

The Joker

movie (released in 2019) was a powerful social statement suggesting the absence of community integration and care for the vulnerable promotes a Darwinian "Survival of the fittest" world view and leaves the weak, sick and needy to care for themselves.

Chaos and intolerance of the so called 'weak' are the inevitable results and many who saw the movie were left disturbed, fearful and with a hint of schadenfreude when contrasted to their own lives, homes and achievements.

It's worth noting that while some criticise Christian opposition to Darwinian interpretations of our development as a species, they miss (perhaps conveniently) that the churches only official opposition to the theory of evolution, was focussed upon the societal consequences of 'survival of the fittest' and its resulting selfishness.

The commentary from Joker and Joaquin Phoenix's masterful portrayal of a mentally ill man, deceived by family, mocked by colleagues, raised by an oedipal Mother and left by the system to fend for himself, suggests the church was right.

Joker's inevitable sequel, poignantly subtitled 'Folie a Deux' has been highly anticipated by many DC fans (including me) who wanted another escapist violent romp and a 'stick it to the man' rebellion against a seemingly uncaring system.

The film is quintessential Marmite. People appear to love it or hate it and the latter seem to be in ascendancy. I must confess I thought it was masterful.

"Folie à Deux" is a French term that translates to "shared madness." It's a psychiatric disorder where two or more closely related individuals develop identical delusions or symptoms. It's a concept that suggests deep psychological connections and shared experiences. If you see

the movie you will see how this plays out between The Joker and Harley Quinn.

In the original movie, Joker was celebrated by the powerless majority who canonise him for exacting revenge on the powerful and influential and their leeching of all societies attention and adoration.

This continues into the second movie but personified by a romantic interest, Harley Quinn (Lee), superbly played by Lady Gaga.



The story descends into the psychotic, delusional and narcissistic bond between them both and although their numerous musical duets are an irritating watch, each lyric is an insight into what the other is seeking and more poignantly, what they have missing.

As the movie progresses, Joker comes to a realisation that his clownish persona is nothing more than an illusion he wants to destroy and embrace his true identity and the consequences for his crimes. Tragically he also realises his fame and even the love of Harley Quinn are focussed on this persona and not his true self, Arthur Fleck.

The story leaves viewers faced with our own hypocrisy in a fame obsessed world for loving the personas created by fame, entertainment and social media and our lack of interest in the

faulty, vulnerable and damaged people behind the makeup, characters or Instagram posts.

The Joker character is soon abandoned by the crowds and the woman he fell in love with as their adoration was for Joker, not Arthur Fleck.

As it moves to its shocking conclusion, it suggests there is always another person ready to kill and replace those who reject fame and steal the idolisation and worship adoring onlookers offer them.

Anyone who watches these movies will look at fame in a different way and lament the collective insanity, societal pressures, trauma and injustices we are being infected with today and the shared delusion and collective descent into the madness an uncaring, celebrity obsessed world can deliver.

Hopefully any Christian who watches Joker Folie a Duet, will look at the people they encounter each day in a different way and wonder who the real person is behind the mask and how we can truly address the identity crisis the 21st century is infecting us with.



Any parent watching Joker will guard their child's online activity and guide their digital presentation of themselves to the world.

The good news for the family of God is we have both the truth and the solution. We worship the only one who truly knows and loves the real person behind the makeup and masks people are increasingly hesitant to show to the world.

I strongly recommend both movies to anyone who hasn't seen them. They aren't comfortable to watch because they strike disturbingly close to home.

