

Christian Movie Reviews

Guaranteed to touch your heart.

After only a few minutes of watching [The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry](#) I found myself reliving life as a twelve year old boy. I remember all too well that nervous-tension, heart-racing, sweaty palms time when I tried to muster up the courage to tell Mary, the cutest girl in my class, that "I liked her." From the white socks pulled up over my calves, to the Stingray bike with the banana seat and high rise handle bars, I instantly related to Dustin, the central character of this new film from Rich Christiano. (Rich also made [Time Changer](#)).

[The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry](#) brings to light how one man can change the lives of those around him. Set in 1970, Jonathan Sperry (Gavin MacLeod) is a seventy-five year old man who befriends three twelve year old boys.

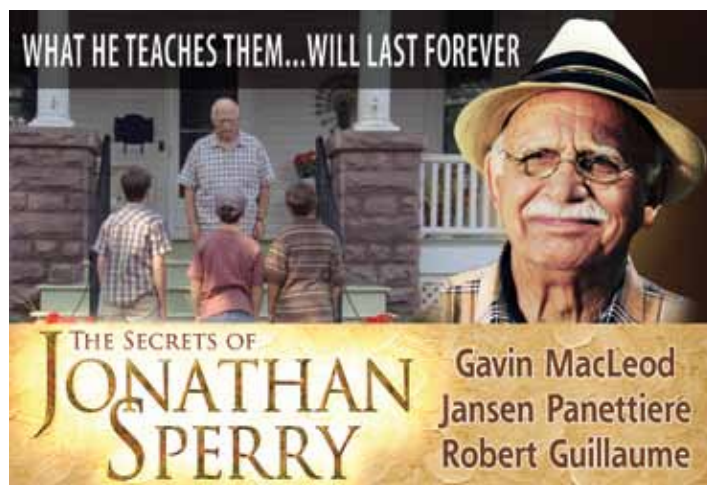
Best buddies Dustin (Jansen Panettiere), Albert (Frankie Ryan Manriquez), and Mark (Allen Isaacson) are looking forward to a summer of fun. When Dustin mows the lawn of seventy-five-year-old Jonathan Sperry, a man he has seen at church, a unique friendship develops. What happens over the rest of this summer is something Dustin and his friends will never forget.

From fending off the neighborhood bully, to that emotional milestone of asking a girl out for the very first time, Jonathan gently motivates and leads the boys in the right directions by showing them how God's Word can provide the answers they seek. He brings the Bible to life for them using some very real, and fun, lessons.

I'm sure many of you may remember Gavin MacLeod from such television greats as "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" or "The Love Boat." His wit and humor, mixed with a healthy dose of likability helped him win the hearts of millions of viewers. But in the role of Jonathan Sperry we see Gavin as a whole new man. Not only because he plays a different character, but because in this role we witness the amazing transformation God has had on his life, both on and off the screen.

In a promo clip for the film, Gavin bears his soul and his story with remarkable frankness. After a brief acknowledgement of the two shows above Gavin states, *"But the important thing is I am now an ambassador for Christ. I gave my life to Jesus September 14th, 1984 and I became a new man."*

While the film was being shown on the pre-release film festival tour, more than 400 people gave their life to Christ after watching [The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry](#). No doubt countless others will be moved by its unashamed approach to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Robert Guillaume (Benson) also appears in the film adding yet another dimension of touching truth, humor, and just the right dose of reality. I was quite taken by the delicate balance Christiano maintained during the film. Too often Christian films can become predictable if not somewhat melodramatic. This movie was neither. It was real, it was genuine, it was from the heart.

As Gavin continues to share his thoughts about the film he says, *"You know, I've been making films since 1957, that's more than half a century. And I've worked with some of the biggest stars in the history of show business. But being Jonathan Sperry is the most rewarding experience I've ever had...It is a film I am so proud of. You can put all my accomplishments of all those years, all together, and it does not add up to The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry."*

[The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry](#) is an inspiring film for viewers from 8 years old to 80 years old. Kirk Cameron (Fireproof movie) commented on the film, *"The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry moved me with its message of the difference one faithful man can make in the lives of many. I recommend this inspiring movie for any family to watch together."*

I highly recommend this film and guarantee it will touch your heart. It may even transform your life.

While it is showing only in a limited number of theaters, Living Christian Magazine is in negotiations with the producers to bring the film to Decatur in the very near future.

If you, or your church would like to help sponsor the film please contact: ted@livingchristianmagazine.com. We will keep you informed as to our progress.

For more about the film, and to watch a trailer, visit www.sperrymovie.com