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Sensational Movies: Video, Vision, and Christianity in Ghana (The Anthropology of Christianity)

By Birgit Meyer



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Tracing the rise and development of the Ghanaian video film industry between 1985 and 2010, *Sensational Movies* examines video movies as seismographic devices recording a culture and society in turmoil. This book captures the dynamic process of popular filmmaking in Ghana as a new medium for the imagination and tracks the interlacing of the medium's technological, economic, social, cultural, and religious aspects. Stepping into the void left by the defunct state film industry, video movies negotiate the imaginaries deployed by state cinema on the one hand and Christianity on the other.

Birgit Meyer analyzes Ghanaian video as a powerful, sensational form. Colliding with the state film industry's representations of culture, these movies are indebted to religious notions of divination and revelation. Exploring the format of "film as revelation," Meyer unpacks the affinity between cinematic and popular Christian modes of looking and showcases the transgressive potential haunting figurations of the occult. In this brilliant study, Meyer offers a deep, conceptually innovative analysis of the role of visual culture within the politics and aesthetics of religious world making.



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- Sales Rank: #1598722 in eBooks
- Published on: 2015-10-16
- Released on: 2015-10-16
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

Review

"A thoughtful and theoretically powerful study, culminating two decades of fieldwork and movie-watching, of mediatization and materialization. . . . An important contribution to the anthropology of religion, of popular media, of invented tradition, and of the cultural formation of the senses and experience."
(*Anthropology Review Database* 2016-04-11)

"A rich account... the most sustained and theoretically sophisticated treatment of Christian popular culture in Africa to emerge to date and an important contribution to studies of religion and media."
(*American Ethnologist* 2016-08-01)

"A fascinating and engaged ethnography of a crucial period in the Ghanaian film world."
(*Marginalia* 2016-09-10)

"...will be regarded as both foundational and pioneering across multiple disciplines for years to come... it is how [Meyer] evaluates and hypothesizes the development of this cultural movement that places her work at the forefront of interdisciplinary research in Africa."
(*Material Religion*)

From the Inside Flap

"Combining extensive ethnographic work with careful description of the videos and their circulation and reception, Meyer offers readers a magisterial account of how market, state, industry, religion, and visual media intermingle. The result is an embodied, socially situated phenomenology of cinematic experience that builds on years of Meyer's work and will shape the conversation among scholars for years to come."—David Morgan, Professor of Religious Studies, Duke University

"Drawing together research on religion and media in a strikingly original way, Meyer argues that the image repertoire of Pentecostalism is central to the emergence of Ghanaian film. But more than this, she shows how popular cinema is key to how Pentecostalism goes public and becomes part of the everyday lives of religious subjects. This is a groundbreaking book that opens up fundamentally new questions about film, aesthetics, and the sensational life of images in contemporary Africa."—Brian Larkin, Barnard College, Columbia University

About the Author

BirgitMeyer is a cultural anthropologist and Professor of Religious Studies at Utrecht University, The Netherlands. She is Vice-Chair of the International African Institute and a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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David Munsch:

This Sensational Movies: Video, Vision, and Christianity in Ghana (The Anthropology of Christianity) is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This specific book reveal it details accurately using great plan word or we can say no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole facts in it. Doesn't mean it only will give you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with attractive delivering sentences. Having Sensational Movies: Video, Vision, and Christianity in Ghana (The Anthropology of Christianity) in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one. We can say that no e-book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen moment right but this e-book already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt this?

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