

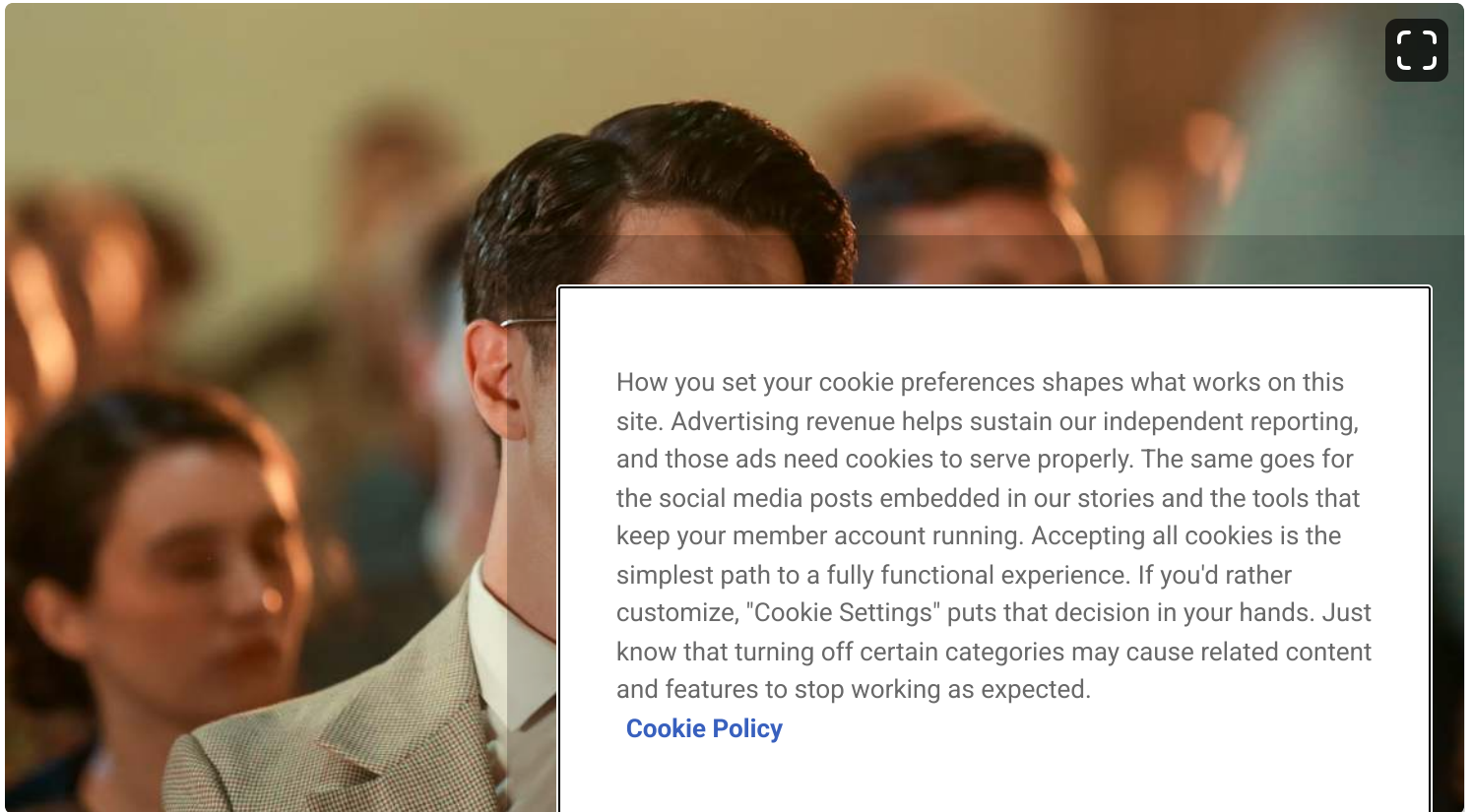
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New film 'Reagan' aims to unite, Catholic actor says

The new biopic "Reagan" hits the theaters on Aug. 30, starring Dennis Quaid and Catholic actor David Henrie, who portrays the teenage Ronald Reagan.



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Catholic actor David Henrie portrays a young Ronald Reagan in the new biopic "Reagan".

By **Francesca Pollio Fenton**

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The first full-length film focusing on the life of the 40th president of the United States, Ronald Reagan, will be hitting theaters on Aug. 30. The biopic "Reagan" stars Dennis Quaid, and Catholic actor David Henrie portrays the teenage Reagan in the film.

The story takes place during the Cold War and follows Reagan's journey from his childhood in Dixon, Illinois, all the way to the White House. The film recounts the many odds Reagan overcame and the role his wife, Nancy, played in supporting him along the way.

Henrie spoke to CNA about his role in the film, the impact Reagan has had on him as a man of faith, and why he believes Catholics should see the film.

Born in 1989 at the end of Reagan's second term as president, Henrie didn't experience Reagan's presidency. However, when he began to discuss the role with friends and family he was surprised to hear the many stories others close to him had of the 40th president.

"It was really interesting to me when I brought up the role around family and friends to see the reaction. I immediately go into stories in a very personal way, even if they hear them."

"So, for someone who literally meet people who had this perspective, I saw the depth and breadth of it."

Another aspect of Reagan's life that Henrie says Reagan was a child of alcohol.

"That to me when I was studying, it was a very impactful thing on anybody."

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into a superpower — a source of empathy, compassion, understanding, mutual suffering.”



Actor Dennis Quaid as Ronald Reagan in the film "Reagan" © The Dennis Quaid Project

Henrie further described Reagan's faith and desire to help and fix the world along with his upbringing, the influence of his life.”

The actor highlighted that throughout his life leading up to the 1980s, things are possible with God.

“The fact that he went from actor to governor to head of state, you have to believe in God to

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possible with him, you can accomplish so much.”

He added that for Catholics, many will immediately recall the relationship Reagan had with Pope John Paul II and the “shared and common goals” that the two worked on “that changed the world.”

Henrie believes that the film will serve as a good reminder “of what can be accomplished in Christ and uniting and not necessarily dividing.”

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Francesca Pollio Fer

Francesca Pollio Fer
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ffenton@ewtn.com Fran

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