



## Reel V. Real: How Hollywood Turns Fact into Fiction

By Frank Sanello



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All too often, highly fictionalized cinematic depictions of the past are accepted as the unassailable truth by those unfamiliar with the "real" account. This book profiles sixty movies that portray actual moments in history, and compares the mythologized account of each event to what really happened. Movies chronicled include *The Ten Commandments*, *Spartacus*, *A Man for All Seasons*, *Gladiator*, *Gandhi*, *Apollo 13*, *The Thin Red Line*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Braveheart*, *The Last Emperor*, *All the Presidents Men*, *Mutiny on the Bounty*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Patton*, and *Elizabeth*. Sanello also contrasts several historical figures with their filmed treatments, including Julius Caesar, Henry V, Christopher Columbus, Joan of Arc, Sir Thomas More, Jesus Christ, Catherine the Great, Sigmund Freud, and Harry Houdini. Lavishly illustrated with sixty film stills, *Reel v. Real* shows how a happening's genuine details are frequently reshaped and distorted by Hollywood's bottomless appetite for over-the-top flamboyance and melodrama.

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### Editorial Review

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If you know much history, going to the movies is irritating on a regular basis. You either suspect that the moguls and their minions are deviating from the truth, or you detect the aroma of dead herring wafting up the aisles. To such moviegoers, Sanello's comparison of the screen to the record for 70 "historical" flicks administers not calamine lotion, perhaps, but lots of good scratching. It seems such Oscar winners as *Braveheart*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Titanic*, and *A Beautiful Mind* are rife with what the late Roger Miller called "big B, little u, double-l--Bull!" Worse, taken-for-docudrama features *Boys Don't Cry* and *Silkwood* are, respectively, libelous and irresponsibly alarmist. White-washing reputations continues today in *Ali* and *Erin Brockovich*, while Oliver Stone has turned tarring them into, if not high art, at least high decoration. This is all gratifying to learn definitely, despite Sanello's cheap shots at the viewers (e.g., "subtitles" are "dreaded by the multiplex crowd who move their lips while they read") of cinematic mendacity. *Ray Olson*

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### Review

Readers can almost be guaranteed a sequel to this book. (*History Magazine*)

In an era where most people get their sense of history from film, it's a fun and funny read, a reminder that studios are more about selling tickets than telling the truth. (*The Dallas Morning News*)

*Reel v. Real* presents many fascinating examples of lies and distortions in well-known movies. (Erich Eichman *The Wall Street Journal*)

. . . [F]ascinating, fact-filled rundown . . . (*American Profile*)

From the Author

none

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

#### Daisy Richardson:

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**Victor Loy:**

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**Melissa Kim:**

With this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list is Reel V. Real: How Hollywood Turns Fact into Fiction. This book that is certainly qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking upwards and review this guide you can get many advantages.

**Cami Raley:**

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