

ONE BRIGHT SHINING MOMENT

The Forgotten Summer of George McGovern



"FOUR STARS (Highest Rating). Essential viewing. A bittersweet, tremendously thought-provoking tribute to the one man who could have dramatically and permanently altered America's political landscape for the better. His was indeed One Bright Shining Moment, and this is One Bright Shining Documentary."

--- **Todd David Schwartz, CBS**

"FOUR STARS (Highest Rating). Lively documentary about McGovern's disastrous run for the US presidency. The interviews with him are worth the price of admission."

--- **Christian Science Monitor**

"Narrated with heat by Amy Goodman ... An elegy for decency and true democracy in American politics...Its ferocity about the state of American politics could earn it substantial numbers among doc, arthouse and politically progressive audiences... Helmer-scribe Vittoria finds bookends everywhere -- the political rise of McGovern running from "Tet to Nixon," his public life essentially spanning "Huey P. Long to Huey P. Newton." It's an affectionate portrait of man once described by Robert F. Kennedy as the most decent man in the Senate... Pic gains poignancy amid speculation about the the kind of world that would have existed had he won."

--- **Variety**

"Now a lively, long, intelligent documentary called "One Bright Shining Moment" helps to explain why. Stephen Vittoria, the experienced director who made this film, braiding a series of crisp interviews with McGovern (then and now) and his campaigners and enthusiasts, provides a saddening clarification of McGovern's defeat. Especially sad these days... His portrait in Vittoria's film is in a way painful: we feel very distanced from him today. The title is not a misnomer."

--- **Stanley Kauffman, The New Republic**

"Clearly, One Bright Shining Moment, besides being a vivifying, entertaining documentary, it is a tool that can educate our young, and hopefully cure the "terrible cancer eating away at the soul of our nation."

--- **New York Theatre Wire**

“Narrated by Pacifica Radio's Amy Goodman, the documentary will appeal to those who like their political commentary with unbridled bite. Its introductory narration bemoans today's "morally bankrupt power brokers," while showing news footage of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney. J. Edgar Hoover is described as "that pillar of American justice," and Democrat Henry "Scoop" Jackson, "the good senator from Boeing." Bill Clinton and Madeleine Albright are also the recipients of criticism. The film's no-holds-barred approach is as opinionated as last year's political exposé *Bush's Brain* and, not surprisingly, *Fahrenheit 9/11*.”

--- **Film Forward**

“As this surprisingly timely pic poses, what does McGovern's overwhelming electoral defeat say about our political process then and now? The expected archival footage is supported by telling interviews with McGovern himself as well as supporters, historians and activists. If you're a history-politics buff, you're gonna want to seize this *Moment*.”

--- **E! Online**

"Thoughtful interviews with an array of insiders (including Dick Gregory, Gloria Steinem, Warren Beatty, and Gary Hart) reflect back on the man who ran on a platform of fairness and compassion. Of the many political documentaries that have recently emerged, ONE BRIGHT SHINING MOMENT resounds perhaps more strongly than any other."

--- **Hamptons International Film Festival**

“Places his one bright shining moment in brilliant context. The cast of talking heads includes a delightfully acerbic Gore Vidal, a clear-headed Gloria Steinem and McGovern himself, who comes across every bit as honest, intelligent and heroic as the movie takes pains to portray him. The relevance to our current morass is obvious.”

--- **The L Magazine**

“The portrait of this honest, idealistic man driven by a sincere wish to help his country will make you weep for our current political state.”

--- **IFC**

“A riveting tale of idealism vs. cynicism.”

--- **New York Daily News**

“Stephen Vittoria has created a true “blast from the past” in his documentary film about Senator George McGovern, the 1972 Democratic nominee for President... It is all there: the music; the film footage from the war and the conventions; Gloria Steinem; Dick Gregory; Gore Vidal; Gloria Steinem; Warren Beatty; and Howard Zinn. It is a must see for anyone who believes that the political process can make a change for the better and for all students of history.”

--- **New York Cool**

“The film is an elegant homage to a man who once urged America to "come home" to its core values, but it also illuminates much of the political landscape of the '60s and early '70s--as well as today.”

--- **Caroline Palmer, City Pages (Minneapolis)**

“A fascinating study of the political career of George McGovern... This film is two hours long, but it goes by like the wind as it looks back at the Vietnam War, the civil-rights movement, the years of assassinations and the political movements that grew out of those days. Interesting interviews of people close to McGovern include Gore Vidal, Warren Beatty, Dick Gregory and Gloria Steinem. This work is a bright shining moment for the theater audience. Let's keep those documentaries coming.”

--- **Grand Rapids Press**

“Stephen Vittoria’s thoughtful documentary attempts to rehabilitate the 1972 presidential campaign of George McGovern, the Democratic Party’s last truly progressive nominee for the White House. Narrated by Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman, this surprisingly thorough film presents McGovern as an unlikely prairie populist.” --- **LA Weekly**