

TO SEE GOLD

An original
Carlie_macbe idea
for a movie

TO SEE GOLD (MOVIE)

GENRE: Historic and contemporary, metaphysical

WHO: Joseph Smith and Thomas Stuart Ferguson

WHERE: In the United States and Guatemala

WHEN: In the 19th century and one century later

WHAT: The biopics of prophet Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon Church, and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, Mormon's #1 archeologist -

The story is about two linked lives.

In the 19th century, Joseph Smith founded a new religious movement after claiming Moroni, an angel, revealed him the location of golden plates in which God gave him a mission as an American Christian prophet: to translate the plates, which then became the *Book of Mormon*. Smith's life is intense and dramatic, full of visions and conflicts, ended in a typical American way: he was murdered in a prison cell.

Smith's fate is akin to Jesus' and one of his follower, Brigham Young, took the role of Saint Paul and managed to spread the Mormon faith across the country (Utah), later (parts of) the world.

One century later, as the Mormon Church is well-established, one of his most prominent figures, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, an honest man dedicated to the Mormon faith and a scientist, endeavors to find evidence of the "truth" regarding his beliefs. As an archeologist, he spends years in the Guatemalan jungle looking for the evidence (since the 19th century, there has been an alternative "scientific" trend among metaphysical believers to dig up fantastic facts that are not officially taught in school, whether God-related or in connection with Atlantis or extra-terrestrials).

Ferguson finds nothing convincing and, on his death-bed, he tells his son that the Mormon narrative is bullshit.

Thomas Stuart Ferguson's son is Jon Ferguson. A Mormon dissident, atheist, basketball player, writer, painter and philosopher living in Switzerland since 1972. He is therefore a direct witness of his father's moving and vain quest and late testimony. As many good faithful Mormons followed the archeologist, Jon did not tell them and the world what his father told him before he died.

The narrative of the movie functions like this: the two biopics are told in parallel so one sees both spectacular and exotic arcs simultaneously.

In the end, the theme of the movie reveals itself, that is the thin line between faith and doubt.

Cinematographic references: *To See Gold's* two parallel stories could be told in two different (classic) ways: Joseph Smith's in an assumed old class way like *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (Ford, 1962) and Thomas Stuart Ferguson's like more recent and still classy *The Bridges of Madison County* (Eastwood, 1995), or any movie by Clint Eastwood



John Wayne and James Stewart in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*



Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep in *The Bridges of Madison County*

To See Gold

- Very interesting story on a thrilling segment of American History with American typical traits: importance of religion, determinism, individual heroism and violence.
- Deals with crucial contemporary issues on religion, (blind) faith vs. science and facts, or absence of facts.
- First-hand source as Thomas Stuart Ferguson's son Jon is a close friend of the scriptwriters'.

For further information:

Stéphane Bovon
Tél.: +41 79 907 29 20
bd@helicehelas.org

A Carlie_macbe idea for a movie