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SURFING THE WAVES OF POPULAR CULTURE
BY MICHAEL GILTZ & FRIENDS

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BBC's Shoddy Reporting On "New" Movie Awards

The BBC ran a story about a new movie award based on "moral values" and launched by a US filmmaker. It's called the American Value Awards. Now technically, the BBC sort of got it half right. They headlined the piece "Lauded Films See One-Man Backlash." It certainly is the creation of one man, [Michael Class](#). But he's not a filmmaker, he hasn't really "launched" a new movie awards (all he did was add a page to his own negligible web site which has zero traffic), and the entire event is so un-newsworthy that simply filing the story gave it much more legitimacy than it deserves. Frankly, the guy's home town newspaper shouldn't cover. If I add a page to my web site and announced a new awards show, would the BBC write a story on it? They shouldn't.

Turns out the crank self-published a children's book with the explanatory title "Anthony and the Magic Picture Frame: The Story of the Boy Who Traveled Through The Past By Stepping Through The Picture Frame On His Bedroom Wall." (That sure takes care of the need to ask "What's it about?") He's got it on sale at Amazon.com, where four reviews all give it five stars and the reviewers (whom I'm sure the author has never met) say things like "I've never seen such a reaction to a book before!"

Class's own website mostly promotes the book, though it briefly mentions his desire to promote movies that deserve it more than liberal fare like "Brokeback Mountain," "Syriana," and "Munich." His choices? "The Chronicles of Narnia," which celebrates pagan creatures like the centaur; "Harry Potter," which encourages children to dabble in black magic and other Satanic practices; "Star Wars Episode III," which is a thinly veiled attack on President Bush; and "Millions," an Irish film which makes a mockery of religious saints. Some values!

POSTED BY MICHAEL IN NEW YORK AT 1:47 PM



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