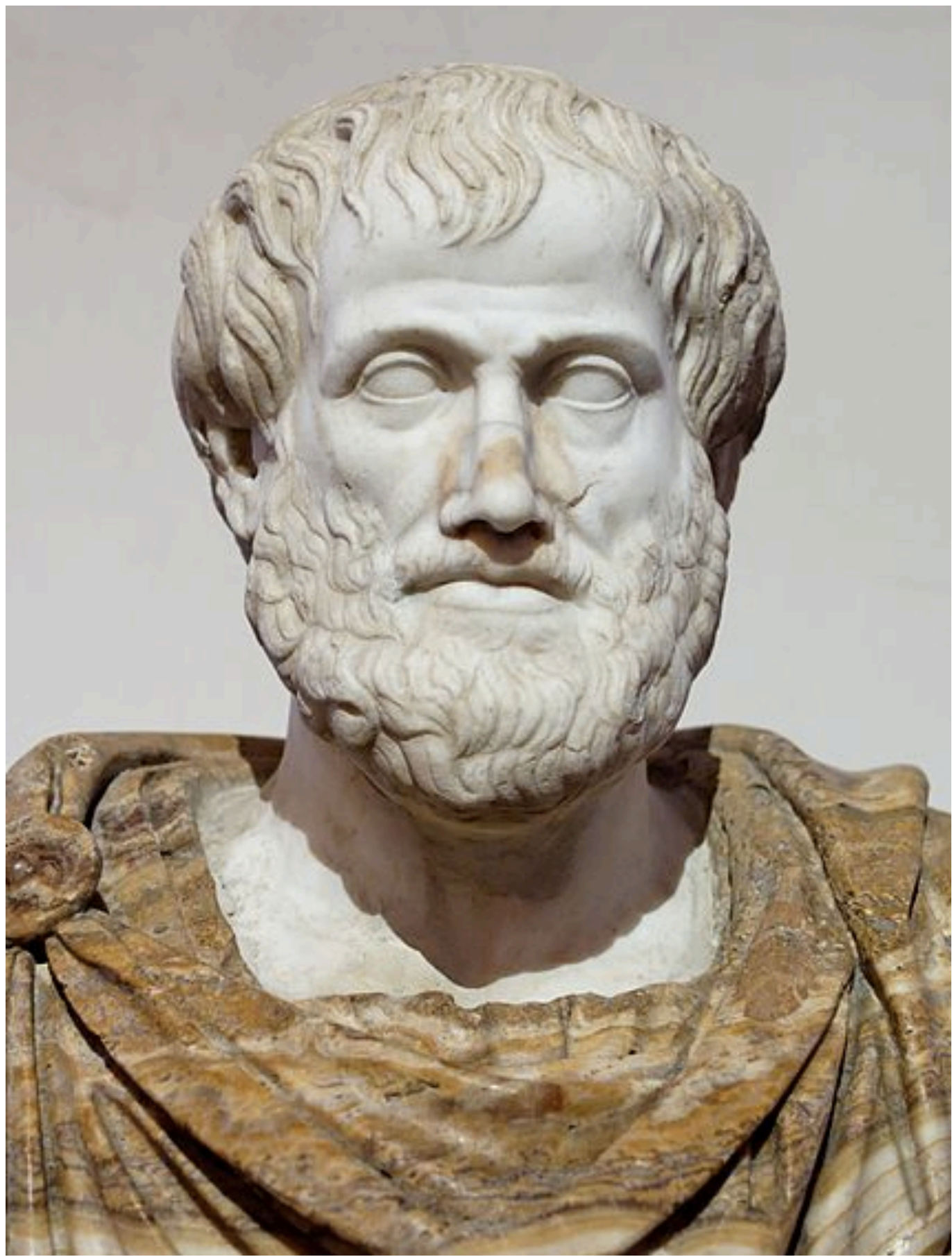


SUPERHERO MOVIES, AND POLITICS: THE MORAL OBLIGATIONS OF FILM MAKERS ACCORDING TO VIRTUE ETHICS

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OVERVIEW OF VIRTUE ETHICS

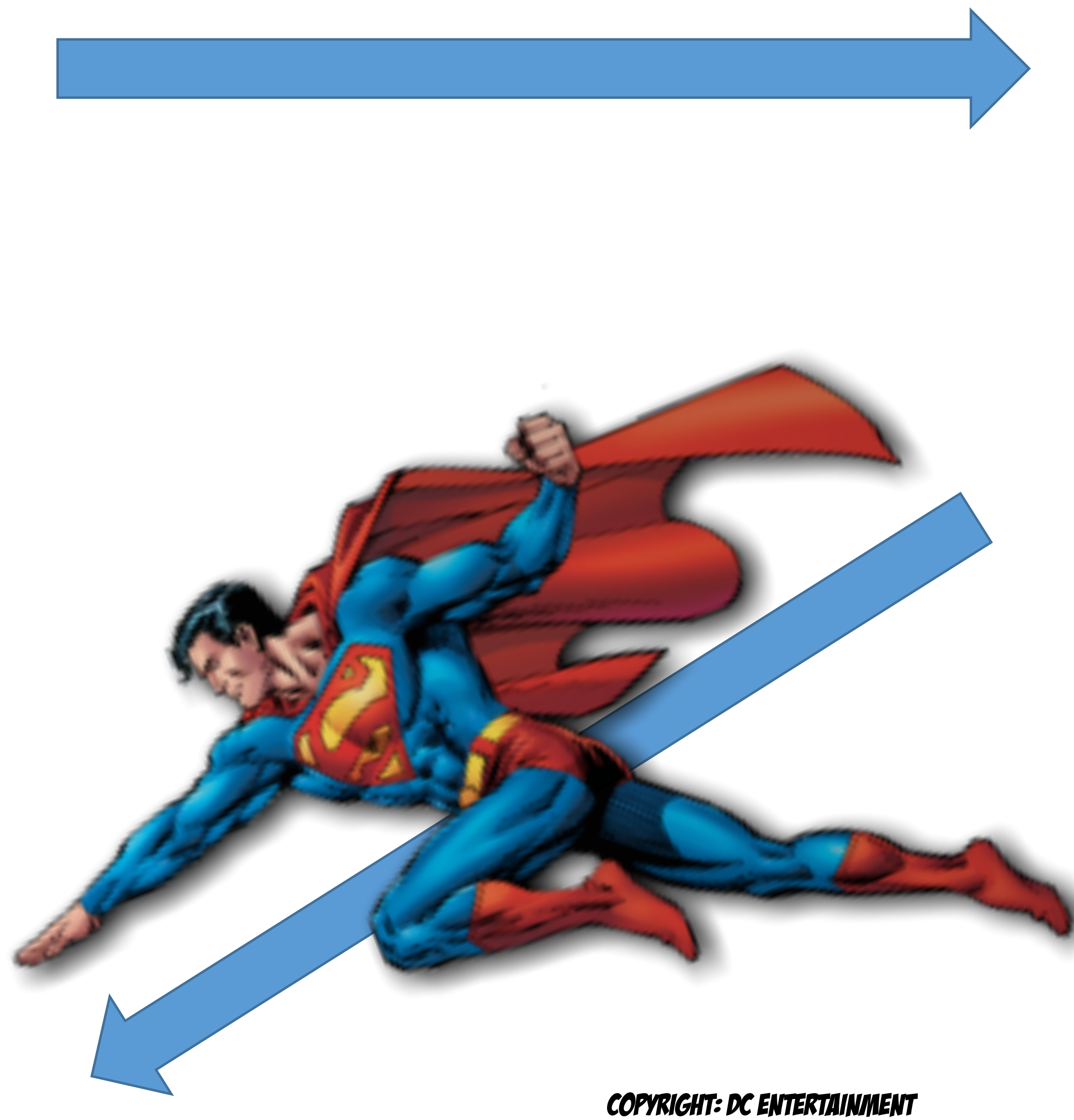
- Individuals should strive to embody virtues. When someone acts in accordance with a virtue they are acting rationally (Hursthouse, 2018).
- Ex. Bravery, selflessness (Hursthouse, 2018).
- Virtuous character is a product of habituation. We must learn it from a teacher (Aristotle, 2011).
- Politics as the process by which we determine what can be considered good for humanity (Aristotle, 2011).



ARISTOTLE

POLITICAL FILMS VS. PROPAGANDA FILMS

- Virtue responsibilism characteristics traits such as open-mindedness and honesty as intellectual virtues. (Baehr, n.d.)
- Those who create propaganda ignore their moral obligation to cultivate intellectual virtues.
- When assessing whether a work of art qualifies as propaganda, we need to evaluate the intellectual virtues of the artist.



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SUPERHERO FILMS AS TOOL OF MORAL EDUCATION

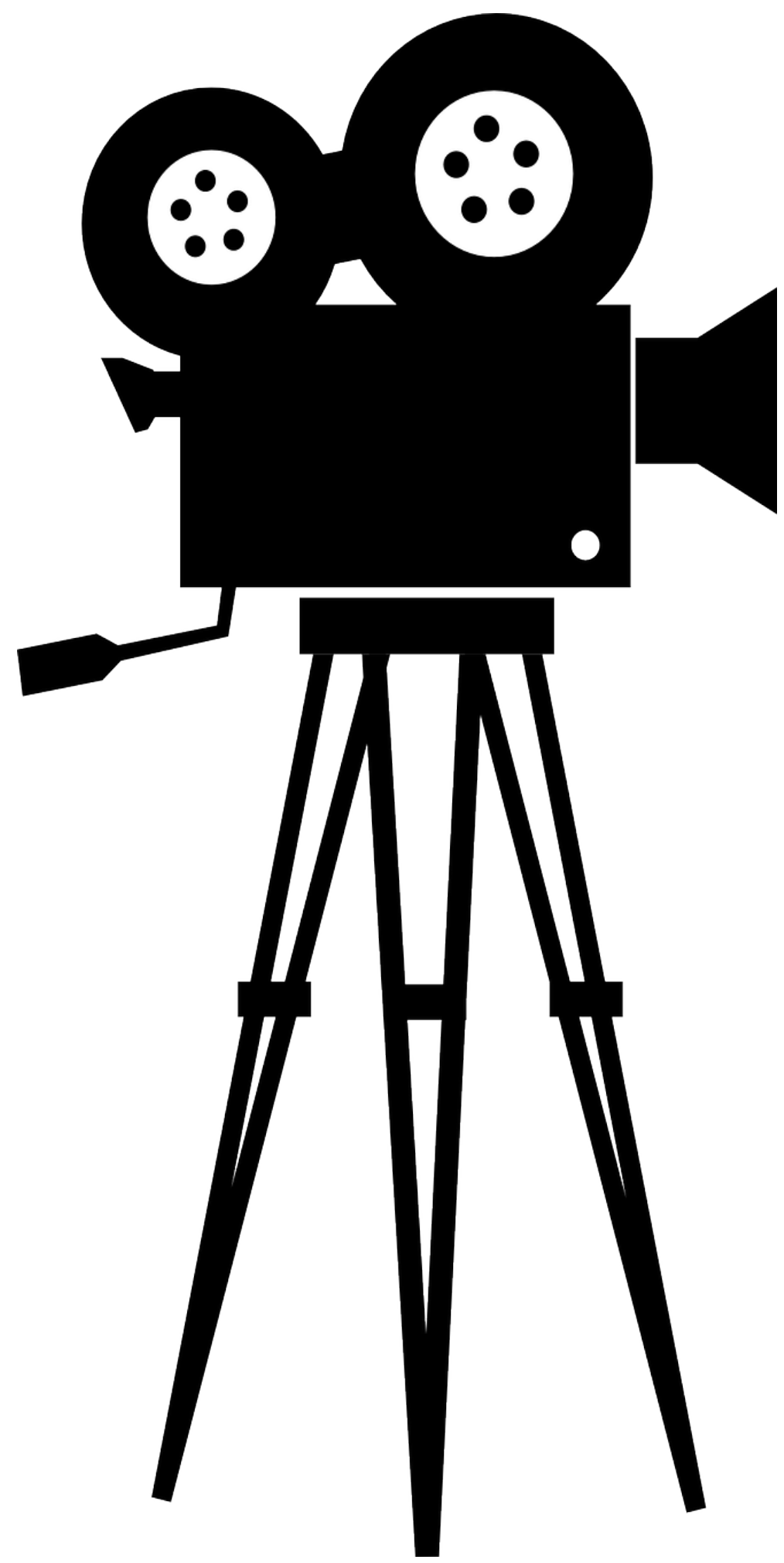
- Virtues have “Platonic Forms”, that is abstract forms that exist independent of the physical world. (Sedley, 2016)
- Because superheroes exist in the abstract, like the platonic forms of virtues, they are perfectly suited to serve as role models.
- Films promote moral reflection through imagination.



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THE MORAL OBLIGATIONS OF FILMMAKERS

- It is virtuous for filmmakers to share information about cultivating moral character with others.
- In showing a superhero engage with political issues relevant to present society, a filmmaker is making a superhero a better role model.
- If politics should be concerned with discovering what it means to be a good person, then this means that all superhero films are inevitably political .
- If a filmmaker to remove moral issues from superhero films.



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