

Film Title and Release Date: *Don Verdean* (2015)

Film Length in Minutes: 97 Minutes

Film Genre: Comedy

Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 10th Grade

Date Reviewed: July 12, 2021

Don Verdean is a comedy film that follows a Biblical archaeologist who searches for artifacts that prove stories from the Bible are true. The film begins with an old VHS tape showing Verdean's prior archaeological achievements, but all of them show no proof of Biblical events. The film soon cuts to Verdean at a church giving a lecture on his findings when a man stands up and reads a letter from the Israeli Antiquities Authority that states that Verdean had no legal authority to be excavating in Israel. Afterward, at the meet-and-greet in the Church's lobby, Verdean escapes after being pursued by the police, due to his controversial speech and actions. Despite his efforts, Verdean is captured and arrested. However, Verdean is shown to be successful in escaping the police during a riot. When the police eventually find him, Verdean confesses and apologizes to the Israeli's for his crimes. The film then cuts to two months later, where he is convicted of fraud, larceny, aggravated assault, and accessory to kidnapping. The film ultimately ends with the main character in prison. During dinner, Verdean notices a young man sitting alone at a table and asks if he would do anything for God. The man replies by saying "Yes", with Verdean patting him on the shoulder before the film cuts to the credits.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this film on Kanopy by casually browsing through the movie section.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) keep you interested?

Unfortunately, this plot did not keep me interested. Instead, I often felt confused and didn't enjoy how the story developed.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

I believe the pace of the film was too fast and that the main character went through too many big changes in a short amount of time. However, the time jump was helpful.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

This film is appropriate for grades nine through twelve, due to the plot and the many Biblical/historical references made throughout the movie.

2 stars: I did not like this film but somebody else might

Unfortunately, I did not like this film because the plot was not interesting to me. I also found the Biblical references to be confusing and thought the pace of the overall movie was too fast.

However, I think this movie may be enjoyable for people who are interested in history and enjoy comedy.