

WHAT RABBIS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE MOVIE “WHEN DO WE EAT?”

“I thought the film was hilarious! “When Do We Eat?” is the basic description of present day American Jewry, but there are humorous aspects of the unpredictable family dynamics that go on, that any audience will identify with, & find immensely entertaining. There are two ways to use God’s name: you can desecrate it, which makes people feel bad, or you can sanctify it, which is an uplifting experience. Even the part where the young man sins with his cousin is good, because it’s real. It’s reality. And he makes it okay because he bounces back

This film actually generates a certain ethnic pride that is internally inspiring & good for the soul; and healthy for the human rainbow of harmony called the American melting pot.”

Rabbi Shlomo Schwartz, Chai Center, Los Angeles (Hasidic)

“When Do We Eat?” is a sidesplitting comedy, but at the same also conveys a deeply moving lesson in what it means to be human. Very few films in any genre have been able to do that. The movie’s message of hope reminds us that when we open our hearts to new possibilities, when we no longer feel trapped by our normal constraints, true liberation and healing can occur. This is a universal lesson, but one which Judaism, especially through the homebound rituals of Passover, emphasizes. “When Do We Eat?” gives all of us food for thought.”

Rabbi Mark Blazer, Temple Beth Ami, Santa Clarita (Reform)

I saw "When Do We Eat?" and found it most pleasurable and frankly, fun. I have met the director who's a serious Jew, and he views this as a vehicle to confront some important Jewish issues. He also hopes to educate the greater population.

For me, it was compelling not only because of the humor, but also because it made me a tad uncomfortable at times. There were two things that I found particularly wonderful about the film: One was that through humor and "spooof" the filmmaker was able to weave a very spiritual message. A message that is central to Pesach itself.

Secondly, Litvak was able to create something that was so essentially Jewish and bring it out to the general public. I was struck, sitting in the theater, that this would never have been shown in a theater when I was young. The project then reflects our acceptance into "mainstream " American culture!

**Rabbi David Steinhardt, B'nai Torah Congregation, Boca Raton
(Conservative)**

“The writers know how to propel the characters into comedic collision, but don’t leave them there. The truer talent is found in sustaining the humor while exploring the family’s humanity. The movie unfolds to different levels, and finally to a mysterious and funny “finding the Afikoman” at the end. The straitlaced may be taken aback by the characters, initially overdrawn for comedic effect, but those folks have missed the point. Like a sweet onion, the movie peels away layers, each time revealing another delight. I’ve watched the movie several times. Each time I’ve discovered ever more nuanced layers of humor, humanity and healing. It is the only full-length treatment of a Passover Seder ever filmed. It is funny. And it is a lot more.”

**Rabbi Mordecai Finley, Ohr Hatorah Congregation, Los Angeles
(Traditional Progressive)**

Show me an individual that hasn't grown up in a dysfunctional family and I'll show you someone who is in denial (and that is not a river in Egypt). Having said that, there is a film that needs to be seen--"When Do We Eat?" Yes it's funny, but more importantly, it's a brilliant way of looking at what happens when families get together for a festive occasion. In this case it's a Seder, but it just as easily could be a Christmas dinner or what have you. It's about trying to fit in, trying to be different, trying to express ourselves in the midst of a multitude. Beneath the humor, is a very profound message. The members of this family are all desperately trying to free themselves and leave their own personal Egypt.

Yes it's a little edgy, but more importantly, it's true. So, see it, enjoy it, and most of all, see yourself and your family in this amazing film.

Rabbi Philip Bregman, Temple Sholom, Vancouver (Reform)

“When Do We Eat?” is such an entertaining evening with your spouse or buddies. My wife Esther and I came home that night so alive and perky after being on the edge of our seats for 90 minutes with true life drama and laughter.

But “When Do We Eat?” does more - it brilliantly sneaks in Talmudic & Midrashic

teachings which every Rabbi tried to teach their students in Hebrew School. The film accomplishes what Temples have been trying to do for ages. Kol Kavod!"

Rabbi Mendel Schwartz, Chai Center, Los Angeles (Hassidic)

"When Do We Eat? is a wonderfully, purposefully and successfully irreverent film! It follows the Stuckman family as they try to get "unstuck" through their Passover seder. While it might not immediately seem like the kind of seder you have with your family, the more you watch, the more familiar it feels. The heart of the film is about asking questions - and hopefully getting some answers - just the way Passover should be. "

Rabbi Leora Kaye, New York (Reform)