



FILM: **DOUGH**

FDG RATING: 3.0

Film Discussion Group (FDG) Scale is 1-5 (5 is best)

John Goldschmidt: *Director*  
Jonathan Pryce: *Actor: Nat Dayan*  
Jerome Holder: *Actor: Ayyash*

DATE: May 22, 2016

## DISCUSSION SUMMARY: **DOUGH**

Our participants described the film, *Dough*, as a light and carefree comedy, sweet, funny, and with many touching moments. It's a simplistic story about diverse people and the complexities of living together. In a few early scenes we see the similarities of the Jewish and Muslim traditions such as Ayyash, the young Muslim immigrant boy from Darfur, spreading his prayer rug on the front floor of the Jewish bakery where he has started working as an apprentice and reciting his Muslim prayers while at the same time Nat, the old Jewish owner is reciting his Jewish prayers in the back room. We see the tender generosity of Nat who gives the boy a job and also opens his home to him and his mother when their dilapidated housing unit gets flooded. It was heartwarming to see people from diverse backgrounds helping each other. And it was sad to see the opposite happen when a bigger grocery chain forces the small Jewish bakery to go out of business. The film had the right messages and outstanding acting by Jerome Holder as the young Muslim boy. But nothing was nuanced. When Ayyash's weed accidentally falls into the challah dough causing a resounding neighborhood demand for the wonderful tasting loaves of bread, the story gets a bit contrived. The film was light and entertaining, a nice escape, but could have been better with a stronger script. In comparison, The film *Learning to Drive* focused on similar issues of diverse cultures understanding each other and had a much more interesting script and more nuanced characters. The characters in *Dough* almost seemed like cartoon caricatures because of their one dimensional development. Our resident reviewers served up a bit more than a half-baked score giving the film 3.0 on a scale of 1-5. (5 is the best).



See you at the movies!

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[Film Discussion Group](#) (FDG) organizer