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Appropriate Behavior

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Appropriate Behavior

Abstract

This is a film review of *Appropriate Behavior* (2014), directed by Desiree Akhavan.

Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).

Appropriate Behavior
(2014)
directed by Desiree Akhavan
NEXT

If you are a bisexual woman in an ideal Persian family, what is “appropriate behavior?” Shirin, played by writer and director, Desiree Akhavan, is making the effort to answer this question.



In this delightfully funny film, Shirin must navigate a relationship with Maxine that lasted some time, but ended badly. She must navigate a relationship with an adventuresome couple. And she must navigate a number of relationships with men. Throughout all of this, Shirin wants to remain a part of an ideal Persian family.

Again, what is appropriate behavior? Unfortunately, figuring out what is appropriate behavior is not black and white. It is context-dependent and confusing. There is no road map. In addition to this, the search for appropriate behavior is a lonely one. There is no group for bisexual women from an Iranian background. Religion and culture are part of the terrain that must be negotiated in discovering the nature of appropriate behavior.

— William L. Blizek