

Jordan Crist

Professor Aner Preminger

Israeli Cinema

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Fellow Traveler Analysis

Fellow Traveler is an excellent film which paints the political uncertainty during 1977, by creating characters of multiple backgrounds such as Israeli artists, academics, and left winged activists. This film is more than a war film comparative to the role the main character played in his previous debut film Paratrooper. The difference this film discusses Israeli culture and how the two parties denounce on another about Israeli occupation and the repression of the Palestinian people.

The plot of the film can be summed up very briefly as the story of the events follow a similar pattern to the previous film we have seen. To begin, Yoni the main character grew up in kibbutz which is a community lifestyle in Israel based on agriculture. Where he then served in the Israeli army until most recently he moved and lives currently in west Germany. Yoni believes in the importance of furthering Palestinian cultural development in this region of Israel like his German professor. To achieve this goal Yoni agrees to carry a large sum of money destined for a group of people in Israel, using this money to help open a university. Upon his arrival Yoni meets Jamila, who is the head of the group in Israel meant to use this money for the start-up of the university. Unfortunately, this does not go as planned where Jamila is planning on using this money as an investment in weapons from an American arms dealer. In a scramble attempt to back out of this deal Yoni hides the money and becomes caught in an international web of violence and conspiracy.

The film is connected to the previous hit Paratroopers based on the main character's viewpoint of the war. In the previous film he was pro war and felt that the only way he would ever be remembered or make a name for himself was if he was in the war and fighting for his country. On the other hand, this film paints the picture of him not being for the war this is acting as a continuation of the previous film where he has left the war fighting scene and is now on the activist side of stopping the war. I believe this pairs very well and ultimately connects the two-different view-points about being pro war or rebellion.

To conclude, Fellow Traveler is a very complex and riveting political thriller, which tests both moral and civic issues for the viewer. Our story about an Israeli who has separated himself from a conflict rooted in his ethnicity by living in Germany and being brought to the forefront in an international web of violence. This film symbolizes the amount of passion each side of the resistance has for their side of the cause they are fighting. Personally, I enjoyed this film due to its complexity and political thriller genre which is very similar to many popular films in the United States.