



January 2019

## Dominant Species

William L. Blizek

University of Nebraska at Omaha, wblizek@unomaha.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf>

Please take our feedback survey at: [https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE](https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE)

### Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2019) "Dominant Species," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 23: Iss. 1, Article 17.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32873/uno.dc.jrf.23.01.17>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol23/iss1/17>

This Slamdance Film Festival Review is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Religion & Film by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@UNO. For more information, please contact [unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu](mailto:unodigitalcommons@unomaha.edu).

---

## Dominant Species

### Abstract

This is a review of the short film *Dominant Species* (2019) directed by Joseph Sackett.

### Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

### 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).



**Dominant Species (2019), dir. Joseph Sackett**

A non-human species, appearing as small balls of light, enter a room filled with men sleeping. A voice says: “Welcome children. We are going to start right away. Please make your selection.” The alien beings then enter the bodies of the sleeping men. The aliens dominate the male earthlings. The men are then paired off and set against one another until one of each pair defeats the other. The winners are the dominant species.

At one point, Number Ten is seen as the prime example of the dominant species, but he then tries to leave the group in his human form but The Voice won’t let him. At this moment, the white light leaves the human body and we see it move to enter the body of a woman. Since Number Ten was the best at dominating, I think that the movie is telling us that women are the dominant among our species.

But the movie does more than tell us that women are dominant. It raises the question of what it means to be dominant. How should we behave if we are the dominant one in a two-person relationship? How are we to behave if we have more power and privilege in society than others? How should we treat other countries if we are the dominant country in the world? And what

happens when the dominant ones are no long the dominant ones? This short film, among other things, raises interesting issues regarding the ethics of dominance and power and privilege.