

I.N.R.I. (Germany, 1923): Swedish poster
Golgota (France, 1935): Swedish poster

Images courtesy of Michael Morris

SPECIAL EVENTS

Free opening events

Sunday, 16 September 2007

2 P.M. lecture by Rev. Michael Morris, O.P.

3–5 P.M. free public reception

Two Celluloid Bible Classics at the Tivoli

Sunday, 7 October 2007

The Ten Commandments (1956)

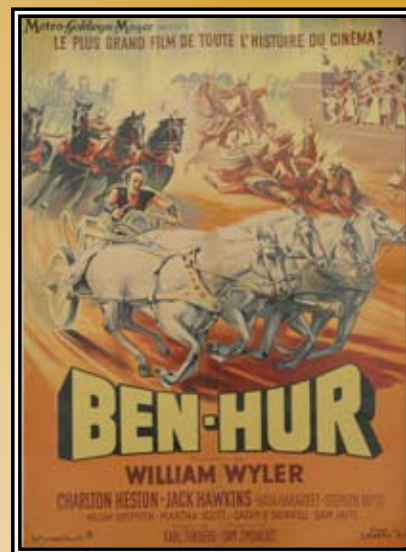
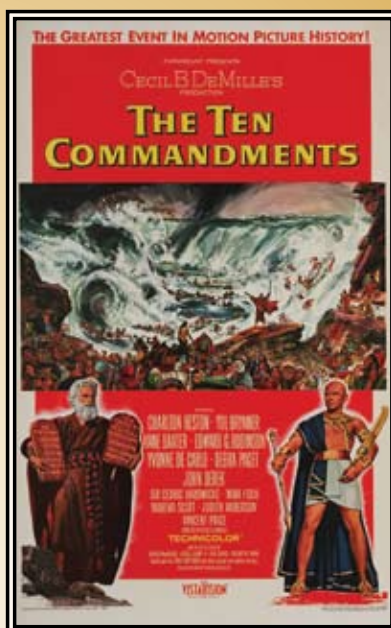
Sunday, 4 November 2007

Ben-Hur (1959)

films begin at 12:45 P.M.

come early for pre-show remarks at 12:30 P.M.

Both films will be shown at the **Tivoli Theatre** (6350 Delmar in the University City Loop). **General admission \$5**. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Tivoli box office in advance or on the day of the show.



this exhibition and programming made possible
 with funding from



The Ten Commandments (USA, 1956): American poster
Ben-Hur (USA, 1959): French poster

The Celluloid BIBLE

Marketing Films Inspired by Scripture

Showing at

Museum of Contemporary Religious Art

MOCRA

Saint Louis University

16 SEPTEMBER – 9 DECEMBER 2007

See other side for a list of special events

Tues • Wed • Thurs • Fri • Sat • Sun

11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION *

* Suggested donation of \$5/adults
or \$1/students & children

314-977-7170

mocra.slu.edu

About the Exhibition

over 50 vintage movie posters from around the world
for films inspired by the Bible and the biblical era

A uniquely modern art form, film and its associated motion picture industry have taken Judeo-Christian scripture as subject matter from the very beginning of the medium and have continued that treatment to the present day. The exhibition **The Celluloid Bible: Marketing Films Inspired by Scripture** examines how the Bible has been visualized on film by bringing together 53 vintage movie posters that survey films from 1898 to the present—films classic and obscure, domestic and international, grandiose and camp—along with a selection of ancillary promotional and commemorative materials. The posters serve as aesthetic objects in their own right, and as indicators of changing trends in the film industry's approach to the Bible. Designed to inspire the imagination and entice viewers to make a cinematic pilgrimage, the posters allow us to trace developments in the graphic arts as well as in advertising and marketing. A number of them have topical imagery that links them to a particular time and place, while others achieve a timeless quality; some deserve to be considered as bona fide works of art. The posters, like the movies they promote, can reveal much about the social milieu in which they functioned. The posters also hint at the various stances filmmakers have taken toward their biblical material: reverent or irreverent, ironic or dogmatic, understated or epic.

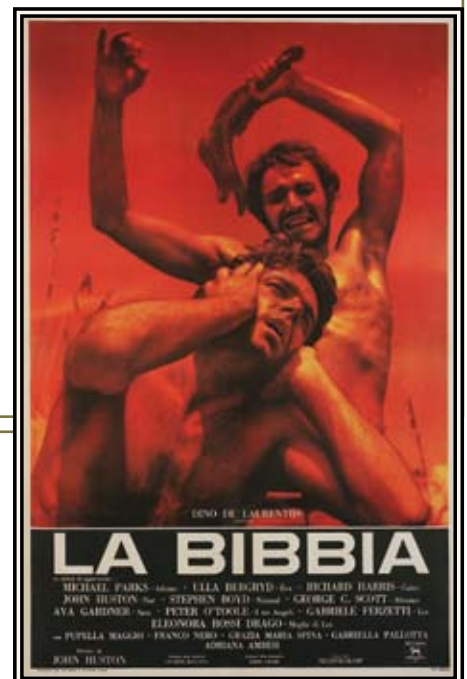
About the collector

The posters are drawn from the extensive collection of film scholar Rev. Michael Morris, O.P. He received his Ph.D. in Art History from the University of California at Berkeley in 1986 and for twenty years has been a Professor of Religion and the Arts at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. A special interest in film has led him to acquire a world-class collection of movie posters and allied material for films that charts the intersection between religion and the cinema. Morris writes for both scholarly and popular publications. His biography of the wife of the actor Rudolph Valentino (*Madam Valentino: The Many Lives of Natacha Rambova*, Abbeville Press, 1991) was named by *The New York Times* as one of the Notable Books of the Year.

Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) • Saint Louis University

3700 West Pine Boulevard on the campus of Saint Louis University (on the pedestrian mall)
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The world's first museum of interfaith contemporary art, MOCRA is dedicated to the ongoing dialogue between contemporary artists and the world's faith traditions. Located in a spacious former chapel used for over 35 years by Jesuit seminarians, MOCRA offers a unique, meditative setting for the display of its permanent collection and changing exhibitions. MOCRA's exhibitions demonstrate the range of contemporary religious and spiritual artistic expression seen in the work of artists of local, regional, and national stature.



The Bible ... In the Beginning
(U.S.A./Italy, 1966):
Italian poster

turn page over to see sample images from the exhibition

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