Mel Gibson at Venice Film Festivalâ??s â??Hacksaw Ridgeâ??: â??Maybe Iâ??m a Megalomanicâ??

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson

By Jamie Manelis

(Photo credit: Jamie Manelis)

Mel Gibson makes a triumphant directorial return at the Venice Film Festival with *Hacksaw Ridge*, starring Andrew Garfield, Vince Vaughn, and Teresa Palmer. This World War II film is not your average glamorized bloodbath. Unlike other war movies where combat and incessant violence may seem

gratuitous, Gibson directs like a master composer, creating a visual symphony of war and relationships. Fans swarmed the premiere of *Hacksaw Ridge* like starstruck bees to an illustrious honeyhive. Extra security flooded the theatre, escorting fans straight to their seats to protect some of Hollywoodâ??s most revered stars. The film itself is an overwhelming masterpiece. Intentionally and with much success, Gibson juxtaposes the horrific scenes of war with the innocent protagonist, played by Andrew Garfield. Based on a true story, *Hacksaw Ridge* is about the first Seventh-Day conscientious objector, Desmond Doss, who declined to bear arms. A belief that almost sent him to military prison, but he not only persevered with his faith, he proved the military wrong and single-handedly saved 75 lives in one night. Regardless of any religious affiliation the audience may identify with, the real astonishment is Dossâ??s naive optimism and selflessness. Gibson is like a seasoned puppeteer, pulling each tiny string with precision and purpose, manipulating any audience into trusting humanity.

â??I enjoy directing moreâ?¦maybe Iâ??m a megalomanic, I just love telling the story and I love to see the story the way I see it.â?• â?? Mel Gibson

Although Gibsonâ??s name in the news has sparked controversy in the last ten years, journalists at the press conference neglected to ask him about his personal afflictions and only focused on questions of the film and his future. However, when Gibson was asked if he preferred acting or directing, he responded, â??I enjoy directing moreâ?¦maybe Iâ??m a megalomanic, I just love telling the story and I love to see the story the way I see it.â?• Although the stories he chooses are directly linked to religion as Gibson is a devout Catholic, he explained that this story isnâ??t completely about faith. â??He (Doss) didnâ??t regard his life to be any more valuable than his brothersâ?¦thatâ??s the greatest expression of love.â?•

(Photo credit: Jamie Manelis)

Gibson wanted to honor Doss as well as creating awareness of the unspeakable horrors soldiers deal with during and after war. â??A lot of attention needs to be paid to our warriors when they come back. They need some love, they need some understanding.â?• Gibson says with a stern, concerned look. After a brief pause he continues, â??I hope that this film departs that message and if it does nothing but that â?? thatâ??s great.â?•
(Source: Excerpt from http://www.observer.com)

*Featured photo courtesy of ASAC Images/Biennale Cinema

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Date Created
September 12, 2016
Author
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