The Spiritual Cinema Circle

By Ryan N. Harrison, MA

Ryan N. Harrison, MA is a Holistic Health Educator/Consultant in private practice (http://www.BeWholeBeWell.com). He has taught holistic nutrition, therapeutic herbalism and natural health for many years in both online and traditional settings.

Stephen Simon, movie director and producer of such box office hits as *What Dreams May Come* and *Somewhere in Time*, has a vision. Recognizing the powerful effect – both positive and negative – that the media has upon our culture, Simon has become the leading spokesperson for a new genre he has coined as "Spiritual Cinema." Spiritual Cinema examines who we are and why we are here, and illuminates the human condition through stories and images that inspire us to explore what we can be when we operate at our very best. Spiritual Cinema reflects our beliefs and values and illustrates their impact upon our lives and our society. In this context, "spiritual" refers not to any one religion but to the unseen divine essence that is so present in all life around us. History has revealed that individuals or cultures that lose their connection to this essence become devoid of love, respect and compassion.

In spring of 2004, Stephen co-founded the <u>Spiritual Cinema Circle</u>, which has become a worldwide phenomenon since its launch. Each month, The Circle distributes 4 spiritual films on DVD to a worldwide audience of members in over 70 countries and has recently been featured in major publications such as *Newsweek* and *Entertainment Weekly*. The Circle is the first distribution company exclusively dedicated to Spiritual Cinema.

On a monthly basis, Circle members are treated to hours of entertainment that will touch the heart and inspire the soul. Unlike video rental services, the movies do not need to be returned and are instead collected by members to create a whole library of inspiring movies that can be watched again and again.

The monthly movie collections include a wide variety of films (features, shorts, and documentaries) that are unlikely to be seen elsewhere.

These movies have played to enthusiastic audiences at film festivals all over the world and many have won major festival awards. But in most cases the Circle is the only place they can be seen, because traditional movie distributors don't consider meaningful, spiritual films to be profitable enough.

Members are encouraged to build community by sharing these films with others and then discussing them, the feelings and thoughts they evoke, and their meaning and relevancy to their lives.

You can learn more about The Circle and Spiritual Cinema movies by clicking here.

The <u>Spiritual Cinema Circle</u> is something I have come to cherish like a dear friend. I hope that you will experience it and let it touch your heart and inspire your soul, as well.