Willy Wonka... and the Kingdom of Heaven?
An analysis of hidden themes and messages in the classic film version of Roald Dahl's topsy-turvy story

BY MATT PIERALDI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination"...yes, the 30th anniversary of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" is upon us. While the release of other long-awaited DVDs, such as 'The Godfather Trilogy' (its about time) and 'Star Wars: Episode I' (of which all copies ought to be incinerated) might overshadow the release of Mel Stuart's classic, you should not overlook this much under-appreciated film. Now, I'm sure everyone at Holy Cross has at some point been fascinated in combination with the creation of imagination and creation that is Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. A novel by Roald Dahl, the movie starring Gene Wilder (as Monsieur Wonka), Jack Albertson (Grandpa Joe), and young Peter Ostrum (Charlie) has been reborn as a special edition DVD.

The features are wonderful, there's even a handy, bouncing ball sing along feature, which, if you're like me, you'll love. You can watch the movie in Portuguese or see lengthy interviews with the children from the movie (whom, after watching the interviews, I doubt have any idea how complex their characters truly were, seeing as the oldest one is 18 at the time (the). The only bad part about the DVD is that you cannot watch the movie in letterbox format. As for the rest of the movie, it's worth another viewing as now that we've all gotten a little older since the last time we saw it.

Many of you are no doubt wondering why I'm writing about this movie at all, and even more so why I'm watching this movie at the tender age of 20 when there are so many, ummm...distractions available to me. The reason I'm watching this movie is because I have no life. I sit in my room and watch movies and, well, yeah, I'll leave it at that. The reason I'm writing about this movie is because it operates on many more levels than any child would ever expect or know to look for.

One night, I was talking to a scholastic from my high school (scholastics are Jesuits-in-training) and he informed me that the original book is really not so much a fun romp through paradise, but a 'God/Jesus' play. I gawked, closed my internet explorer window, and asked him how so. He proceeded to inform me that in the original book there are eight children, Charlie and then seven others, each one representing one of the seven deadly sins. Due to time constraints, the number of deadly sins represented in the movie was reduced to four: Gluttony, Covetousness or Greed, Pride or Vanity, and Sloth. Some of the children encompass some parts of the other deadly sins: Envy, Lust, and Anger or Wrath. (Why am I telling you this? Am I insane? You should all know this 'cuz, after all, we do go to Holy Cross). Veruca embodies greed and a lot of lust, envy, and a bit of anger. While Violet (the one who turns into a blueberry) is symbolizing pride with her excessive gum chewing (there's a long explanation for this, but you have more articles to read). Mike Teavee is a sloth and Augustus is most obviously gluttony.

Ok, so sins aren't even to prove it's a movie about God and Jesus- Seven wasn't about that at all. Gene Wilder is God, that's all there is to it, and Charlie is Jesus. The first place they're in, with the chocolate river and what not, is the Garden of Eden. Grandpa Joe is the Holy Spirit and Mr. Slugworth is the devil, tempting Charlie three, count 'em, three times. The Oompa Loompa's, who are there to hide from the wongdoodles and horn-swoglers, act as the chorus of Angels. And could the glass elevator with the trinity of Wonka, Charlie, and Grandpa Joe (note: Charlie is at the right and Grandpa Joe is seated at the left, coincidence? I think not), be any more obviously the Ascension? Pretty interesting, no? I think so. I would tell you all of the marvelous discoveries I made watching this movie with all of this knowledge and/or assumption, but then you wouldn't have to see it again, which I suggest you do. May Wonka be with you.

RTA provides easy transportation to Worcester and other area attractions

BY EVAN GILBERT
CRUSADER FEATURES STAFF

The complaint I hear most often about social life at Holy Cross is the isolation of students on the hill to things within walking distance. I too lack the convenience of parking on campus, is a problem, and it is hard to get around without a car, but I was also aware that this was completely true. I consulted the Holy Cross student handbook, which was recently passed out in student P.O. boxes. The book is full of The Cross' rules and standards and what not, but, more importantly, it is home to the "insider's guide:" an analysis of hidden themes and messages in the classic film version of Roald Dahl's topsy-turvy story.

The first is the S.G.A. shuttle, but it is not stated whether this is the shuttle to Boston or if it is the van service of last year. Last year there was a van service that was essentially a van with a driver and a cell phone. The cell phone is used as a transponder. If you were not able to act as a character whose disposition is drastically different from their own. "The last thing anybody wants to do, I think, is get typecast somebody very close to their own personality," said Strong, "and I feel like for my entire life I have been typecast as a character completely opposite of what I am playing now, which is very exciting for me. It's such a challenge in some ways but it's the most fun when you hit it. And when you finally feel like you've got somewhere with it, it's definitely the best feeling."

Despite the fact that the issues put forward in the play, Perry and the cast encourages viewers not to ignore humor in things. "I don't want to in any way present this as like this big drama about censorship," Perry clarified. "Primarily, it's funny, and it's through the humor that the poignant moments hit you." The humor is an underlying theme and it's a good way of dealing with things, explains Peter Harrison, a freshman cast member.

Erin Butler, senior and stage manager for the production, stated, "This show isn't like any other kind of show we have put on here. It's so much more than horror, and when you wouldn't have to see it again, which I suggest you do. May Wonka be with you.

Worcester public transportation is really as bad as people have told me. To my surprise, there are not too many places in Worcester that the RTA won't put you in at least walking distance of. On top of that, the RTA is fairly inexpensive, and won't cost you more than two dollars one way. Also, there is more than one bus servicing Holy Cross. The consortium shuttle has two routes: CC2 and CC3, they both run weekdays from 7:32 a.m. to 9:32 p.m. with stops in front of the Hogan parking lot every hour. The other route is route 10, which stops at the intersection of Southbridge St. and Cambridge St., runs weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 6:42 p.m., leaving every 40 minutes.

Both these buses bring you into the park adjacent to city hall, the common outlets, the Foothills theater, and many other fine establishments of Worcester. The important thing is that from this park one can reach any of the other bus routes in Worcester. We are that is, almost all of the bus routes in Worcester come through this center area. On weekends, one could pick up the 18 bus to the Eccotarium, which is essentially Worcester's zoo. Also, the two cinema services by the RTA are accessible from this area of the RTA.

The 19N bus goes to the Showcase Cinemas North or the 15 and 28 buses travel to the White City Cinema. 15 and 28 also service the restaurants on Shrewsbury St. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The Oompa Loompa's, who are there to hide from the wongdoodles and horn-swoglers, act as the chorus of Angels. And could the glass elevator with the trinity of Wonka, Charlie, and Grandpa Joe (note: Charlie is at the right and Grandpa Joe is seated at the left, coincidence? I think not), be any more obviously the Ascension? Pretty interesting, no? I think so. I would tell you all of the marvelous discoveries I made watching this movie with all of this knowledge and/or assumption, but then you wouldn't have to see it again, which I suggest you do. May Wonka be with you.

HC hosts premiere of new play

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This leaves the Consortium shuttle, which is free with your college ID. The consortium shuttle is run by "The RTA," the city of Worcester public transit bus. I decided to investigate this option of transportation. I wanted to know if...