



April 2022

Goodbye Jerome!

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

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



Part of the [Film and Media Studies Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

Please take our feedback survey at: https://unomaha.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8cchtFmpDyGfBLE

Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2022) "Goodbye Jerome!," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 26: Iss. 1, Article 29.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32873/uno.dc.jrf.26.01.019>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol26/iss1/29>

This Sundance 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.

Goodbye Jerome!

Abstract

This is a film review of *Goodbye Jerome!* (2022), directed by Gabrielle Selnet, Adam Sillard, and Chloé Farr.

Keywords

Afterlife, Heaven

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 Emeritus 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).



Goodbye Jerome! (2022), dir. Gabrielle Selnet, Adam Sillard, Chloé Farr

This is a film about heaven and what we should or should not expect when we get to heaven. We first meet Jerome at the gates to heaven. Ants are crawling over the gates. The ants will be back. We learn that Jerome is searching for his wife, who died the year before. He encounters various situations—people eating, dancing, grilling hot dogs, and so on—and in each situation he asks the people if they have seen his wife. He describes her differently to each group or person he asks about her, so we learn much about Maryline.

Finally, he meets his deceased wife. He tells her that he wants to pick up where they left off—being together. This is, I think, a common view of heaven—a place where we will once again see our departed loved ones and where we will continue the relationships that we had before their passing.

But it turns out that Marilyn is not interested in “taking up where they left off.” She has started a new life and she enjoys being alone in this new life. She kisses Jerome on the cheek and says goodbye. She then rides off on her bicycle to her thai boxing class.

Jerome is shattered—literally shattered. He jumps off a high railing and falls to the ground where he breaks into many glass shards. The ants return here and carry him underground where they put him back together again.

Jerome then accepts the fact that he is in heaven, but that heaven is not what he had expected. We are asked by the film to consider what we expect heaven to be like and what we will do if heaven is not what we expected.