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You Wouldn't Understand

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You Wouldn't Understand

Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *You Wouldn't Understand* (2021), directed by Trish Hernatiaux.

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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.



You Wouldn't Understand (2021), dir. Trish Hernatiaux

You Wouldn't Understand is an inventive sci-fi short that will leave you without a clue the first time you watch it—and yes, you should watch it again. It starts off with a perfectly idyllic scene: a warm sunny summer day, birds singing, a well-dressed man enjoying a beautifully laid out picnic. But then he spies something in the distance; two men in white running towards him. They disappear behind a bush, we hear a scuffle, and only one man emerges. We are immediately put on the alert as the music changes tone and becomes threatening. The fact that this interloper asks for “horsey” sauce instead of horseradish clues us in to the fact that he is not local, and perhaps he is not human at all. And then we are caught in a time loop and realize that we have watched something that has already taken place, and it never ends. This short is a wonderful masterpiece of hidden clues. In ten minutes, we see a glimpse of heaven and perhaps hell. But I will let you decide what you think the movie is about: I am still intrigued. And confused.