

Jeffrey Overstreet
Curriculum Vitæ

—December 2019—

Seattle Pacific University
3307 3rd Ave. West
Seattle, WA 98119-1997

English Department
248 Marston Hall
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EDUCATION

- MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING 2016
Seattle Pacific University
Creative Thesis: “How to Become an Escape Artist: Salvation in Soup, Story, Cinema, and Memory”
Mentors: Lauren Winner, Paula Huston
Director: Gregory Wolfe
- BA, ENGLISH LITERATURE, *cum laude* 1994
Concentration: Creative Writing, Fiction
Independent Study: The Christian Imagination
Seattle Pacific University

TEACHING

- Seattle Pacific University
English 1110: Literature and Faith (“Gradually Dazzled: Reading Great Literature as a Spiritual Discipline”)
English 1220: Film and Faith (“Through a Screen Darkly: A Survey of Films Old and New That Engage Questions of Faith, Doubt, and Mystery”)
English 2215: Imaginative Writing (“How to Play With Words: A Workshop for Writing Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Nonfiction”)
English 3317: Workshop in Writing Fiction (“The Art of Short (and Shorter) Stories: A Literary Fiction Workshop”)
English 4317: Advanced Fiction Writing (“The Principle of the Iceberg: Refining the Art of Suggestion in Fiction”)
Writing 1000: Academic Writing and Inquiry Seminar (“Translating the Imagination: Investigation, Analysis, and Argument in the Presence of Art”)
Writing 1100: Disciplinary Research and Writing Seminar (“Loving Our Neighbors From Anywhere: Research, Writing, and Global Cinema”)
- Houston Baptist University
Apologetics 5360: Film, the Visual Arts, and Apologetics
- Northwest University
Communications 3583: Media and Pop Culture

Covenant College

English: Creative Writing — Fiction

Nick Barker Writer-in-Residence, Autumn 2013

PUBLICATIONS

NON-FICTION BOOKS

Through a Screen Darkly: Looking Closer at Beauty, Truth, and Evil at the Movies. Baker Books (originally published by Regal Books), 2007.

Dutch language edition available.

NOVELS

Auralia's Colors. WaterBrook Press (Random House), 2007.

Cyndere's Midnight. WaterBrook Press, 2008.

Raven's Ladder. WaterBrook Press, 2010.

The Ale Boy's Feast. WaterBrook Press, 2010.

Dutch and French language editions available.

WRITING PUBLISHED IN COLLECTIONS

The Habit of Seeing. Essays: "A Wild Horse on a Big Screen," "Following the Seeker." Wipf & Stock, forthcoming 2018.

The Molehill, Vol. II. Essay: "Then Sings My Soul." The Rabbit Room Press, 2013.

Danny Boyle: Interviews. Editor: Brent Dunham. University of Mississippi Press, 2010.

Faith and Pop Culture: Christianity Today Study Series. Thomas Nelson, 2009.

COLUMNS

"Viewer Discussion Advised," a column providing personal reflections on cinema and discussion guides. *Christianity Today*, September 2016 through January 2017. Web.

"Listening Closer," a column exploring the art of songcraft. *Christ and Pop Culture*, from January 2015 through January 2016.

"Through a Screen Darkly," a monthly, in-depth exploration of movies off the beaten path. *Christianity Today*, from 2008 through 2009. Web.

"Film Forum," a column excerpting and critiquing Christian media coverage of movies and entertainment. *Christianity Today*, from 2001–2007. Web. (Nearly 300 installments, published weekly at first, bi-weekly in later years.)

RECENT FEATURE ESSAYS AND ARTICLES (SELECTED)

"In the Cosmos of the Arts, a Christian Cosmonaut Is Born Again." *Good Letters*, 17 October 2019, imagejournal.org/2019/10/17/in-the-cosmos-of-the-arts-a-christian-cosmonaut-is-born-again/.

"The Man Who Killed Don Quixote Brings Me Back to Life." *Good Letters*, 23 July 2019, imagejournal.org/2019/07/23/the-man-who-killed-don-quixote-brings-me-back-to-life/

- “Three Kinds of Elevation: New Concert Films from Aretha Franklin, Beyoncé, and Sam Phillips.” *Good Letters*, 5 June 2019, imagejournal.org/2019/06/05/three-kinds-of-elevation-new-concert-films-from-aretha-franklin-beyonce-and-sam-phillips/
- “Frames of Mind: Nine Reflections on the Passing of Filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami.” *Good Letters*, 11 March 2019, imagejournal.org/2019/03/11/frames-of-mind-nine-reflections-on-the-passing-of-filmmaker-abbas-kiarostami/.
- “The Truth of Scorsese’s Faithless Characters: In an interview with CT, ‘Silence’ director reveals why he is drawn to ‘wretches.’” *Christianity Today*, 12 January 2017, christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/january-web-only/truth-of-faithless-characters-in-film.html.
- “Remembering the Eucatastrophe of Richard Adams’ *Watership Down*.” *ThinkChristian*, 3 January 2017, thinkchristian.reframemedia.com/remembering-the-eucatastrophe-of-richard-adams-watership-down.
- “Away in a Coffee Shop: On Meeting Christ in Unlikely Places.” *InTouch Magazine*, 19 October 2016, encontact.org/read/magazine/faith-works/away-in-a-coffee-shop.
- “Reviving Our Abolitionist Roots: Free Methodist Alumni and SPU Students Embrace the Cause that Launched Our Founding Church.” *Response*, Summer 2015, spu.edu/depts/uc/response/new/2015-summer/features/reviving-our-abolitionist-roots.asp.
- “How I Got *Dead Poets Society* Wrong: And How a Great Professor Changed My Mind.” *Christianity Today*, 16 September 2014, christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/september-web-only/how-i-got-dead-poets-society-wrong.html.
- “To Make People Wonder: The Collaborative Portraits of Fritz Liedtke.” *IMAGE*, Issue 88, October 2013, imagejournal.org/article/make-people-wonder/.
- “O Coen Brothers, Where Art God? A Conversation Between Matt Zoller Seitz and Jeffrey Overstreet.” *Press Play*, an *indieWire* blog, 31 March 31 2013, spu.edu/depts/uc/response/new/2013-summer/features/adoption-unscripted.asp.
- “To Play Well With Others: A Letter to Jim Henson.” *Comment Magazine*, Spring 2012 Issue: “Legacies,” cardus.ca/comment/article/3547/to-play-well-with-others-a-letter-of-gratitude-to-jim-henson/.
- “Letter to a Young Film Critic.” *Comment Magazine*, March 2011, cardus.ca/comment/article/4541/letter-to-a-young-film-critic/.
- “The Wedding and the High Wire Act.” *Good Letters*, October 2008, imagejournal.org/2008/10/21/wedding-high-wire-act/.
- “Departures: Journeys with Asian Filmmakers.” *IMAGE*, Issue 62, 2008, imagejournal.org/article/departures/.

RECENT PUBLIC ADDRESSES (SELECTED)

INTERNATIONAL

- “Loving Your Neighbor at the Movies.” ACSI/InspireED Christian Educators Conference, Surrey, BC, 6 October 2017.
- “Empathy and Uncertainty: How One Powerful Movie Makes My Students Love Poetry.”

- ACSI/InspireED Christian Educators Conference, Surrey, BC, 6 October 2017.
- “Through a Screen Darkly.” Lantern Community Church, Calgary, AB, Canada, 24 February 2012.
- Faith and Film Criticism Masterclass, EO (Evangelical TV Network), hosted by EO Visie, Hilversum, Netherlands, 16 April 2009.
- “Through a Screen Darkly: Looking Closer at Beauty, Truth, and Evil at the Movies.” Symposium for Christian Leaders, Ede Christian University, Ede, The Netherlands, 17 April 2009.
- “Reflections on *Babette’s Feast*.” Screening, Post-Screening Lecture, and Q&A. Heerenstraattheater, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 16 April 2009.

NATIONAL

- “Turn and Face the Strange: Ergonomics for Artists.” Sacrament and Story Conference, hosted by Brehm Cascadia. Resonance at Soma Towers. Seattle, WA, 5 April 2019.
- “The Coen Brothers Film Discussion Panel,” with Erica Rowell and Mark T. Conard. Daniel Cannon Memorial Library, St. Leo University, St. Leo, FL, 27 October 2016.
- “Gods & Rabbits: How *Watership Down* Leads Believers and Writers to Freedom.” Hutchmoot, Nashville, TN, 7 October 2016.
- “Through a Screen Darkly: Looking Closer at Beauty, Truth, and Evil at the Movies.” Hutchmoot, Nashville, TN, 7 October 2016.
- “A Wild Horse on a Big Screen: From *The Black Stallion* to *Auralia’s Colors*.” Hutchmoot, Nashville, TN, 9 October 2015.
- “More Adventures in Dangerous Moviegoing.” Hutchmoot, Nashville, TN, 10 October 2015.
- “X-Rays of Our Imaginations: Bad News and Good News for Christian Writers.” HBU Writers Conference, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX, 11 April 2015.
- “Through a Screen Darkly: Looking Closer at Beauty, Truth, and Evil at the Movies.” HBU Writers Conference, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX, 11 April 2015.
- “Christian Storytelling and a Failure of the Imagination.” Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA, 16 October 2013, covenant.edu/calendar/all/2013/10/16-2.
- “A Testimony of Transformation and Dangerous Moviegoing.” Lee University, Cleveland, TN, 15 October 2013.
- “We Are Also Five: How to Play Without Ceasing.” Hutchmoot, Nashville, TN, 11 October 2013.
- “Word and Image: Experiencing the Glory of God in Story.” Laity Lodge Retreat, Leakey, TX, 23–26 June 2011.
- “Death of the Critic” Panel Discussion with Elvis Mitchell (*The New York Times*), Claudia Puig (*USA Today*), and Justin Chang (*Variety*). Reel Spirituality, Fuller Seminary, Los Angeles, CA, 2 April 2011.
- “Beauty and the Beast: A Tradition of Magic and Monsters.” G. K. Chesterton Society, Seattle, WA, 14 April 2011.

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| Christy Award Finalist | 2008 |
| Visionary Award for <i>Auralia’s Colors</i> | |
| Christy Award Finalist | 2008 |
| First Novel Award for <i>Auralia’s Colors</i> | |

The Spiritus Award (for film criticism) 2007
City of the Angels Film Festival
Steering committee: Fuller Theological Seminary, Azusa Pacific University

Evangelical Press Award 2006
Film review of *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days*

Various awards from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) 2003–13
For excellence in higher education marketing publications

MEMBERSHIPS

The Chrysostom Society (chrysostomsociety.org) Since 2007.