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## Walls Cannot Keep Us from Flying

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

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## Walls Cannot Keep Us from Flying

### Abstract

This is a film review of *Walls Cannot Keep Us from Flying* (2022), directed by Jonathan Haff Mehring.

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### 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).



**Walls Cannot Keep Us from Flying (2022), dir. Jonathan Haff Mehring**

This is the story of two young Palestinians who fell in love with skateboarding. And they wanted to share that love with other Palestinian children. Early on, Palestinian children had to go to Israel to be able to skateboard. This was difficult and dangerous. Finally, the Palestinians built their own skatepark.

Omar’s “wish in life is to spread skateboarding throughout Palestine, regardless of the occupation.” When he skateboards, he imagines that there is no occupation, no walls. He feels free. Even under difficult circumstances we can skate, live, and learn.

When Yasmeeen skates she gets a very beautiful feeling. “You feel as if you’re flying,” she says, “as if you’re in the sky.” This is a feeling she wants to share with others, especially girls. Most sports in the West Bank are only for boys. So, it is even more difficult to get girls to

participate in skateboarding. But if you are a girl and have character, ambition, a goal, a dream to achieve, then you can create opportunities for girls as well as boys. Like Omar, Yasmeen believes that skateboarding teaches her to live, not merely exist. Yasmeen has come to skateboarding, after founding an organization, “Girls Nonstop,” an organization designed to give girls more opportunities and hope.

This is a film about two young people who believe that even under the most difficult of circumstances, you can make the world a better place, a place where children, both boys and girls, can fly.