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## Return of the Action Man

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## Return of the Action Man

### Abstract

This is a film review of *Return of the Action Man* (2022), directed by Scott Peters.

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### Author Notes

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



**Return of the Action Man (2022), dir. Scott Peters**

A young man is working on his computer when it goes crazy. It sucks him in through the screen and the young man finds himself in a rocky desert surrounded by a cult of characters who worship a very large television set. Every so often the huge television comes to life with a program that includes the “Action Man” who bravely slays a dragon-like creature. The return of the Action Man is in fact the next episode in the television series that features the Action Man, but the cult believes that the Action Man is really returning—coming back to them. This is a misinterpretation of the Action Man in a fashion similar to what occurs in the film, *The Gods Must Be Crazy* (1980).

The cult then puts a dragon’s head on the young man after which a large statue of the Action Man’s symbol falls upon the young man wearing the dragon’s head. One member of the

cult sends electricity through the antenna of the television set. The result is that the young man finds himself again in front of his computer wondering what has happened to him.

While rituals are important to us in many ways, we may be misinterpreting the focus of our ritual. The result of this is that our ritual may have no connection to reality.