

Do You Believe?

By Paula Tudor

If you have been reading my column you know that I also do LIVE interviews with a variety of talented people through Google Hangout. As I was wrapping up my interviews for 2014 and getting ready for the Christmas season, I began looking for people I might be able to chat with in the new year. I noticed that one actress had favorited a tweet I posted with a link to one of my interviews. For those who are not on twitter this basically just means that she liked what I posted. The actress's name is Tracy Melchior. We had been following each other on the social networking site for a while. I recognized her from her days on the soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful*, but since she is no longer on the show I was not sure if I had enough material to interview her. A quick look at her IMDb page revealed that she would be playing Grace in a movie called *Do You Believe?* a few months later. When I discovered this movie was created by the same people who made the successful film *God's Not Dead* I knew I not only had to interview Tracy, but I had to see the movie as well.

Much to my surprise *Do You Believe?* has not been very well promoted. One would think that after the success of *God's Not Dead* its trailers would be everywhere. In addition, the movie features an all-star cast: Mira Sorvino, Ted McGinley, Cybill Shepherd, Lee Majors, and Sean Astin, to name a few. The film opened in select theaters in March, and luckily Cookeville was one of them. As of mid-April it was still playing in this area.

I have to say that *Do You Believe?* was not what I expected. It was so much more intense than I thought it would be. Where *God's Not Dead* was powerful in an uplifting way, *Do You Believe?* demonstrates its power by challenging the audience to really look at their Christian faith. As a line in the film says "If you were charged with being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?" This is just one of the themes explored in this film, that is structured in the lives of twelve people. They are all in different, very difficult places in their lives, and are in different stages of their faith. This particular framework exposes yet another theme in the film, that despite the fact we usually only see our lives from one perspective, God is present and working in them in often-unexpected ways.

Do You Believe? features some incredibly moving performances. It takes a lot for a movie to bring me to tears, but this one did. With the exploration of essentially twelve different lives, the audience is taken on an emotional journey, where we find ourselves relating, on at least some level to almost every character.

If you miss the movie in theaters, you will definitely want to pick it up when it is released on DVD. Is it a movie you will want to watch over and over again? Probably not, at least not often. Like I said, it is intense, but it is definitely worth your time

and money. On a side note, if you have already seen the film you might be interested to know that you can purchase the small wooden crosses that it featured. Just go to doyoubelieve.com and click on the resources tab.

For those of you wondering, I did manage to land an interview with Tracy Melchior, which you can find at paulas-soapbox.blogspot.com. You might also be interested to know that Tracy wrote a book a few years ago called Breaking the Perfect 10 . It is about how she found God, even after breaking all of His Ten Commandments. The book is available on Amazon, but probably only in the new/used form.

Paula Tudor is a freelance writer, and a distinguished blogger/online correspondent, with more than two thousand followers on twitter. The bulk of her work can be found at <http://www.paulas-soapbox.blogspot.com>