

The New Criterion

The Media

May 2009

Superfluous kings for messengers

by [James Bowman](#)

On the lack of true greatness in the celebrity era.

At least let us hear no more about the “cynicism” of the media. Miss Jade Goody, the British reality-TV superstar of whose approaching demise I wrote last month in this space, has now died; a nation has mourned her passing; and, in what David Aaronovitch of *The Times* of London rather hyperbolically calls “the war between Jade and the jaded,” I find myself unhappily classed among the latter group. “Cynicism,” claims Mr. Aaronovitch, “comes as easily to a journalist as hyperbole—sometimes even in the same article. There is a small media industry to build a Goody-type phenomenon up and a slightly smaller one to lament that such a vulgarity exists at all.” I would have thought that we lamenters form a *much* smaller “industry,” but let that pass. It’s true enough that the lamentations can become, willy-nil ...

James Bowman is the author of *Honor: A History* (Encounter Books) and *Media Madness: The Corruption of Our Political Culture*, also published by Encounter (2008) .

[more from this author](#)

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 27 May 2009, on page 55

Copyright © 2012 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/Superfluous-kings-for-messengers-4085>