

# ***FURTHER READING: on Mel Gibson's The Passion Of The Christ (2004)***

assembled by **Colin Burnett**

Mel Gibson's *The Passion Of The Christ* (2004) is on everyone's lips. For this reason, the first installment of "Further Reading," a monthly, theme-based bibliography of sources for the devoted film reader, offers a collection of English language reviews by the critics that are largely considered the continent's most visible and therefore influential, not to mention other articles and pieces of commentary that are of interest for what they say or who they're written by. I have further limited my selection to critics whose work is available free on the web, which is to say that accessing their work does not require a subscription to the publication in question. Note that reviews by other top American and Canadian critics, Jonathan Rosenbaum (Chicago Reader), Godfrey Cheshire (Durham Independent), Stanley Kauffmann (The New Republic) and so on, will be listed here if and when they appear. In addition, feel free to contact Synoptique editors should you come across reviews in English (or French) that are worthy of note but that have been omitted. In the spirit of dialogue that this publication seeks to establish with the reader, I encourage you also to write a short paragraph elaborating upon your reasons for selecting the piece, which we will then publish alongside the suggested source. On a final note, it's my belief that this list makes for a good companion to Mike Baker's reception study of *The Last Temptation Of Christ* (Martin Scorsese, 1988), appearing elsewhere in this Preview edition of *Synoptique*. Measuring the frontline responses toward the current film against Mr. Baker's account of those that appeared in the context of Scorsese's, certainly gives a basis for developing some interesting ideas about where (North) American film culture is, has been, and where it might go when

it comes to the depiction of explicitly Christian or Gospel-based themes.

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