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Israeli Cinema

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Beyond the Walls Analysis

Beyond the Walls is a remarkable film which pulls string not only in your heart but your mind as well in this prison thriller. This film is more than a war film comparative to the role the main character played in his previous debut film Paratrooper. The difference this film discusses Israeli culture and how the two parties denounce on another about Israeli occupation and the repression of the Palestinian people.

The film is connected to the previous hit Paratroopers based on the main character's viewpoint of the war. In the previous film, he was pro war and felt that the only way he would ever be remembered or make a name for himself was if he was in the war and fighting for his country. On the other hand, this film paints the picture of him not being for the war this is acting as a continuation of the previous film where he has left the war fighting scene and is now on the activist side of stopping the war. I believe this pairs very well and ultimately connects the two-different view-points about being pro war or rebellion.

In my opinion this was my favorite film we have watched so far this semester. I enjoyed how this film could connect so many different types of characters where they all mesh and flow together throughout the film. However, my favorite scene and the one I want to talk about more in depth is the final scene. This scene is powerful because of the song choice at the end where all the inmates are humming the song which was entered the festival. This symbolizes a few things in the movie. First, the lyrics are being represented by Isaam not wanting to be released because he knows how much of a trap this currently is for the rest of the inmates. Second, the inmates all know the song and are humming the song because no matter, your age, religion, nationality you can be united and stand as one in between the ivory walls of the prison. Because like in the movie it is us vs them and we must stand together to end this. Also, as the scene ends the long single dolly shot creates a sense of time, very similar to the amount of time some of them will be serving in the prison. Finally, the slow clap to encourage Isaam to come back out of his cell is powerful because they are all being cheered on and supported by one another in this demonstration of unity.

The film plot is about how prisoners are manipulated to turn against one another by a commanding warden who plays with the emotions of inmates where his goal is to get a result he is looking for. The climax of the film is when one of the inmates killed another but was set up as either a Jew or an Arab killed him yet this was a plan developed by the warden to see who would crack under his plan. Finally, the falling action is when the community of the prison stands up against the warden on a hunger strike and even denies being released or seeing their family, due to their bond and unity they have built through this demonstration.