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Resurrection Slope

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Abstract

This is a film review of *Resurrection Slope* (2013), directed by Tamara Feldman.

Keywords

Alcoholism, Resurrection

Author Notes

William Blizek is the founding editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of *The Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).

Resurrection Slope

Directed by Tamara Feldman

(Slamdance: Narrative Short)



Resurrection Slope is the name of the hillside on which the boy's mother is buried. She was an alcoholic who thought that she might be a country/western singing

star. The boy loved her dearly and wanted to be just like her. His father is absent and he longs to be with his mother, even though she often ignores him to try to meet her own needs. The mother knows that she is not being a good parent—she can't help focusing on her own needs. Finally she says to her absent son: "I'm doing this for you." She then puts the gas pedal to the floor and drives off into oblivion. The boy is left with his father, a cruel father that does not want his own son—also an alcoholic lout. But, in the end of the movie, the boy is resurrected. Or, is it the mother that is resurrected? *Resurrection Slope* is an interesting comment on death, life after death, and resurrection.

This is a film filled with haunting images and performances, including those by John Hawkes as the father and Tamara Feldman (who also wrote and

directed) as the mother. This is a wonderfully done film, but it will leave you feeling disturbed—and haunted. It is a marvelous but sad account of the parent/child relationship. It also provides us with an understanding of resurrection that is unusual, and in fact, haunting.

— William Blizek