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Samuel L. Jackson and Leonardo DiCaprio star in the new film 'Django Unchained' from Quentin Tarantino.

# Mind Altering

*'Django Unchained' raises the conversation on race*

BY DARLEEN ORTEGA

"Django Unchained" was the third best film on my 2012 favorites list (opinionatedjudge.blogspot.com). Writer/director Quentin Tarentino used his creative gifts and the clout that he wields in the movie industry to do something brilliant and impor-

tant. He has altered our collective consciousness about race and American slavery, for the better.

Oppression and wrongdoing do not simply resolve themselves; they reverberate for generations. Americans know this in theory but ignore it in practice. To use American

## OPINIONATED JUDGE

BY JUDGE  
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slavery as an example, we like to act as though it is old news of historical interest. It happened a long time ago; it doesn't have anything to do with us today. To keep dwelling on it -- to quote a certain Supreme Court

justice -- just perpetuates outmoded racial entitlements.

Although film is a medium with a singu-

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