

Amy Frykholm's theological film favorites

by [Amy Frykholm](#) in the [October 15, 2014](#) issue



A still of Lars and the Real Girl in church.

*On the second anniversary of our media column, we asked several of our writers to reflect on their favorite theological films.*

*Lars and the Real Girl* (Craig Gillespie, 2007) shows the power of the visual medium to tell a theological story. I not only felt that I knew Lars (Ryan Gosling), but that I knew myself through his fear of the tangles of relationship, his anxiety about the need to be transformed, and his desire to put transformation off as long as possible. I experienced how God can call out to us even when we are doing everything we can do to turn away.

To others, *Lars and the Real Girl* might be a “black comedy,” as it is categorized on the website IMDb; I found it to be both a theological as well as a personal commentary: my favorite kind of film.