

A Rabbi Encounters Agnostic Existentialism in the Films of Ingmar Bergman

Rabbi Norman Klein

Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30, Jan. 29-March 18, 2020

Jan. 29 Showing and discussion of "The Seventh Seal"; def. of terms: agnosticism; existentialism; introduction of Bergman

Feb. 5 Showing and discussion of "Wild Strawberries"; exploration of Bergman's connection to Swedish silent film, as well as the depiction of the debate of science vs. religion, present vs. the past, son and father, and ultimate, potential reconciliation

Feb. 12 Showing and discussion of "The Virgin Spring"; exploration of why Bergman later was dissatisfied with this film which depicts medieval Christian belief

Feb. 19 Showing and discussion of "Winter Light"; exploration of the agnosticism of a pastor

Feb. 26 Showing and discussion of "Persona"; exploration of this as Bergman's "greatest", or most experimental film

March 4 Showing and discussion of "Shame"; exploration of films commentary on war and specifically the Vietnam War

March 11 Showing and discussion of "Fanny and Alexander" (first half; TV--longer--version); exploration of why Bergman might have wanted this to be his "last" film (even though he made a few more)

March 18 Showing and discussion of "Fanny and Alexander" (second half; TV--longer—version); summary of Bergman's work