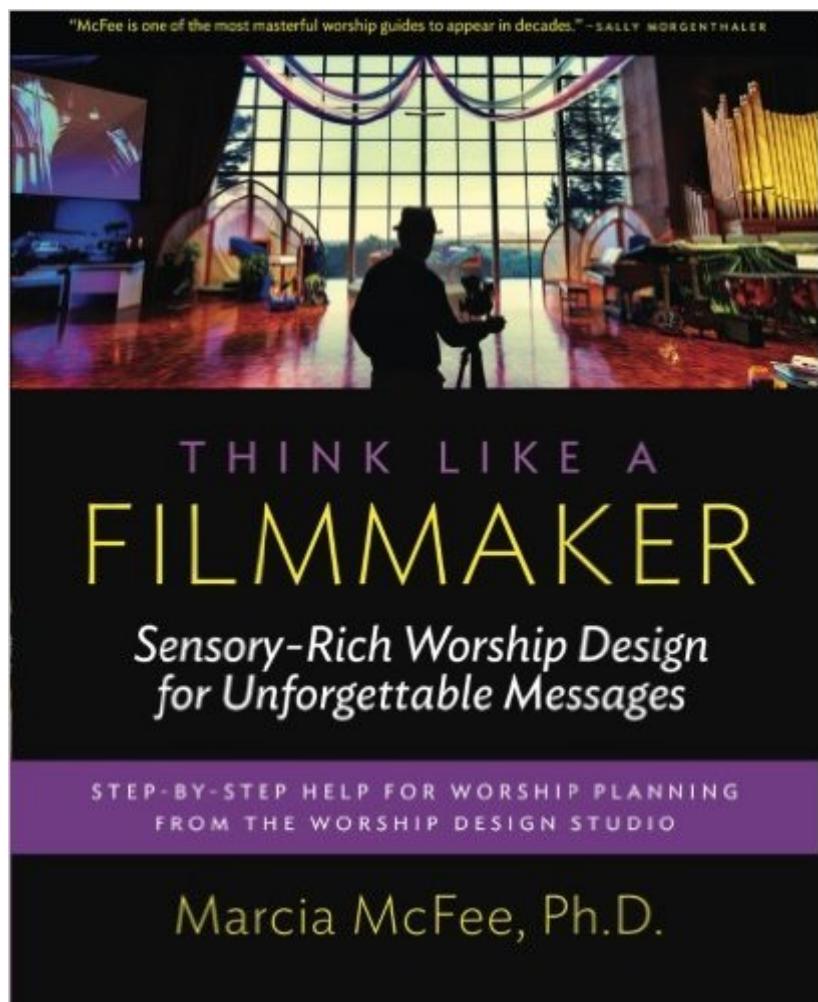


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# Think Like A Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design For Unforgettable Messages



## Synopsis

Are you Burned Out, in a Rut, and Frustrated by Sunday Mornings? Then you need to "think like a filmmaker!" In this book, internationally-renowned worship designer and teacher, Dr. Marcia McFee, will give you her time-tested strategies for creating and sustaining sensory-rich worship that offers unforgettable messages each and every week. Insights from filmmakers: art directors, screenwriters, composers, cinematographers and directors, will attract and ignite volunteers as they gain skills for every worship art. Applying these lessons to vital communication of the Greatest-Story-Ever-Told will not only inspire pastors and staff for their work, but will invigorate the congregation's excitement for Sunday mornings! **WITH THIS BOOK:**\* Take the stress out of worship planning by adopting one important strategy\* Train knowledgeable volunteers that love working on worship\* Streamline your efforts by learning a common design vocabulary and process\* Do it all through a fun exploration of filmmaking techniques, from conceptualizing the story to dealing with "the reviews!"

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Very rarely does a book come across my path where I realize, two pages in, that the simple act of reading the book is going to make my ministry, my ritual artistry, significantly better! Such is the case with Marcia McFee's "Think Like a Filmmaker: Sensory-Rich Worship Design for Unforgettable Messages." The work of worship design in this season of the life of the church is complex, multifaceted and rich with opportunity to create environments for liminal encounters with God. "Think Like a Filmmaker" will help you explore these opportunities in powerful yet practical ways. I have

many bookshelves in my office, but only a small selection of books make it onto my desk for frequent reference and inspiration, "Think Like a Filmmaker" is on the desk: it is a masterwork for ritual artists in the 21st century! I am purchasing a bunch of these books for the worship design team at my church to feast on: I can't wait to see what God will do when the concepts in this book come to fruition in the church I serve!-Joe Stobaugh, Past-President of The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts; Executive Minister of Worship and Arts, Grace Avenue United Methodist Church, Frisco, Texas.

If I could only use two books in my classes and consulting about worship leadership, "Think Like a Filmmaker" would be one of the two I would choose. The range and depth of topics, Dr. McFee's extensive experience in all aspects of worship planning and leadership, and the accessible way in which she presents the material are evident in every page. It is extremely rare to find a books on worship leadership and planning that cover so many aspects of worship--and do so with integrity and insight. Her creative suggestions about enhancing worship spaces and improving the potency of messages and themes are wonderful. Her diagnoses and approach to common causes of conflict in worship are spot-on. The way she walks the reader through the process of designing sensory-rich rituals, sermons and themes was extremely helpful and clear. What a gift to have a resource that has the depth and heft to speak to worship professionals and people with theological training as well as the directness, simplicity and hospitality to appeal to laypeople. Marcia McFee is a true wordsmith. I not only enjoyed what she said; I appreciated how she said it. I give Dr. McFee's book the highest praise.

Think Like a Filmmaker is so much more than a design manual for artistic worship. Hereâ™s why. Marcia McFee has the core purpose of worship at the center of her creative work: communicating and engaging others in the liberating, motivating, transforming substance of the gospel. On a practical, creative, and spiritual level, Think Like a Filmmaker invites us to dig deep into the collaborative work of creating embodied experiences that touch the minds, hearts, and physical senses of those who bring themselves into our worship spaces. As one who has worked collaboratively with Marcia in crafting worship, I can also testify that her approaches WORK. They lead worship planners through a thorough, intuitive, artistic, meaning-making process and produce in-time, Spirit-filled, impactful, life-giving experiences of worship. I have the privilege to work with an excellent Worship Design Team in the congregation I serve as pastor. This already creative, motivated team will be thrilled - and challenged to deeper engagement with the biblical story and to

the holy task of ritual artistry - when they delve into this volume. I intend to purchase a copy for each of our team members!

McFee has an excellent grasp of what makes worship WORSHIP and not only offers suggestions that most congregations could implement, but also helps the pastor and worship team to present those ideas in ways that help the congregation move forward into being a more inviting congregation even as they gently and carefully expand their own concepts of worship.

In her book *Think Like a Filmmaker*, Marcia McFee does what she does so well – she brings worship to life. Using filmmaking as both lens and metaphor, McFee describes a process for “layering” sensory experiences in worship, so that the community can explore the intersection of the faith narrative and our current life stories. The book celebrates and focuses on the worship arts – visual, verbal, visceral. At the same time, McFee offers concrete and practical methods and practices for building a worship team, inspiring the team around a thematic concept, and then sharing/delegating tasks so as to bring out the God-created creative capacity in everyone involved. As McFee says, “the best creativity happens in structure.” I particularly appreciate the practical tools that McFee offers – for example, encouraging worship planners to think in terms of “worship series,” as a means of inviting the community into a longer-term experience (over weeks) and making the use of creative arts in worship more do-able. Beyond the overall process and structure she suggests, McFee then offers a glimpse into the creative process of a variety of worship arts, working her “anchor image” of filmmaking – visual arts (the art director), music (the composer), wordcraft (the screenwriter), and so on. I serve as chaplain at a Presbyterian seminary, and work with a team of seminary students to plan our daily worship. I can’t wait to try out some of these ideas, tips, and tools, and I’m grateful for the way McFee affirms and encourages those of us who love to be part of the Spirit’s creation of worship.

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