

Project 45

The Vatican List of the Greatest Films and Why They Still Matter

**Essays by Joseph Malham
Original Artwork by Patrick Lyne**

“If you buy the book and start reading, know this: you step into it with a bullseye painted on your back; a target at which Malham and Lyne will aim their sharp and infectious enthusiasms. They love the movies. They love the good, the beautiful and the true.”

**From the Introduction by Most. Rev. Mark Bartosic
Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago**



Lake Street Press 5655 North Clark Street Chicago, IL 60660 www.lakestreetpress.com

All inquiries: algren@lakestreetpress.com.mysticfiction.com

The first ever in-depth examination of the Vatican List of the 45 Greatest Films of All Time, created in 1995 to celebrate the centenary of film.

45 original movie posters, visually re-interpreting these classic films for a new generation, have been created exclusively for this book.

Project 45

The Vatican List of the Greatest Films and Why They Still Matter

Author Joseph Malham and artist Patrick Lyne have combined their talents to create not so much a book but a first time ever exploration, in words and images, of the Vatican's List of the 45 Greatest Films of All Time. The list is the result of a panel convened by Pope John Paul II in 1995 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of motion pictures. The panel consisted of cinema experts from the world of academia as well as respected religious figures like Archbishop John P. Foley and Father Virgilio Fantuzzi, SJ, who was an acquaintance of Federico Fellini.

The 45 Films, which the Vatican scholars themselves said were not comprehensive or exhaustive, are divided up into the categories of Religion, Art and Values. Interestingly, the films are not noted specifically for their intrinsically spiritual aspects but the totality of their beauty, message and artistic integrity. That is why *Ben-Hur*, *Andrei Rublev*, *Babette's Feast*, *The Mission* and *The Flowers of Saint Francis* share a place on this roll of cinematic honor with *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *8 ½*, *Metropolis*, *Nosferatu* and *Citizen Kane*.

As the world inched closer to the new millennium, Pope John Paul believed that artists would be an essential part of the journey and that film had a particularly efficacious role in the cultural conversation. Art, as the pope said, even when it explores the darkest corners of the human spirit, carries with it the power to inform and transform. That is why these films still matter: there is still much that they can teach us.

Project 45 explores each film in-depth, helping a new generation of filmgoers, aficionados and scholars understand the enduring power and beauty of these films, meditating on their message and even revealing behind the scenes insights as to how they were made and by whom. The original posters for each film, created exclusively for this book by artist Patrick Lyne, stunningly capture the essence of the film and are stand-alone works of art in themselves.



JOSEPH MALHAM - AUTHOR

Joseph Malham is an author and iconographer who for twenty years was artist in residence at Saint Gregory the Great Church in Chicago. In that capacity, Malham created icon panels for churches, schools, religious communities and gave lectures on icons and sacred art as well as scores of icon painting workshops. His books include *By Fire Into Light: Four Catholic Martyrs of the Nazi Camps*, *Drawing Closer to Christ: A Self-Guided Icon Retreat* and *John Ford: Poet in the Desert* which won two awards. In 2015 Malham was awarded the Bishop Quarter Award by Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago for his service to the Archdiocese.



PATRICK LYNE - ARTIST

Patrick Lyne is a painter, designer & illustrator residing in Chicago, Illinois. Now six years into his design career, he is currently employed as Senior Designer at the advertising agency, FKA, in New York City. Patrick is also trained as a classical iconographer & worked alongside Joe Malham on the north side of Chicago for two years, from 2016 to 2018. He & Joe have continued their working relationship with their most recent project being this book. You can see more of Patrick's work on his website as well as on display throughout the Midwest. To see and order signed reproductions of all 45 posters, go to: www.patricktlyne.com/project-45

Project 45: The Vatican List of Great Films and Why They Still Matter

Will be available October, 2022 on Amazon (www.amazon.com)



Lake Street Press 5655 North Clark Street Chicago, IL 60660 www.lakestreetpress.com

All inquiries: algren@lakestreetpress.com.mysticfiction.com

Project 45: The Vatican List of Great Films and Why They Still Matter

Q & A with author Joseph Malham

Q: Why did you choose this subject?

A: I have been a lifelong fan of films and while I knew that Pope John Paul II had engaged in a serious conversation with artists as we closed in on the new millennium (remember his meetings with Bono and the Bob Dylan concerts in the Apostolic Palace?). However, I became aware of the list of the 45 Greatest Films only in the past year or two. That is why I approached my friend and frequent collaborator Patrick Lyne about creating a narrative and visual exploration of these 45 films, the first of its kind. In the end, the list chose me!

Q: Why now? The List was created in 1995 and you and Patrick are creating this book in 2022.

A: I think that the events of the past several years was the catalytic creative agent more than anything else. Coming through a deadly global pandemic, political divisiveness and now the specter of war once again a horrific reality, people turn to faith and things of the spirit to help them cope. Sheltering in place for a year and binge-watching movies may account for a renewed interest in these classic films but I think it is more their message that shows they are still relevant. *The Seventh Seal*, for instance, is about bargaining with Death to survive a deadly plague and *Ben-Hur* is about loving friends who are separated by hatred because of their political disagreements and *The Sacrifice* is about a man making pledges to God for his family to survive a nuclear holocaust. All these themes, speculative and academic at the time the films were made, are now suddenly and shockingly pertinent.

Q: What was the hardest part of writing the book?

A: Honestly, watching 45 films, many of which clock in at the three hour mark, is a marathon that would tax the hardiest of cinephiles. Not only watching them but coming up with compelling, intelligent and original critiques took it out of me but I made it.

Q: What was the best part?

A: Watching the films and seeing something new in classics that I have seen dozens of times over the years. But, honestly, the collaboration with Patrick was very exciting. Having him read my narrative and then seeing what he conceptualized and then created was extremely fun and rewarding. His posters are art and they are brilliant. I just love seeing how a young and talented artist like Patrick has taken films, most of which are between fifty and one hundred years old and reinterpreted them with his own vision.

Q: What is your ultimate hope and goal in writing this book?

A: These films are classics, because, like classical music and classical art, it means they will last forever. To have a new generation in the new millennium see these films and go deeper into their mystery and beauty is very exciting and I especially hope young people and young filmmakers will be introduced to them as well. Also, perhaps the Vatican can one day update the list to maybe 50 or 60 and include a less Eurocentric and American cinematic vision but include films from women directors and directors of color from Africa, Asia and Latino artists. That would truly make the list catholic, in the sense it would be universally inclusive.

Q & A with artist Patrick Lyne

Q: What attracted you to Project 45?

A: I've always been a massive fan of film, especially classics that shaped what cinema is today. When I found out that the Vatican had put out a list of the 45 greatest films, I was not only intrigued, but I also wondered 'why?' Having the chance to explore a relatively unknown list as well as create a unique poster for each film is what initially drew me in.

Q: How did you go about creating each poster? What was the process?

A: First, we would have to watch the film & decide what scene or piece of imagery stood out the most. That image had to represent the entire film, so we wanted to be thorough. Once that was selected, I would research the era when the film came out as well as some of the art styles from that time. I would bring this all together to create a brand new image for the film while still paying homage to that time period.

Q: What is your favorite poster and why?

A: It's a simple answer, but my favorite has to be *Citizen Kane*. It is one of the most minimal posters of the bunch, but I believe that is why it works so well.

Q: What do you want your posters created in 2022 to say about films made almost 100 years ago?

A: I want them to show how timeless films can be & how magical cinema is as a whole. Each & every one of these films came out before I was even born, yet I am still able to become immersed & appreciate the world-building in all of them. Then coming out of that immersion & being able to create an image based on my own experience speaks to how well crafted these films are, even if they were released one hundred years ago.

Q: How does one go about purchasing your reproductions? What is the size and format?

A: All of the poster reproductions are available on my website, patricklyne.com. They are beautifully printed on stretched canvas at 16" x 20" with the possibility of other sizes in the future.

The Vatican List of the Greatest Films of All Time

RELIGION

Andrei Rublev. Babette's Feast Ben-Hur The Flowers of St. Francis Francesco
The Gospel According to St. Matthew La Passion de Notre Seigneur Jesus-Christ
A Man For All Seasons The Mission Monsieur Vincent Nazarin Ordet
Passion of Joan of Arc The Sacrifice Therese

VALUES

Au Revoir, Les Enfants Bicycle Thieves Burmese Harp Chariots of Fire
Dekalog Dersu Uzala Gandhi Intolerance
It's A Wonderful Life On The Waterfront Rome: Open City Schindler's List
Seventh Seal Tree of Wooden Clogs Wild Strawberries

ART

Citizen Kane 8 ½ Fantasia Grand Illusion La Strada Lavender Hill Mob
The Leopard Little Women Metropolis Modern Times Napoleon
Nosferatu Stagecoach 2001: A Space Odyssey The Wizard of Oz

By November, 2022

Project 45 will be available as a book on Amazon and the 45 original movie posters, signed by Patrick Lyne available at www.patricktlyne.com/project-45

Joseph Malham and Patrick Lyne will be available for

- *Film Screenings*
- *Lectures*
- *Book Signings*
- *Exhibition/Sales of Patrick Lynes Posters*

Perfect for schools, universities, churches, community organizations, movie theaters and museums

For media inquiries and all questions, please contact:
algren@lakestreetpress.com
mysticfiction.com



Lake Street Press 5655 North Clark Street Chicago, IL 60660 www.lakestreetpress.com