



Journal of Religion & Film

Volume 23
Issue 1 April 2019

Article 23

2-2-2019

This Teacher

William L. Blizek
University of Nebraska at Omaha, wblizek@unomaha.edu

Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2019) "This Teacher," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 23 : Iss. 1 , Article 23.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol23/iss1/23>

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.

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

This Teacher

Abstract

This is a film review of *This Teacher* (2019), directed by Mark Jackson.

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).



This Teacher (2019), dir. Mark Jackson

A young Muslim woman from Paris (Hafsia) travels to New York City to visit her best friend. When her stay in the city becomes uncomfortable, she takes off for a cabin in the woods for a meditative retreat of her own making. Here she meets a couple, Rose and Darren, who are themselves getting away from it all.

Rose is a school teacher and she owns a tee shirt that says: “This Teacher Supports Our Cops.” “This Teacher” appears over an American Flag and “Supports Our Cops” appears under the flag. Darren is a cop.

After jumping in the lake, Hafsia is given some dry clothes by Rose. The dry clothes include the tee shirt that says, “This Teacher.” The teacher has given up the shirt, signifying that now Hafsia will become the teacher.

And here the story turns dark as Hafsia begins to understand that Rose and Darren are Islamophobic. When they discover that Hafsia is Muslim, the dramatic confrontation begins. In the end, Hafsia teaches the couple that they are Islamophobic and she learns that even in “enlightened” or “tolerant” cultures, religious discrimination runs just below the surface.