

Nov 21, 1977

Dear David,

I'm writing this while the visions and memories of your slide & music presentation at the La Paloma theatre in Encinitas are still fresh in my mind & spirit. I well understand the difficulty you had yesterday trying to get feed back from as many people as possible so here is the letter I promised.

My initial and over all impression is very favorable. The particularly good choice of slides and use of diolves and over lapping of slides was as good as anything I have seen! The contrasts of visual imagery, scenes of beauty, serenity, power, space, people, etc all are excellent and you show a high degree of artistic vision in the visual side.

The music on the whole was also excellent. There were some jumpy transitions and at times the music was lost behind the narration. Have you heard the music of IASOS? or some of Keith Jarrett's work? Perhaps you can investigate these two artists as possible background for the ~~audio~~ slides. & a narration.

In my view, the weakest part of the show involves the narration. Not the content but the interpretation. I felt that the ~~re~~ spoken parts sounded like they were being read rather than spoken from the heart. I well understand the difficulty in doing this. I've taken ~~seen~~ a few courses in Oral Interpretation and it takes quite a bit of practice to read something well. This is not to say I don't think you felt the meaning of what you were saying. Quite to the contrary. The message gets through! But you can do better.

I wonder how you view your audience when assembling these shows. Who are you directing these to?

Another thought. . . because of the nature of the topic it is hard to not sound "preachy" at times and I heard some comments to this effect by a few people. ~~as~~ Vern's ~~a~~ narration was excellent, perhaps too dramatic even, but I love Vern's style and presence conveyed through his voice. The truth ~~does~~ never suffers when Vern ~~is~~ speaks.

How do you plan on distributing these? Are you going to be doing film later on? Videotape?

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I'm so glad that these verses are finding new forms for expression. I see so many possibilities. Your work is very good and can only get better. I hope you continue to find new and exciting ways to express the teachings of Jesus and the 11 Books. Keep up the good work and God bless you.

Pat McNelly