

Column: The most important movie you'll ever see

Have you ever seen a movie get two separate rounds of applause during the credits?

I never expected a whimsical movie invitation to change my life, {{—}} but after seeing *Sound of Freedom*, there are some things I'll never take for granted again.

{{By the way, if you don't have the means to watch the movie, [Angel Studios](#) is hosting a pay-it-forward program so that it's available to everyone.}}

The movie, based on a true story, is about the child sex-trafficking network **across the world**. {{More specifically, it's about}} **The story features** two children **who were once trapped in this network**, Rocío and Miguel, {{who were once trapped in the network,}} and their {{savior}} **rescuer**, Tim Ballard.

From {{the day}} **the moment** the children were first taken to {{the days}} **when** they were each rescued, {{the movie}} **this film** shows everything: **the betrayal the children felt, the despair from the families, the repugnant character of the traffickers, and the determination of the rescuers**. {{. It shows the betrayal felt by the children. It shows the utter despair felt by the families. It shows the repugnance of the traffickers. It shows the determination of the rescuers.}}

I could hear sobs from everyone in the room, including those sitting next to me, as I watched the movie. I'm not a crier — I tend to express my emotions in different ways — but I've always resorted to telling people, "it's OK" in those situations. This time, I felt helpless because it was not OK.

The writers did a {{great}} use different word than great, maybe efficient, nice, subtle, tasteful, etc. IJ job at mixing {{child trafficking}} statistics into the movie. According to the **film** {{movie}}, there are an estimated 2 million children {{being}} **who are** trafficked in the \$150 billion-per-year industry. The movie also states that there are more slaves in the

Commented [J11]: Indicate the name of the film in the title to improve SEO.

Commented [J12]: Maybe find a different hook. Many films get round of applause in the theaters.

Commented [J13]: Can you reword or explain to me? The *Sound of Freedom* does not come across as a whimsical film, do you mean the title is whimsical?

Commented [J14]: Put this at the end to follow inverted pyramid style.

Commented [J15]: I recommend to insert a specific location or whatever is accurate to the story.

Commented [J16]: Last names?

Commented [J17]: Feel free to reword this paragraph. However, I think it would be most clear to have this in a list format with a colon before.

Commented [J18]: I think this is implied that the statistics included in the film are about child trafficking, so don't repeat yourself.

Commented [J19]: Alternate between the words movie and film so that you're not repeating yourself.

world {{now}} than there ever have been before — including times when slavery was legal {{in most places}}.

However, *Sound of Freedom* is facing controversy. **Many feel the film doesn't show why people lead human trafficking,** {{because many people fall into trafficking due to systemic problems,}} such as drugs, rather than kidnapping {{,}} as the movie suggests. However, it undisputedly shows one very real side of the trade, which should be enough to spark action in everyone who sees the film.

Ballard, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, served a two-year mission in Chile before graduating from BYU with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and political science. **This was** {{,}} followed by a master's degree in international politics from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

These qualifications led Ballard to his work as a special agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. His job was to catch predators in the U.S., specifically those who viewed and distributed child pornography. After 12 years of catching the end users, he concluded that he had to start helping the victims.

While he was in the midst of two separate operations **for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security**, one in Haiti and one in Colombia, {{for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security,}} Ballard was told that the U.S. could no longer support him, using American taxpayers' money to improve the lives of people in other countries. So, with the encouragement of his wife, he quit his job, found private {{people}} investors to fund the operations, and continued helping {{the}} children.

In 2013, Ballard founded [Operation Underground Railroad](#) {{which goes by O.U.R. for short.}} According to the O.U.R. website, the organization's vision is as follows: "We lead the fight against child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation around the globe. Our work has no boundaries — we go to the darkest corners of the world to assist law

Commented [J110]: This argument doesn't make sense to me, can you reword to be more clear? I reworded this section in bold what I thought you were trying to say. Can you fix this for clarity?

Commented [J111]: So you're saying that because the film only shows one side of the story about human trafficking this should be enough to take action? I would reword this paragraph to make a clear argument. Maybe explain how serious human trafficking is, and that it's serious enough to not see another other point of view?

Commented [J112]: Cut up this one long sentence into two shorter ones for clarity.

Commented [J113]: What do you mean by end users? Is this a typo? Please fix.

Commented [J114]: What is this according to? Is this source from the film? This sounds like an opinion rather than fact, so attribute the source.

enforcement in rescuing children and ensure ongoing aftercare. We provide critical resources to law enforcement and preventative efforts that benefit at-risk children worldwide.”

The movie **argues** {{states, on multiple occasions,}} that “God’s children are not for sale.” It invites viewers to consider what they can do in their own communities to ensure the well-being of others and to hug their loved ones a little tighter.

To see *Sound of Freedom* without cost, [Angel Studios](#) is hosting a pay-it-forward program so that it’s available to everyone.

Commented [J115]: Can you add a paragraph somewhere explaining why it's the most important movie you'll ever see? So far you've summarized the movie, what it argues and how others feel about it, but why do you think it's the most important movie? I know we want to avoid advocacy on Scroll, so consider changing the title so then you don't even need to explain why it's the most important movie.