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Israeli Cinema

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Fictitious Marriage Analysis

Fictitious Marriage is an outstanding film which pivots the industry as whole on its head. The film accomplishes this by exploring multiple issues of identity and distrust between Arabs and Jews. Where this film shines are through its satire images containing a multitude of humorous caricatures of people.

I believe the meaning of the title shows the true conflict between Arabs and Jews in Israel. By symbolizing the double meaning of being married during a time of political unrest in a society of cynicism, loathing, and confusion. Fictitious can be defined as being not real or imaginary and Marriage is defined as the recognition of two people as partners in a relationship. The comical part of this name is the oxymoron the director decided to use when representing the film on the big screen. As we explore the multiple issues of distrust between the two ethnic groups who are “married” in this house they share called Israel. On the other hand, this symbol of marriage and unity is not real hence the first word in the title, clearly defined above as not being real. This films exemplifies the comedic atmosphere about the conflict in a very satiric approach.

The plot of this film cuts through scenes and images of those who are pretending to be someone who they are not. However, we begin with Eldi who is a married schoolteacher and is currently experiencing a midlife crisis. Overwhelmed from work and being a father of two kids he decides to leave his family on a trip abroad. During this trip, he decides to change his identity and lives out the different personalities he dreams of being someday. What seems to stick the most is being a visitor from New York, what I personally find interesting about this is how American cities and people from there are always on the list of who they aspire to be like. Instead, he meets a young Israeli woman who is fantasizing of becoming an American and an Arab bellboy trying to be an Israeli. Both of which are plays on the true characters of who they each are in life, both never wanting to be something more than they are currently. As our story continues he switches his identity as a Palestinian construction worker. In both of his roles as Palestinian and American, he has an affair with both woman. Eldi builds up his trust with his Arab workers, however when they take an old tire to hang near a construction site. He breaks out of his newly found role and his distrust comes out against Arab, for the fear of a bomb being in the tire swing. When he realizes, there was a mistake with no intention to hurt anyone he returns home having failed to build a true lasting marriage with his co-workers.

To conclude, this film discusses the amount of pressure and feelings one has about certain groups you are taught to not trust. The comedy and double meaning of many characters masks this meaning well by being a humorous approach to a much deeper meaning on the society be used to and still live in to this day.