Our Tenth Anniversary Issue

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With special thanks to all our readers for your loyalty and prayers.
Film Updates to Lead Off Tenth Anniversary Issue

This is a good time to update information on films that we have endorsed and reported upon in the past with only two exceptions. We have only seen the trailers for Son of God and Noah and we do expect to report on them in the next issue. We know this list is not complete and can only print what information has been furnished us. However, we have been hearing about great projects in the works and we will be covering them. Ed.

Alone Yet Not Alone was Oscar nominated for best original song. Sadly the nomination was rescinded as we were to go to press. Released with success in a limited number of theaters in 2013, this action by the Academy has had a lot of press. The publicity could be a blessing for the film as more people are hearing about it and will want to see it. The film is scheduled for national release June 13, Father's Day weekend! Jenn Gotzon-Armstrong, who has a major role, has kept us informed.

Beyond the Farthest Star has had great success in limited showings and Benjamin Dane has done a major marketing job on the net, social media and elsewhere to whet the public appetite to see the film. Cindy Navarro keeps in close touch with us publicity wise.


Noah is a Biblical epic directed by Darren Aronofsky and written by Aronofsky and Ari Handel. It stars Russell Crowe, Anthony Hopkins Jennifer Connelly and Douglas Booth. Based on the story of Noah's Ark it is set for national release March 28.

The Screenwriters, an upcoming movie from the Advent Film Group has been adapted for the stage by R.E. Stinnette. It is an original story by George Escobar and R.E. Stinnette that we have covered in the past. We first heard of this film in an interview with Sandra Elise Williams.

The Son of God was set for opening nationally in theaters February 28. The film is based on Mark Burnett and Roma Downey's ten hour miniseries The Bible that was on the History Channel. The film will feature selections of the miniseries as well as deleted scenes not featured during the telecast.

Stand Your Ground has been held over in Georgia, Texas and other locations where it had limited release. This bodes well for the Jackie Carpenter film which Francine Locke stars in and she recently wrote a column about this production for our publication.

And now for something not entirely different. The William Byrd Players will be presenting a variety show in Vinton, Virginia May 8 to 11, Mother's Day Weekend. The theme is 1930's Radio and among the “guest stars” there will be one star for real. Nancy Stafford will be making a special appearance as a well known star from Hollywood's Golden Age.

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A Short Film You Can See Right Now from Tracy Trost

We were excited to hear about Tracy Trost's short film *Carry Me* which was the winner for Best Short Drama at the *Trail Dance 2014 Film Festival*. Tracy has made this available for all to see and you can go to it right now, should you choose to do so, before finishing this article. It will just take twelve and a half minutes of your time.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8TgIrTGe-ZQ

This is the first time we have been able to offer this service to our readers and having had the pleasure of covering Tracy's work in the past, we had to talk to him about this.

**Ed.**: Your short film *Carry Me* has a powerful message. Very gripping, emotional and real. What inspired the film which you have permitted to be on the net and to be viewed in social media for all to see?

Tracy: I was looking at ways of marketing my skills as a film maker in between the features I have made. There are a lot of young film makers who are looking at ways to exercise their skills and learn more. So the idea was lets do a short film and all work together to gain experience. The way to do a film was to find a story that was out there. This is a true story which already has a following so we felt we should take this one.

My friend Mark who plays James in the story is an aspiring actor and wanted the experience. I found that story on the internet and rewrote it. We shot it in over three days.

**Ed.**: You definitely have a ministry in your film making as we have seen in A Christmas Snow and The Lamp. The latter inspired a book by you titled Just Believe.

Tracy: *Just Believe* was a companion book as I wanted to give my viewers more insight into the message in the film. In the book there are principles described that support the idea of faith and belief. Films today can show the Gates to the City. Stories that will get people thinking.

**Ed.**: We have found an interesting program you have on the net titled The Successful Life Mindset. We believe your stated purpose is “To live your life to the fullest potential.”

Tracy: This came from my own feeling in 2013 to focus more on my family than just my film making career. To get people realizing God has given us all the tools that we need. Most of the time we define our lives by the possessions that we have or the power we have or the money. The idea is to define what is important. It is more about your relationships. I believe that you need to be a true person of peace. That does not come from possessions or money. Peace is from our inner being which we can have with relationships. With our Creator and wife and kids. This is about recognizing the tools that God has given us. We need today in our world to retrain our brain, to retrain our mind to use the abilities God has given us. As we are told in the Bible, to be transformed. We need daily prayer, meditation and daily reading the Scriptures. Who you talk to, what you watch is important. Your mind is always searching for what you want to do. Where you want to be is based upon decisions you make right now.

**Ed.**: Now you have a film you just finished at Liberty University titled Letting Go.

Tracy: The finishing touches are being put on it now. It has been wonderful working with those young people. There are a couple projects in the works. Some scripts we are working on.

**Ed.**: We really appreciate what you are doing and will keep in close contact with you as our readers do want to be kept up to date.
Rhonda Fleming: a life of miracles and witnessing her Faith.

Ten years ago this month the first issue of Point North † Tidings was published and our cover story was on actress Rhonda Fleming. We had known Rhonda for many years due to her involvement in school classrooms and sponsorship of academic scholarships. What we were most pleased to learn about her was what an amazing Christian she is. We felt it time to write anew about her career and her service for others.

What especially interests us is that Rhonda Fleming was one of those instrumental in the movement for Christians to be recognized and appreciated in what some refer to as the Golden Age of Hollywood. The movement among so many young Christians today, who are working on faith and family films, owes a great deal to her. We have had the opportunity to visit with Rhonda in her beautiful home and to talk with her many times in person as well as by phone, regular post and email. She has miraculously escaped harm and attributes such moments of survival to divine intervention. “I have often found myself saying ‘Lord you really must have a purpose for me.’” Rhonda states “I gave my life to the Lord in Forest Home at 18 and He has always had His hand on me.”

Born Marilyn Louis on August 10, 1923 in Hollywood, California to Effie Olivia Graham, a famous model and actress in New York and businessman, Harold Louis, the future international film star grew up with aspirations to be a singer. It was during her years while attending Beverly Hills High School that Rhonda Fleming’s day of discovery would arrive. One day while running late to school, a seemingly suspicious car circled around the block observing her. “Finally, he stopped me,” Rhonda recalls, “and got out of the car and said ‘Young lady, have you ever thought of being in motion pictures?’ Well he turned out to be Henry Willson, a famous agent who later became David O. Selznick’s right arm and started me on what I call a ‘Cinderella Story.’

Upon Rhonda’s future introduction to Selznick, the famed producer was so impressed that he signed her, without a screen test, to a seven year contract and offered her a featured role in Alfred Hitchcock’s Spellbound, with Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck. Rhonda says, “I had hoped to do some singing, but at the time I got into show business, musicals were not being made quite as often and Selznick did not do musicals. I wound up playing a patient at a mental institution with Ingrid Bergman as my doctor.” She won rave reviews for handling a very challenging role.

Rhonda did two more film noir classics, The Spiral Staircase, and Out of the Past. She also had a top featured role in her first Western film, Abilene Town, with Randolph Scott.

A tip from Hitchcock to Paramount landed her first starring role in A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court opposite Bing Crosby. Hundreds of actresses tested to play the exquisite Lady Alisande, but Bing Crosby and director Tay Garnett felt that Rhonda Fleming was perfect for this technicolor musical extravaganza with her beautiful reddish hair, emerald green eyes, and lovely singing voice. Rhonda was thrilled to star above the title with Bing Crosby, who never wanted to star alone, whom she pronounces as one of her favorite people to work with. “He’d be telling a story right before the director would say ‘Action’ and he’d go right on with the joke then into his line in the scene without missing a beat. And I wouldn’t know where my cue was because I was
so focused on the joke. I’d tell him, ‘You can’t do that.’ He’d say ‘Oh come off it Fleming.’ We kidded a lot. We had fun.”

Rhonda and Bing Crosby in *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

One day Bob Hope came on the set, Bing introduced us and he said to the crooner, “Well Bing, if you can use her, I guess I can too.” Rhonda made two films with the popular comedian. The first was a comedy film noir *The Great Lover* and the second a Western comedy, *Alias Jesse James*. In the latter there were a host of Western favorites in cameo roles including Roy Rogers, Gary Cooper, James Arness, Hugh O’Brian and Jay Silverheels.

She was amazed at how much work went into Hope’s performances and contrasts his approach to that of Bing Crosby. “Bing was so easy going and very relaxed and Bob would rehearse and rehearse. I wondered, ‘how did they make all those Road pictures together because their styles were so different.’”

About her natural acting ability Rhonda says “I was never trained but inherited my talent from my mother; I just tried to be believable and mean what I was saying - and it was so interesting, most directors would let me do my thing, they didn’t really direct me and my work – just suggestions that helped.” She never had any trouble with any directors except one and that led to her friendship with a future president.

This was in a film in which she co-starred with Ronald Reagan. “This director really made life difficult for me. There wasn’t any reason for it, because I got along with everyone on the set. And did my job and was always prepared.” The director became so insulting during one scene Rhonda actually burst into tears and walked off the set. “I went to my dressing room to patch up my makeup, and I was sitting there thinking to myself ‘Should I go home or what?’ Shortly thereafter there was a knock on the door…it was Ronald Reagan. He said, ‘come on back to the set, Rhonda, he’ll never do that again.’ I was able to hold my chin up and continue, but I would have gone home that day if it hadn’t been for Ronald Reagan. He was a wonderful peacemaker.”

The teaming of Fleming and Reagan resulted in four films, *The Last Outpost*, *Tropic Zone*, *Hong Kong*, and *Tennessee’s Partner*. In *The Last Outpost* a.k.a. *Calvary Charge* Rhonda says “Reagan was at his best, and even then I could see what he was coming into. He sent for his horse from his ranch, riding beautifully, and had a take-charge way about him. He was always holding court on the set, and often when I was in the dressing room changing hairdos or costumes I could hear Ronnie and all the crew outside laughing and talking politics.”

Ronald Reagan, Rhonda and Bruce Bennett in *Calvary Charge* originally *The Last Outpost*.

Over the years Rhonda remained good friends with Ronnie and Nancy Reagan. The veteran actress has fond memories of her first visit to the Reagan White House, saying “I stood in the reception line and gave Nancy a hug, and I was thinking. ‘What am I going to say to him now that he is president?’ All I could think of was that I made four B-pictures with this man who was a fellow actor-a good actor. And the first thing that came to mind was the last film we made together. So I said ‘Hi Tennessee’s Partner’ and he laughed and gave me a big hug.”

Her many other films, which are often shown
today on cable television stations, include *The Redhead and the Cowboy*, *Pony Express*, *The Eagle and the Hawk*, *Those Redheads From Seattle*, *Jivaro*, *Yankee Pasha*, "Slightly Scarlet" and the celebrated classic *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*. There were some forty films in all.

Unfortunately her many excellent TV performances are not as available today for fans except on cable channels that are bringing back the great shows. Rhonda particularly enjoyed working on two episodes of *Wagon Train*, one in which her singing and dancing were showcased. She also guest starred in a 90 minute episode of *The Virginian*, which would later serve as a riveting pilot for the Western spin-off *Laredo*. In addition to TV Westerns she also starred in mystery dramas including *The Dick Powell Theater* and *Hong Kong*. Her dramatic TV work extended into the eighties with appearances on *Police Woman* and *The Love Boat*.

![Image](image.png)

**The Four Girls, Jane Russell, Rhonda Fleming, Beryl Davis and Connie Haines.**

Singing has remained a first love and she has two albums to her credit. In the ‘50s Rhonda joined a gospel singing group known as *The Four Girls*. With her was Jane Russell, Connie Haines, and Beryl Davis. They were a hit on TV and stage and they were encouraged to make an album which was titled *Make a Joyful Noise Unto The Lord*. Spirituals on pop labels was something not done, but the album soared on the charts. Later she was invited to open the new ‘Tropicana Hotel’ in Las Vegas following Eddie Fisher which led to great reviews - her singing on stage caused her to be persuaded to record an album of classic love songs simply titled *Rhonda*.

Rhonda Fleming performed dozens of her own stunts, having been a natural athlete since childhood. And with being engaged in numerous adventurous escapades also came her share of spills. “I was a real daredevil when I was young and foolish” Rhonda admits, “and paid the price.”

At the age of 12 she was tattered and torn after being stirrup dragged across a bed of gravel by a skittish horse; and at the age of 14, nearly drowned when she was twirled vehemently by a massive riptide off the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Another time while making *The Redhead and the Cowboy* she reports, “they wanted to get a close-up of me rearing a horse without using a stunt girl but never told me it was up a hill. So in the scene I was riding up hill and I reared the horse up too high and it almost fell back on top of me. By the Grace of God I was not squashed like a bug. I was knocked unconscious. How I got up and walked away and finished that film was another miracle.”

Mishaps such as these, whether on a movie set or in her personal life have led Rhonda Fleming to feel that God’s protecting Hand has always been present. It was during her 23 year marriage to theater mogul Ted Mann, until his demise, that Rhonda’s thoughts about being a recipient of miracles were confirmed. While vacationing in Jamaica, the actress decided to go snorkeling with a group of tourists, as Mann, who was not a swimmer, stayed on shore. She was so busy enjoying the underwater scenery that she soon found herself far behind the pack. “I looked back and saw Ted standing by himself on the beach and I thought, ‘I better get back’ because I was really tired, and my breathing was getting a little tougher. I started to head back, and I hyperventilated. I’m a swimmer, but I could not stay above water. It was like two hands pulling my feet and legs under and I let out ‘Help me, help me!’ “Not being a swimmer Mann could not do anything. Rhonda cried out the last “Help me!” and immediately began to submerge. “This is where every time I tell this story, I get goose bumps and tears,” she shares. “because suddenly there is a man standing next to Ted, and he was not there before.” Finally realizing Rhonda was in danger - Mann turned to the stranger and said “Oh, go! Go!” No time was wasted. Rhonda continues “This man came out to me so fast because I went under, and he grabbed me by the elbow and took me into
shore.” The man who saved Rhonda Fleming’s life vanished as mysteriously as he appeared. “He found some paper bag from who knows where, and had me breath into it, and then he was gone.” Rhonda asked Ted later “Where did he come from?” And Ted replied, “I don’t know”. Rhonda says “In my heart I knew it was an angel. I have been saved so many times. It’s by His grace that I’m here today. I think God always intervened because he had a higher purpose for me.”

Rhonda Fleming’s purpose has been revealed by the positive effects of her many philanthropic efforts. Along with her late husband Ted Mann, she established the Rhonda Fleming Mann Clinic for Comprehensive Care for Women with Cancer at UCLA and the Rhonda Fleming Research Fellowship at the City of Hope to advance research and treatment associated with women’s cancer. Rhonda started the clinic in memory of her sister Beverly, who died of Ovarian cancer in 1990. “We wanted a place where there was caring, compassion, communication, and concern, with clinical social workers, support groups, and lots of information and hope. I told my sister not long before she died that all the tender loving care that she and I had yearned for but never found when she was treated would be available to women. She said ‘Oh, Honey, I’m so glad. Just always make it a place of hope.’ And that’s what we did. Beverly always had hope. She survived many more years than she would have with the rare form of Ovarian cancer she had. Her courage and her sense of strength really encouraged me to move forward with God’s help.”

Rhonda has also been a big supporter of Childhelp USA, a non-profit organization dedicated to the care and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Moreover her main emphasis today is reaching out to the homeless via PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) with her Rhonda Fleming Family Center. According to PATH CEO, Joel Roberts vision, PATH gives thousands of people per year a new lease on life, including our veterans.

She meets regularly with a group of “Prayer Warriors” to pray for individuals, groups, and situations. She believes very strongly in prayer and its ability to heal.

A special blessing for Rhonda was Darol Wayne Carlson. Widowed for two years after the death of Ted Mann, Rhonda ran into Darol who was an old friend and whose wife had also died. A deeply Christian man, they make a good team and have been married now for more than ten years – a double blessing for all who know them.

Rhonda Fleming-movie star, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, and humanitarian shares her personal philosophy. “To me, the key to a rich inner life is love-the ability to love, to have love, to give love, to share love, to feel love. It’s not always easy and it’s not always reciprocal. Jesus taught us how to love. That’s what He came for because He is pure love.”

In retrospect, Rhonda sees her life mirrored in the Biblical passage: “Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will rescue you and you will honor me.” She concludes “And He has rescued me and I’m doing my best to honor Him.”

Rhonda today with husband Darol Carlson.
You are encouraged to check out Rhonda’s web page.  
http://www.rhondafleming.com/
An amazing career start for an amazing young lady, Taylor Groothuis.

Nancy Stafford put us in touch with a young actress who has talent and faith beyond what you would expect of a twelve year old. We had the pleasure of talking with Taylor Groothuis and her mother Dana Harris-Groothuis.

Ed.: Taylor, you are the youngest person we have ever interviewed for Tidings or any other publication. Feel free to guide us when needed. You at one time were home schooled and now you are in public school.

Taylor: I have been in public school a year now and really like it.

Dana: She had home schooling from the time she was two years old.

Ed.: Taylor we mentioned your youth, however you cannot be considered a new performer. You were just under three when you first performed as a singer with your mom. How do you like performing with your mom and are you still doing it.

Taylor: I love to perform with my mom. We have in church and several other places.

Ed.: I have seen you performing together on Facebook in special videos.

Dana: We try to do different things, to mix it up.

Taylor: We do a little acting and a little singing.

Ed.: Taylor, the first time we saw you in film was *What If*, a favorite Christian movie. How did you get that role, how did you like it and being the daughter of Kevin Sorbo?

Taylor: I love that movie so much. It was a real inspiration. I really liked working with Kevin Sorbo and it was fun working with the whole cast. I was just starting out then and I didn't know much about acting, but they helped me. They guided me to learn acting skills. We became friends and we are still friends. We keep in contact.

Taylor and cast members at premiere for *What If*, left to right John Ratzenberger, Debby Ryan, Kristy Swanson and Kevin Sorbo.

Ed.: Now your bio on the net says that you were then filmed in five movies back to back. That must have been quite an experience.
Taylor: Yes. I was in *Flipped, Vanishing on 7th Street, The Hard Life, Hide Away* and *Highland Park*.

Dana: She ended one film and started the next the same day.

Ed.: You're definitely a working actress. You have also guest starred on TV shows too. Do you have a preference between film and TV?

Taylor: I love comedy. If I could have my pick I definitely would like to do comedy. It would depend upon the show.

Dana: It didn't get picked up. It was a God thing. We learned that there may be a “no” but around the corner there might be a very big “yes.” It may be something that may be bigger and definitely for His glory. There may be disappointment but we know the God of the universe is in control and we will obey.

Ed.: You were recently cast as a regular for a series in Nickelodeon, which was not scheduled, however it still may be run. Something we recently heard. *Gibby* is the title.

Dana: She was the only child on the show. She had to play eight and she is twelve.

Taylor: They were all so friendly and I talked to at least one of them every day.

Dana: Yes, Nancy Stafford, Greg Robbins, Jenn Gotzon, Sandra Williams and Torry Martin.

Ed.: Since that has been mentioned on Facebook how did you like working with such a talented team Taylor?

Taylor: They are the sweetest people and they are so nice. It was a great time and it was one of the nicest group of people on set. They helped me as I was directed to do things.

Dana: You have also been involved in other TV projects. I am basing that on things I have seen on Facebook.

Dana: Yes, a pilot for *Heaven Help Us*.

Ed.: You have also been involved in other TV projects. I am basing that on things I have seen on Facebook.

Dana: Yes, we have friends who are involved in that, however no direct information as it is too soon to cover that.

Ed.: You have a great career ahead of you and there is something else we want to cover.

We do not like to use the phrase child star and you do show a remarkable amount of maturity for your age. You became popular very quickly at a young age. We hear so many stories about how young people have a rough time adjusting to fame. The media has loved to cover their lives as scandal filled. However there have been other stories about how the parents of young people in the entertainment field, like your mom, have helped them to still maintain a normal life. Young people who either continued in films and television when they became adults or went into other professions.

Taylor: I think it is about decisions that you make with God's guidance. If you do not choose to use that guidance you will not make the correct decisions. When you have the Lord's guidance you will make the correct decisions. God will provide you the opportunities.

Dana: I do agree that Hollywood does magnify the wrong. I do not believe that Hollywood takes a close knit family and makes it dysfunctional. I think it really comes down to God and the conviction of your belief. Parents need to make their children first in their lives.

A Mom's Dating Advice

By
Barbara Pomarolli

The following is an article by our columnist Kerri Pomarolli's mom. Advice given her daughter. The times are changing, but not necessarily for the better. Ed.

A Southern mother raising a Yankee daughter in Michigan in the 1980's was difficult because there were certain rules that I expected boys to follow and Kerri was very quick to point out that things were different than when I was her age. Since I didn’t buy that theory, I insisted that she and any boys she dated follow my rules. My main objective was that she be treated with respect and if she set high standards for herself, then boys would respect her. There were certain basic rules that her dad and I set and then some old Southern proverbs which I thought were very appropriate.

1. Don’t call boys or they’ll think you’re desperate. In my day (I love to say that), a girl never called a boy, mainly because in my early teens we didn’t have phones. But when we did get phones, it was strictly forbidden to call a boy because Emily Post said it was bad manners and we adhered to Southern etiquette. I’m sure Kerri called lots of boys when I wasn’t in hearing range, but she also received lots of calls from boys as well. By the time her younger brother was a teenager that rule had flown out the window and at least 10 girls a day called him. So much for Southern etiquette.

2. A girl can never go out with a boy before he has met her parents. We definitely wanted to see and talk to anyone that Kerri was thinking of dating. Since her dad was a Psychologist, the poor guy usually had to answer 50 questions before he could get Kerri out of the house. If he asked her out again after that test, then we knew he really liked her and hopefully respected her parents. If he didn’t ask her out again, then we thought she was better off without him. She didn’t always agree with that reasoning.
3. Kerri’s dates always had to come to the door, come inside, and speak to either one or both parents even if she had been dating him 2 years. She did not go out the door when a guy sat in the car and honked the horn. If he didn’t have enough courtesy to get out of the car and walk up to the front door, then she wasn’t going anywhere with him.

4. Kerri’s dates always had to walk her up to the door to say goodnight. If she invited them in, they had to speak to whichever parent was waiting up for her. In high school she had a 12:00 curfew so one of us, usually dad, could stay up that late to make certain she was home safely.

5. Boys were never allowed in her bedroom, no matter what the circumstances. There was nothing in her room that couldn’t be brought downstairs for a boy to see if it was of critical importance.

6. There was an old Southern saying that you could tell a lot about a boy by the way he treated his mother. If he showed her respect and courtesy, then he would show his girlfriend that same respect. If he was rude or obnoxious to his mother, then he would probably act that way with a girl. That saying usually proved to be true.

7. It was a Southern custom that guys always opened doors for girls and I taught that courtesy to my son, but I’m not sure all of Kerri’s boyfriends thought it was a necessary part of good manners. I told her just to stand next to the door of the car or restaurant or where ever they were going and just wait until he got the message. Hopefully it worked.

8. Another in my day thing was that the guys paid for dates, but somewhere along the way, that custom went by the wayside. I guess when the price of movie tickets and hamburgers got so outrageous, there wouldn’t have been as many dates if the guys had to always pay for everything. Then there was the Women’s Lib movement that made girls feel they should be equal so they should share equally in the cost of dates. In my opinion that was a bad move for females, but that would be another chapter.

9. You may have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find your prince. I’m sure in Kerri’s case that was true, but thankfully she eventually found her prince after a lot of toads.

10. The kind of boys who are overly nice, nauseatingly so, to your parents are the one you have to watch out for. They’re usually after more than a kiss. Kerri didn’t date any of those guys in high school, but I don’t know about college and later because we did not meet all her dates.

11. Why buy the cow when you’re getting milk for free was an old Southern saying which I’m sure was very true then and still is. That’s why setting high standards are very important.

Lastly, since Kerri has an Italian father, she was always reminded that any time a guy was getting too fresh, to just tell him that her dad was connected to the mafia and those guys got their kicks from breaking body parts. That always worked.

Barbara and Kerri Pomarolli. We have to wonder what advice Kerri will be giving her daughters Lucy and Ruby.
A Very Different Christian Film

My Life is a Movie

Our first introduction to the work of Dale Ward was his excellent short film, Rag Man. In it we found subtle symbolism without a word of dialogue that reminded us of some of the work done by French and German film makers. A depiction of Jesus Christ that stays with the viewer long after they have seen it.

Dale began making short films in middle school and now is the Senior Media Producer at Concordia Seminary. He has an Emmy for being a producer and executive producer for a national talk show, On Main Street and has made other films, There's Something in the Basement and The 2 Sons and their Crogzookies. One we are especially familiar with is Walther, a film which tells the story of CFW Walther a true pioneer for his church and responsible for Concordia Seminary. Very well done and not just a documentary.

Now Dale has turned his attention to one of the most unusual Christian feature films we have heard of to date and it is one that he and others are working to get supported, My Life is a Movie. It is the story of a young girl named Lyndsy Monroe, played by Stephanie Swink, and is filmed with a camera phone which brings a surprising touch of realism. Lyndsy is an artist and her art work is covered beautifully. There are subtle meanings here with for example dealing with a pastor's house. She is also a skeptic and the story revolves around what she learns about faith and what she sees in a particular church. The camera phone is operated by her brother Wyatt Monroe played by Elijah Ward. Dale says the camera phone is almost a character itself.

The story progresses through a series of camera phone films showing changes that take place in Lyndsy's thinking. No spoiler here, however the viewer will be pleased with the end result. There are stumbling blocks along the way not the least of which is her step brother Bart who is a buddy.

The two young stars have interesting backgrounds. Almost all the actors have some sort of formal training, though not degrees. Stephanie Swink starting performing in musical productions since age seven and in high school plays. She was cast as Hercules best friend Cassandra in an independent film, Hercules: The Brace and The Bold. While she likes acting she is also into music and graphic design. Elijah Ward may be destined to follow in Dale's, his father's, footsteps. He has been in numerous stage and film projects including The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe, Walther and This New Ground. We say maybe as in school he likes music, drawing, writing and sports. He is also a NASCAR fan and would like to be a driver.

The film is written and produced by Dale Ward. It is finished and Dale says “Now we need it in theaters, on TV and at bookstores.” He is in meetings now with major distributors.

Here is the link to the trailer for the film narrated by Wyatt for your quick viewing.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmbxvtvbrmQ&feature=youtu.be

Wyatt and Dale Ward