

God in Film Study

Film: The Truman Show



Watch the film



Discuss Themes



Key scenes



Close the curtain



Film Synopsis

Since birth, a big fat lie defines the well-organised but humdrum life of the kind-hearted insurance salesman and ambitious explorer, Truman Burbank. Utterly unaware of the thousands of cleverly hidden cameras watching his every move, for nearly three decades, Truman's entire existence pivots around the will and the wild imagination of the ruthlessly manipulative television producer, Christof--the all-powerful TV-creator of an extreme 24/7 reality show: **The Truman Show**.

As a result, Truman's picturesque neighbourhood with the manicured lawns and the uncannily perfect residents is nothing but an elaborate state-of-the-art set, and the only truth he knows is what the worldwide television network and its deep financial interests dictate. Do lab rats know they are forever imprisoned? *Synopsis by Nick Riganas*



Movie Talk: Reel Dialogue discussion

The Truman Show predates our 'Reality Television' industry, but does it say something about our viewing preferences?

Which character did you relate with the most in the film?

The Para-social Phenomenon is experienced by people when they believe they know the characters in a movie or television show. Is there a certain character in television that you feel you connect with more than others?



Key scenes

Follow the linked headings to press "play"

Something is out there

Truman Burbank has lived his whole life without the awareness that the world is watching every aspect of his life. Then one day things change for him as a light from the video recording structure falls near his home. This is a turning point for Truman to begin to think that there is something that exists outside of his mild-mannered life. Have you ever thought that there is more to life than the day to day existence we experience?

"Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. - Ecclesiastes 1: 1b-4

Are we prisoners or do we have a choice?

We are born into this life with no choices of our family, country or lifestyle. Truman does not seem to be able to escape this voyeuristic life, but the creator of his world states that his 'star' is able to leave whenever he wants. Are we merely the victims of our circumstances or do we have a choice in how we live?

"Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. - Proverbs 21:20

The love of a father

The reunion between Truman and his father proved to be a climax of the 'reality show,' by proving that the bond between father and son was significant for the whole story. 'I always believed' was uttered by Jim Carrey's character, because of the hope he had for the survival of his father. Everyone has a different experience when it comes to the relationship with their father. How can you explain the connection between a child and their father figure?

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. - Psalm 103:13



Curtain closes: Final question

Have you connected with the creator?

Truman is confronted with the reality that everything around him has been artificially created by the show's creator, Christof. Even though this scene is meant to make a statement about God and his creation, it does make you consider if we were created and if there is a God. What are your thoughts?