

Analysis of Movies Portraying the Lives of Seafarers

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Abstract - This study is on the analysis of movies depicting seafarers. Movies are instruments of social evaluation and a tool for propaganda. Movies are also a means of not just assessing the mindset of the generality of the public but also of influencing the mindsets of the society. Movies are therefore a vital component of social engineering and change. The three movies that portray the lives of seafarers are “Captain Phillips”, “Poseidon”, and “The Perfect Storm”. The three movies depicted the lives of seafarers from the perspective of character, family, risks and society. From the analysis of the movies, the researchers found out the seafarers suffer a lot of isolation, risks, and emotional stress. They are usually people of integrity and selfless actions and deserve commendation in the eyes of the public.

Keywords: Seafarer, Movie portrayal, Captain Phillips, Poseidon, Perfect Storm

INTRODUCTION

A sailor, seaman, mariner, or seafarer is a person who navigates water-borne vessels or assists as a crewmember in their operation and maintenance. The term bluejacket may be used for British or US Navy sailors, the latter especially when deployed ashore as infantry (Roth, 2012). The 700,000 of the world's mariners come from the Philippines, being the world's largest origin of seafarers (“Pinoy seafarers' concerns”, 2013).

The movie is a recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television. International movies are usually made to portray latest global issues and oftentimes mold public perceptions. Movies are thus a source of propaganda, education, and a vehicle for societal development and growth.

Movies and seafarers play a pivotal role as a tool for social engineering and societal development. Movies play a vital role in structuring and conditioning societal perceptions, mindset, norms, and often as means of expressing societal mindset on given issues. Seafarers serve as an important component of a nation's economy instead of trading, an object of cultural interaction and world

globalization as unofficial ambassadors of nations, and a bridge of world awareness.

The interaction between this two important tools of society becomes inevitable as seen in movies which depict the lives of a seafarer from the point of view of the society, and also exposes the life of a seafarer on sea not just as an unknown mass but as an individual entity with a concrete identity to the mass of people who have no knowledge of the of what it entails to be a seafarer.

The researchers decided to analyze movies that depict the lives of seafarers to have an exact perception of society on the seafaring profession and to see the seafaring profession from the mindset of seafarers themselves. This serves as a source of mutual enlightenment for the seafarers and the public. The public thus gets to appreciate the importance of seafarers and the risks inherent in the profession and the toll on the families of seafarers. The seafarers also get a first-hand awareness of how the public perceives their profession and works harder to be worthy of the responsibility that the profession demands.

OBJECTIVES

The study aimed to identify the movies that portray seamen from 2005 to 2015; specifically to