

How Did Hollywood Get So 'Woke'?

Why do so many members of the Hollywood elite espouse such radical, leftist causes? Why are they so pro-abortion, so pro-queer activism? Why are they so passionate about saving trees and caring for cows? How and why did Hollywood become so "woke"?

After Sunday's Oscars, the Daily Mail ran this lengthy headline: "And the award for the most self-righteous Oscars acceptance speech goes to ... Joaquin Phoenix lectures about animal rights, Brad Pitt slams impeachment trial and Obama documentary director urges 'workers of the world to unite.'"

What? "Joaquin Phoenix launched a passionate speech about animal rights, veganism and Speciesism" while the director of an Obama documentary quoted Karl Marx and the Communist Manifesto? The elite, the mega-rich and the powerful called for the uprising of the oppressed working class?

Other tag lines in the Mail included:

—Hair Love creator Matthew Cherry advocated for the Crown Act, a California law that prohibits discrimination based on hair style or texture, in his speech.

—American Factory co-director Julia Reichert—who is fighting terminal cancer—quoted from the Communist Manifesto.

—Janelle Monae opened the show by declaring herself a "proud," "black queer artist telling stories."

—Sigourney Weaver declared: "All women are superheroes" when she presented an award.

Yes, Hollywood has been "woke" for many years now, fashioning itself to be the prophetic voice of conscience. And, truth be

told, many in Hollywood are passionate about their causes, from animal rights to climate change, and from same-sex “marriage” to immigration.

In other words, for many of them (if not most; only God knows), this is not just a show. They truly believe they are in the right. They truly believe conservative religion is damaging people’s lives. They truly believe we are destroying the planet.

To quote Joaquin Phoenix at length, “I think whether we’re talking about gender and equality, or racism, or queer rights, or indigenous rights, or animal rights, we’re talking about the fight against injustice. We’re talking about the fight against the belief that one people, one race, one gender, one species has the right to dominate, control, use, and exploit another with impunity.”

Not only so, but, “We go into the natural world and plunder it of its resources. We feel entitled to artificially inseminate a cow and then steal her baby, even though her cries of anguish are unmistakable.”

So, pity the poor baby cow (after all, it is a living creature), but rip those human clumps of cells out of their mother’s womb. This is the hypocrisy of Hollywood.

But this doesn’t answer two fundamental questions. First, why is this segment of the population so outspoken about social and political issues? Why do they claim to care so much? Second, why have they taken up positions on the extreme left with issue after issue?

Obviously, we can only speak in general terms, since Hollywood is not a monolith. But perhaps the answer to the first question is simply this: Everyone in Hollywood is involved with producing movies. Most movies carry a message. So, the people involved see themselves as messengers.

The editor of a major newspaper once told me that many journalists see themselves as having a prophetic role. They do not just report the news. They challenge injustice. They seek to correct wrongs. Consequently, some of their writing will reflect a particular bias.

Perhaps, in the same way, as actors play certain roles, screenwriters produce the scripts and directors oversee the process, they feel they are playing a prophetic role in society. They are telling stories that need to be told. They are making social statements. Consequently, they themselves have something to say. (For my response to this, see [here](#).)

But how, then, did their message become so slanted? Why a quotation from Karl Marx? Why the concern about inseminating a cow?

This, in my view, is the result of taking up causes from a me-centered perspective. (I would say “man-centered,” but that uses the dreaded “m” word. To say “human-centered” doesn’t seem to cut it as well.) In other words, rather than seeing things from God’s perspective, they see things from an earthly perspective.

So, rather than see the meaning of marriage as God intended it for human flourishing and the well-being of society, they see the “injustice” of two women not being allowed to marry.

That also means they see animals as equal to humans (since humans are not uniquely created in the image of God). They even see trees as equal to humans (and even better than humans, since trees are noble creatures that never hurt anyone).

As to how these views became so dominant in Hollywood, this would seem to reflect a process similar to that in our universities. Specifically, after the counter-culture shift of the 1960s, an increasing number of leftist intellectuals, artists and cultural influencers rose to the top. And they now

hold positions of dominance, effectively silencing and suppressing those who dissent.

Interestingly, though, many “common people”—the proletariat, if you will—are not having it. As the Mail also reported, “while the well-heeled crowd at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles applauded their speeches, their ‘lectures’ nauseated the audience at home.

“Many viewers took to Twitter to slam the stars as ‘hypocrites’ and called the event the ‘wakest Oscars ever.’”

Perhaps a little too “wake” for the tastes of many?

Personally, I can appreciate how gifted many of these actors, writers, cinematographers and directors are.

I can appreciate the sacrifices some of them make for their trade (in other words, their riches come with a price).

I can even appreciate their concern for the environment (within reason) and their compassion for animals (again, within reason).

But when wokeness means quoting Marx, celebrating queerness and caring more for baby cows than for baby humans, then I have a simple message. Hollywood, you need a spiritual awakening. You are not yet truly wake.