

# Melanie Griffith's acting saves unoriginal spy movie

By Gerri Pare  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Melanie Griffith's performance props up an unoriginal World War II espionage romance, *Shining Through* (20th Century Fox).

Griffith is street-smart New Yorker Linda Voss, a half-Jewish secretary whose command of German lands her a job under taciturn businessman Ed Leland (Michael Douglas) in 1940.

She soon realizes her boss is actually a spy. When war breaks out and someone is needed to replace a dead agent in the household of a Third Reich VIP, Linda convinces Ed she can feign being a German maid and microfilm crucial war documents.

Right off, the suspense about whether she survives is killed as the

movie opens with Linda recalling her adventure during a BBC interview.

Her close calls in a fishmonger's shop, where she passes on information to a courier, are clumsily shot. And the viewer is expected to accept obvious flaws in the plot to get to the lover's climatic clinch.

Griffith, though, is the bright spot in *Shining Through*, deftly capturing her character's sweetness and vulnerability that coats a core of gritty determination. This is her film and she shines, while Douglas and others have thinly written roles.

Due to brief violence and a fleeting bedroom scene, the U.S. Catholic Conference classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.



Ed Leland (Michael Douglas) and Linda Voss (Melanie Griffith) portray lovers on a dangerous mission inside Nazi Germany in the romantic adventure *Shining Through*. Keith Hamshere

# Book offers thorough, insightful look into former president of ND

God, Country, Notre Dame, by Theodore Hesburgh, CSC; Doubleday, (New York, 1990); 331 pages; \$21.95.

By Monsignor Charles Diviney  
Guest contributor

*The Guinness Book of World Records* states that Father Theodore Hesburgh has received 121 honorary degrees, more than any other person in the world. Yet when asked what inscription he would like written on his tombstone, he replied: "Just one word. Priest."

And what a priest he has been for 47 years! During that time he has said Mass every day save one. As an order priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, he had to take the triple vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, and writes that he never had difficulty in observing them.

His description of the seminary training he received will horrify some, but will create many nostalgic memories for older priests.

Father Hesburgh began his theological studies at the ancient Gregorian University in Rome, but had to return to the United States when World War II broke out. He finished his studies at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. As an auxiliary chaplain to the armed forces, he wrote for Catholic personnel a series of pamphlets of moral and spiritual guidance, many thousands of copies of which were published.

He was a pioneer in ecumenism and was responsible for the establishment of a center for ecumenical prayer and study in Jerusalem. That center is used each year by thousands of Orthodox, Anglican, Protestant and Roman

Catholic faithful.

Priests are sometimes referred to as sky pilots. In Father Hesburgh's case this was an apt title because he was an aviation buff and flew millions of miles, including one flight at an altitude of 80,000 feet and a speed exceeding 2,000 miles per hour. His regret is that he tried but never succeeded in saying Mass on a space mission.

The second major part of his life was spent as an educator, starting by teaching moral theology at Notre Dame. At that time, he says, the textbooks were inadequate and the courses poorly organized.

He had taught only two years before being appointed academic vice president. Three years later, at age 35, he became the president of the university, a position he held until his retirement 35 years later.

During those years he reorganized all the departments, beginning with theology and philosophy. He dismissed or retired unsatisfactory professors and administrators, and replaced them with scholarly and competent people.

He raised salaries and insisted on higher standards for both faculty and students. He obtained large endowments and set up some highly desirable professional chairs that awarded the recipients generous stipends.

One of the most difficult yet successful of his efforts was reorganizing the athletic department. He did this by bringing athletics under the control of the administration and raising the academic requirements for all varsity athletes in any sport. Now, he boasts,

at least 90 percent get a degree.

Under Hesburgh's presidency, Notre Dame played a leadership role in the establishment and development of the Peace Corps. It weathered the student revolution of the 1960s, and Father Hesburgh was one of the few college presidents who did not lose his job during those turbulent times.

One of his other achievements as president was obtaining Vatican permission to turn the university over to a board of lay trustees. Notre Dame thus became the first Catholic college in the United States to have a lay board, albeit with the proviso that the president must always be a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

Father Hesburgh also spent many, many hours serving in the wider arena of public life. At the request of presidents and popes, he served on numerous commissions. For 15 years he was a member of the Civil Rights Commission. He also served on the International Atomic Energy Agency, the National Science Board, the Presidential Clemency Board, which reviewed thousands of cases of deserters from the uniformed services during the Vietnam War; and the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy.

After 35 years of Hesburgh's time at Notre Dame, the student body has doubled, the faculty has grown threefold, and the annual operating budget has increased from \$6 million to \$0.5 billion. Since 1952 the space available in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, offices and public spaces has tripled or quadrupled.

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