

## The Gospel Film Review:

No Story...No Plot...But Lots Of Great Singing...Money Train



This review for *The Gospel* is coming way late in the game because I'm not gonna front. I waited until the flick hit the dollar theater. Normally I would review *The Gospel* in a timely fashion if I actually thought the film deserved one. Rob Hardy, the director of *The Gospel*, decided to create a complex and brave narrative film pattern of five minutes of dialogue—then singing—five minutes of dialogue—then more singing—five minutes of dialogue—more singing later--a final ten minutes of dialogue and a final ten minutes of great singing. Since *The Gospel* would not give me neither a story nor a plot---or any semblance of good acting, then I did not feel obligated to give a full review. I will settle for providing *Gospel* reviews from the [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) message boards. The bottom line is that if you loved *Diary Of A Mad Black Woman*, then you will love *The Gospel*. If you could not stand *Diary*, then *The Gospel* will drive you mental. I am in the middle and understand what *The Gospel* was suppose to be and failed at doing. The music is off the hook, but would rather watch a gospel music DVD or a feature film concert. I give *The Gospel* one cheesecake out of five.

**As a teenager, David Taylor was studying to become a minister. However, after his mother suddenly dies and his pastor father arrives late, he accuses his father of caring more about others than his mother. As a result he runs away and eventually becomes a hot young R&B performer and leads a very self-indulgent lifestyle. However, when his father becomes ill he returns home to find his father's church in disarray as well as his former best friend, with whom he was studying with for the ministry, now in charge and seemingly caring more about his own image than the welfare of the church or its congregation. Now David must find a way to save the church as well as his own soul...Brian Washington Sargebri@earthlink.net**



**A Must See for anyone involved in Music Ministry**, 11 October 2005

★★★★★★★★★

Author: [mhollibaugh\\_2001](#) from Portland, OR

As someone who is actively involved in the music ministry at my church, I highly recommend this movie. The movie is a lesson in what it means to worship and put me into a position where I found myself examining my motives as to why I sing on the worship team. Based solely on it's technical merits, the film is no Oscar contender. It is better than a lot of movies, not as good as others. On the other hand, if a movie touches a life, if that life is changed when they walk out of the theatre after having seen the movie, as this one has done for me, then whatever faults there may be in the film can justifiably be overlooked. If you want to learn what it really means to worship, this is a very good film and worth seeing.

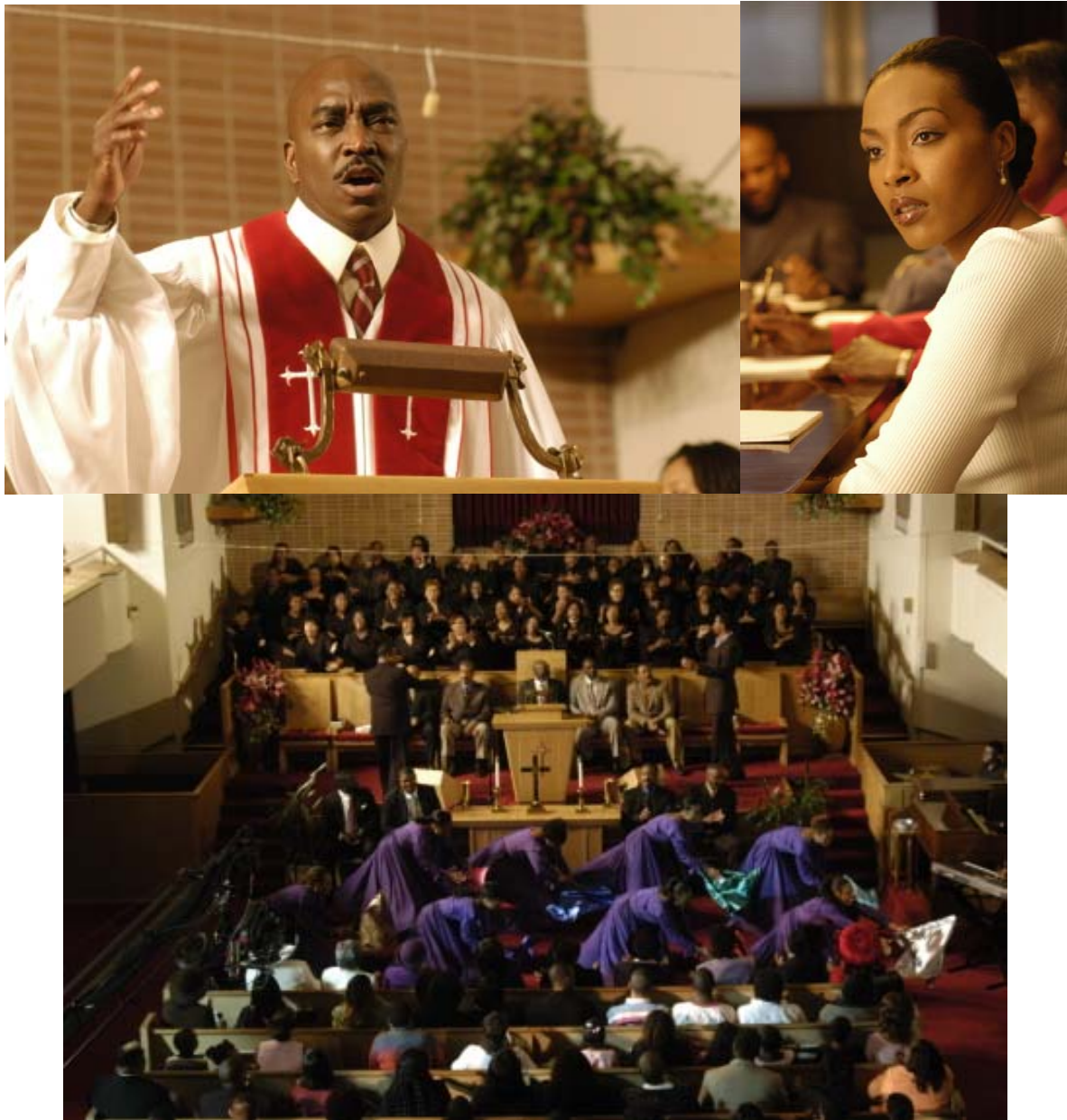
I have to add, one of the things that impressed me most in this film was how the people at the church, and not just the choir, worshiped with their whole body. It's one thing to simply sing about the joy of the Lord, but when you express that joy with more than just your mouth, it takes the worship experience to a whole new level.

**what the heck is this?!?!**, 14 October 2005

★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Author: [jpwarren78](#) from United States

I wish I could give this a -500 out of 10. I was completely baffled by how horrible this movie was. Okay, so the story line was totally predictable and lackluster to say the least. However, I do think if it had been done well, it could have pulled itself off as a decent movie. Instead, half the time I was thinking, "what?!?!!" I didn't care about any of the characters, the plot was completely apathetic, and the editing was unbelievably choppy. The only part of this movie worth recommending would be the music, but you can just buy the soundtrack for that. I strongly do NOT recommend wasting your money or time on this movie!!!!



**The Prodigal Son Retold**, 12 October 2005



Author: [RecoWilliams](#) from Arlington, Texas

"The Gospel" was one of those movies that just kind of snuck up on me. I hadn't heard much press about it until a couple of weeks before it's release. I must admit when I went to this movie I was not expecting much, but this movie is incredible.

It is a modern day retelling of the story of the prodigal son. The acting and the script of this movie are just incredible. The whole stage is set around a son, played by Borris Kojó, who faces the death of his mother and he turns his back on God and turns to R&B music. Just at the pinnacle of his career he gets news that his father is sick. This is where the plot thickens.



The movie starts off with just great music and very interesting hand-held camera shots. The movie is packed with uplifting gospel music from all of today's hottest artists. One of my favorites from this movie is Victory by Yolonda Adams. You can check out The Gospel website. Which is GospelMovieDotCom Because you can't put links in your reviews. But check it out. This movie is surprisingly good and it's just one of those family films you want to watch over and over again. I give this movie and 8, because it had some areas they could've tightened up, but I do believe the goal of this movie was achieved.

WARNING: Bring some Kleenex with you to this film!

**The Gospel is not awful but it left much to be desired.,** 7 November 2005

★★★★★

Author: [fannylois](#) from United States

I did not enjoy this movie. There are many reasons why but I will mention only 2. If you are billing this as a dramatic movie then it should be less of a concert. Music in a script is used to push the story forward. Not just because you have famous singers in the movie. Even some gifted and seasoned actors could not do anything for this movie. The writing was disappointing to say the least. There was never a time when this screenwriter took the time to develop his characters so he cheated the audience. You had to just accept (or not) the premise and assume too much about the characters. As a writer, I must give props to the Director and Writer Rob Hardy for getting the support Financially and the talent to have this released in major theaters. But! I am very disappointed in the story line. As basic as it was, you didn't make it believable and you underestimated your audience. And as a gospel writer, the message was there but not interesting. Overall it needed more development in writing. It's insulting to underestimate your audience especially when they're Your peeps.

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**The movie as a whole**, 19 October 2005



Author: [sonia-smith](#) from United States

I thought the movie as a whole was great. We miss the point of the movie if we look at how great the actor was or how they should have cast a stronger actor. This movie is proof that movies can be entertaining in a healthy and wholesome way. There is a positive message in the movie. It shows you that you need to hold onto your relationship with God before all other things. I enjoyed being able to bring my children to this movie and know that they are not going to see anything in the movie that was degrading. I truly hope that Hollywood will make more movies like this one and change the way cinema is today. Think of how much better the world would be if we used more positive messages in the movies and music today. The dancing was great, the message was awesome. And we as Christians need to remember that commission to spread the Gospel.

**Horrible Stay Away**, 11 December 2005



Author: [circlelink](#) from United States

This movie was the most disjointed movie I have ever seen. The that the main character could not sing was so distracting - they had to play around him. As he had never done Hip Hop -- it was horrible. Who told this man he was good at this? The story line was all male -- no female connection at all - the preacher repented -- however he did not do it in front of his congregation -- the acting was horrible -- never did understand the distance between the preacher and his wife until the last part -- the quality of the shots were off and I never felt the connection in this show between the characters - it was not worth the money and the music was not even as good as in the CD - too many things were wrong with this movie -- Miss Desmond



**This was what the Fighting Temptations should have been.,** 24 October 2005



Author: [brenring](#)

The Gospel was a nice movie. It was what the Fighting Temptations should have been. Unlike the Fighting Temptations, this movie dealt with real situations and showed people going through real struggles. It showed people who were flawed and who were struggling with their faith but who persevered and grew. It was not a groundbreaking movie but there were surprises. Some of the characters went in different directions than I expected. The ending could have been made a little clearer. The director choose to end with flashes of scenes that you had to look at quickly before they went away. But it was a nice movie. The music was nice too, although I would have liked to have seen more variety in the songs they picked. Most of the songs came from only one composer.

**Another Movie With A Predictable Plot and Ending,** 31 October 2005



Author: [leighabc123](#) from Norfolk, Virginia

**\*\*\* This comment may contain spoilers \*\*\***

I watched the Gospel just so I could hear all of the good gospel artists. Any movie with Tamyra Gray automatically gets 10 stars. Boris Kojoe did not sing a note in this movie! He was lip syncing and someone else was singing. The young guy was going to become a minister, but his mother died suddenly. He said he hated his father who was the pastor and then went into rap for 15 years. Someone called and told him that his father was dying of cancer. He comes back home and suddenly becomes a changed man. This movie had so many conflicts. There were conflicts between Donnie McClurkin and the new pastor. There were conflicts between Tamyra Gray and two men, one was Tamyra's daughter's dad. There were conflicts between the old pastor and a whole lot of people. Omar Gooding was a gullible woodpecker and followed Boris wherever he went and listened to whatever he said. Did anyone notice the blooper in the movie? The tombstone said that the mother died in 1992. 15 years later is 2007, which haven't even arrived at the time this movie was finished being filmed. The remainder of the movie took place 15 years after the mother died.

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