

From: Independence Hall Foundation  
Sent: 2/22/2015 10:21:01 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: The Oscars and the Culture Wars

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<<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lt-col-john-nagl-knife-fights-tickets-15540999548>>  
February 22, 2015, 5 PM

Dear **Members** and **Friends**,

Over the years, our good friend, **WPHT Radio Host Dom Giordano**, has repeatedly urged his listeners to **engage the culture**.

To that end, he has encouraged us patronize films that seek to uplift the American Spirit and renew the American Dream.

### **THE CULTURE WARS**

As many would acknowledge, the Hollywood of today is dominated by leftist who use film as a means of political agitation and cultural shock. They often employ themes hostile to Judea-Christian values and American tradition.

As a result, many conservatives have waged their own private boycott of the industry--completely understandable, if not regrettable.

In its earlier days, the Hollywood industry tended to support films that respected our deep-seated western culture primarily because audiences were drawn to such productions.

Films that were too risqué in nature--some might say offensive--were often frowned upon by religious institutions and others concerned with decency issues. Hollywood producers were reluctant to oppose these forces for fear of box office failure.

Gradually, however, as the influence of the church waned, Hollywood no longer feared a backlash for producing films with immoral and/or anti-American themes.

Hence, today, the making of films such as *Fifty Shades of Grey* barely lift an eyebrow--in fact, this film, besides earning over \$120 million in its opening

weekend, has also generated a great deal of attention--not only from the mainstream media--but also the conservative press.

Even in the conservative press, reporting seemed limited to pointing out the film's controversial nature rather than directly criticizing its moral and ethical depravity.

Despite all of its prejudices, Hollywood, in 2014, has produced a number of terrific films that are clearly worth seeing--and if we patronize these films, perhaps Hollywood will make more of them and our declining American Culture will rebound.

## **TOP TEN WORTHWHILE FILMS OF 2014**

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### **10. Best Family Film:** *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*

*Alexander* elevates the nuclear family as the touchstone of our existence. Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner head a superb cast.

### **9. Best Musical:** *Begin Again*

In this film, the two characters played by Mark Ruffalo and Keira Knightly team-up together to create great music. Amazingly, despite their obvious attraction for one another, they do not jump in the sack as Ruffalo's character is a married man with a daughter. So unhollywood. Oscar Nominated for Best Song.

### **8. Best Comedy/Drama:** *The Hundred-Foot Journey*

A widower (Helen Mirren) teaches an Indian cook to become the best chef in France.

### **7. Best Adventure Film:** *Chef*

*Chef* celebrates a budding relationship between a father and son in a post modern world where the internet can make or break a career in click of a button. The father (Jon Favreau) take his teenage son on a cross-country tour, in a food truck, and teaches him to appreciate the value of hard work. *Chef* was the sleeper film of 2014.

### **6. Best Action Film:** *Guardians of the Galaxy*

Good triumphs over evil. Pure unadulterated fun. Oscar nominated.

## **5. Best Historical Drama: *Selma***

*Selma* relives the triumph of the Civil Rights era in America. Oscar nominations include Best Picture.

## **2. Best Biopic (tie): *The Theory of Everything*, *Imitation Game*, *American Sniper***

*The Theory of Everything* tells the story of the brilliant physicist, Steven Hawking, and his incredible determination to carry on despite a debilitating disease. Nominated for 5 Oscars, including Best Picture.

*Imitation Game* examines the heroism of Alan Turing who broke the German Code (Enigma) during World War II. Nominated for 8 Oscars, including Best Picture.

*American Sniper* explores the intimate world of Chris Kyle, a heroic sniper serving 4 tours in Iraq. Nominated for 6 Oscars, including Best Picture.

## **1. Best Drama: *Whiplash***

*Whiplash*, starring Miles Teller and J. K. Simmons, is the fictional story of a young man's struggle to become the world's best drummer. Another film depicting a character's efforts to become the best at what he does. Nominated for 5 Oscars, including Best Picture.

## **Film of the Year, 2014: *Unbroken***

*Unbroken* was named a Top Ten Film by the American Film Institute;

Critics' Choice Movie Awards; and the National Board of Review.

It is astonishing that the Academy of Arts and Sciences did not nominate this incredibly inspiring film about Olympian and World War II veteran, Louis Zamperini, for Best Picture. (*Unbroken* did receive 3 Oscar nominations.)

*Unbroken* is my choice for 2014 Film of the Year and it my hope that this extraordinary film has an enduring shelf life.

If you haven't yet seen this movie, I highly recommend it.

**Five Additional Films worth your consideration:** *A Most Violent Year; Still Alice; Belle; A Most Wanted Man; and Mr. Turner.*

**Most overrated film of 2014:** *Boyhood*

Boyhood is a boring celebration of a dysfunctional family filmed over the course of 12 years--and it felt like 12 years had transpired while viewing it. As it goes in Hollywood, it could very well win the Oscar for Best Picture.

## **HAPPENINGS**

This coming Monday, join **WPHT's Chris Stigall** as he hosts **Lt. Colonel John Nagl** (Ret.) in a discussion on **ISIS**, the threat of **Radical Islam**, and other headline grabbing news.

*Knife Fights, a discussion with Lt. Colonel John Hagl*

**When:** Monday, February 23, 7 PM

**Where:** The Haverford School Auditorium, 450 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA

**For tickets, click:** <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/lt-col-john-nagl-knife-fights-tickets-15540999548> <<http://email.robly.com/wf/click?upn=QYQeIWYZc9FPwfjNygqO8mSuCMrAXy5T2arf5s50nRB1aN1Eqlw35B-2FxDMXDKPOTw0BhPi8w2-2F3cF5q3FhT6v-2FpRCfJI8hAGt4Jlp88Jwp-2F8ZINW6gSdOYEF5mJKvWZSOAjJ3zPJI4SRhR8-2Bh-2FAYwhWJm0ZRRFF63LaXu-2FeMSxmayU5nCe231U44rSbqQjXXIVsZoQul-2FyJvV4P1P2-2FibdevvKvCm-2BEfSK3betNx1XQFVwdfQSSi4e9gmXSDBhnwIDMPSu4MDKDxU9BNPufRfdLE87OgPG-2BFZOLQJnTJMKqw->