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LaZercism

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Abstract

This is a film review of *LaZercism* (2018), dir. Shaka King.

Keywords

Racism, Police Brutality

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Author Notes

Rubina (Ruby) Ramji is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Cape Breton University. After serving as a Chair of the Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group for the American Academy of Religion and then on the steering committee, Rubina continues to serve on the Executive Committee for the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion as President and is the Film Editor of the *Journal of Religion and Film*. Her research activities focus on the areas of religion, media and identity, religion in Canada, and religion and immigration.



LaZercism, dir. Shaka King

The U.S. Narrative Short Film *LaZercism* is an in-your-face look at the racism embedded in American society, especially towards African Americans. They are neither safe from the police, nor from everyday discrimination. It makes us aware of the fact that young kids are being beaten up by police officers and teachers are devaluing the abilities of young students. But *LaZercism* isn't only a laser treatment for the racists, but also for the African American child who grows up with an externally imposed lack of self-worth. It's a poignant film, doing in 5 minutes what some feature films fail to do in two hours. Racism and prejudice has blinded both white and black people in the United States. This has to change. Yet it can also play a much larger role in society, making us aware of our biases towards others' religious beliefs and practices, ethnicities, and skin colors. We all need *LaZercism*!