom seen a resource that makes that happen like

Romanowski's book. His scholarship is impeccable, his writing is engaging, and his faith perspective is compelling. I not only teach from it but I deeply enjoy it and highly recommend it."--Bradshaw Frey, Geneva College "I have used Eyes Wide Open as a companion text in my Introduction to Mass Communication course. Students find Romanowski's cogent synthesis of complex theological and philosophical concepts both accessible and engaging. Simply put, the book helps students to 'think Christianly' about faith and culture in meaningful ways--ways that challenge overly simplistic sacred-secular dichotomies that tend to prevent Christians from critical participation in contemporary culture. Romanowski's work articulates in a compelling way how a faith-based perspective can function as the filter for our consumption, critique, and even creation of popular art and culture. Regardless of your church background, this book should resonate at some level."--Robert Woods, Spring Arbor University "Eyes Wide Open provides clear biblical insights, accessible aesthetic criteria, and challenging approaches to what is often our all too casual interaction with popular culture. Romanowski's book provides an excellent tool for students to learn the skills to navigate 'the world behind the art.' Over the last several years Eyes Wide Open has become the favorite text of our students. They find it interesting, relevant, and easy to discuss and apply. And with this updated version that links the examples to the most recent experience of students, I'm sure it will continue to be enthusiastically embraced. So give it a try--you'll laugh, you'll cry--it's better than Cats."--Terry Thomas, Geneva College "As a professor of popular culture at a faith-based university, I find Eyes Wide Open an ideal text. It has academic rigor yet does not overwhelm undergraduates; it has strong theology yet does not rely upon a Christian readership. Without compromising scholarship, Bill Romanowski is able to make abstract ideas concrete with clear and compelling explanations, specific illustrations, and accessible language. He has done professors and students a great favor and has gone a long way in equipping the next generation of culture makers as agents of change and agents of grace."--Monica Ganas, Azusa Pacific University