



Reforming Hollywood: How American Protestants Fought for Freedom at the Movies (Hardback)

By William D. Romanowski

Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2012. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Hollywood and Christianity often seem to be at war. Indeed, there is a long list of movies that have attracted religious condemnation, from *Gone with the Wind* with its notorious damn, to *The Life of Brian* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*. But the reality, writes William Romanowski, has been far more complicated - and remarkable. In *Reforming Hollywood*, Romanowski, a leading historian of popular culture, explores the long and varied efforts of Protestants to influence the film industry. He shows how a broad spectrum of religious forces have played a role in Hollywood, from Presbyterians and Episcopalians to fundamentalists and evangelicals. Drawing on personal interviews and previously untouched sources, he describes how mainline church leaders lobbied filmmakers to promote the nation's moral health and, perhaps surprisingly, how they have by and large opposed government censorship, preferring instead self-regulation by both the industry and individual conscience. It is this human choice, noted one Protestant leader, that is the basis of our religion. Tensions with Catholics, too, have loomed large—many Protestant clergy feared the influence of the Legion of Decency more than Hollywood's corrupting...

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