

Thoughts on Wonder Woman

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Opposition to the status quo always causes anxiety and opposition, but when the issues are clarified often opposition and anxiety melt away...

Ray Browne¹

The long-awaited release of the *Wonder Woman* (2017) standalone film was surrounded in controversy. The film was banned in Lebanon, Tunisia, and Qatar because of star Gal Gadot's support for and past service in the Israeli Defense Force (Richardson). The Alamo Draft House Cinema in Austin, Texas held sold out women-only screenings that may have violated discrimination laws (Chong). Director James Cameron charged that *Wonder Woman* "was an objectified icon" and she represented "a step backwards" for women in film (Freeman). *Wonder Woman's* director, Patty Jenkins responded in a tweet that Cameron could not understand Wonder Woman. Actress Lynda Carter, who portrayed Wonder Woman on the 1975-1979 television show, added that Cameron's attacks were "thuggish" on her Facebook page.

The film was released in May of this year and the digital/disk versions became available less than a month ago. As such, I submit that we are still in the midst of grappling with several questions about her. Who is she? What does she mean for us? Is she a heroine? Is she a sex symbol? Is she a feminist icon? Is she a good role model? Or is she sometimes more than all, while simultaneously being none of the above?

¹ Cover

The Popular Culture Studies Journal, Vol. 5, No. 1&2

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In this section, we aim to start this conversation. Nathan Mizco begins with a discussion of Wonder Woman's transformative experiences. Anita K. McDaniel shares her love letter to Carter, as an off-screen heroine. Katie Snyder concludes this section by addressing powerful women. I am thankful that Nathan, Anita, and Katie shared their thoughts on Wonder Woman with us. From here, I hope we can continue this conversation.

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