

BLACK HAT

Shmuel is an orthodox Jew who dreams of a different life.

Before watching: Read through the **glossary** to familiarize yourself with the expressions. Just by looking at the glossary, what do you think the movie will be about?

distracted	<i>distraherad</i>
tzimmes	<i>tzimmes, en traditionell Ashkenazi judisk maträtt</i>
Talmud	<i>Talmud, den centrala texten inom Judendomen</i>
to be fresh out of	<i>det tog precis slut, just ha använt det sista</i>
depth	<i>djup</i>
blessed	<i>välsignad</i>
to sanctify	<i>att helga</i>
commandments	<i>budord</i>
to instruct	<i>att instruera</i>
to belong	<i>att tillhöra</i>
to misplace	<i>att förlägga, tappa bort</i>
to rebuild	<i>att återuppbygga</i>
to favor	<i>här: att gynna, att ge förmån till</i>
to pay heed to	<i>att lyssna till</i>
prayer	<i>bön</i>
to restore	<i>att återställa</i>
sanctuary	<i>fristad</i>
to accept	<i>att acceptera</i>
offering	<i>offergåva</i>
mercy	<i>nåd</i>
divine	<i>gudomlig</i>
presence	<i>närvaro</i>

While watching: Pause the movie at **4:30** and discuss together as a group.

Discuss together

1. Who is in this movie?
2. Where does the movie take place?
3. What do you think will happen next?

After watching: Read through the questions below and answer them.

What is your understanding of what happens in the movie?

A. Answer these questions for yourself at first, then discuss them in pairs.

1. Who is Shmuel?
2. What do you know about him in the beginning of the movie?
3. What do you know about him in the end of the movie?

B. Answer these questions in pairs:


1. Where is it Shmuel goes in the night? Why does he take off his wedding ring before leaving?
2. Who does he meet there? What does he do?
3. What tells are there that this is not his first time in the bar?
4. What happens the next day?

C. Answer these questions together as a group:

1. What do you think Shmuel feels when he realizes he forgot his hat?
2. What do you think he feels when another member of his community hands it back to him?
3. Why do you think the movie is called "Black Hat"? What do you think the hat symbolizes? See if you can find more meanings to the title than just one.
4. What do you think is the message of the movie? What can we learn from it?
5. How do you think the movie makers want us to feel after having watched the movie?

What to do next

Choose one or more out of the following exercises to work with.

-  Write:

Work on your own and write a diary entry written by Shmuel. Try to think of his life from his perspective. Living in an orthodox community, having to hide his real self. What would it be like, you think? What problems could he face? What thoughts run through his head? What fears does he feel? What makes him truly happy? Has he done this before? How does he know where to go?

Pretend you are him and write a diary entry about something that happened in this movie.

-  Discuss:

Work in groups of three or four and discuss what it would be like having to hide your true self in a community or in society. What would it be like to be forced to live a life you don't want? What would it take to break free of that? What would it be like to want something else from

what everyone around you wants? What would breaking with your friends and family mean? Would it be okay to live a life in denial just to please the one you love? How much would you be willing to sacrifice for your family?

-  Listen:

Work as a whole class. Find orthodox Jewish music on the Internet and listen to it together in class. What does it sound like? What do you think of it? Why do you think orthodox Jews listen to their own type of music and not to non-Jewish (secular) music?

Deeper discussions



“Black Hat” is an American movie about an orthodox Jewish man. For these exercises, work in smaller groups of 3-4 and research on the internet.

- Research orthodox Judaism in the U.S. What is orthodox Judaism? Where is it practiced? How is it practiced? How many orthodox Jews live in the U.S. today? What is life like for children in an orthodox Jewish society? Where do they go to school? What can they play with? What about orthodox Jewish teenagers? How is life for them when it comes to school, hanging out with friends etc.?
- This movie is called “Black Hat”. Dig deeper into the dress code of orthodox Jews. What does the hat mean for an orthodox Jewish man? What clothes should an orthodox Jewish man wear? What about women? What do orthodox Jewish women wear? How are children and teenagers within the orthodox Jewish community dressed? What about the hair? What are the rules around hair and facial hair for orthodox Jewish people?
- Look into homosexuality in the U.S. What is it like to be gay in the U.S.? What rights do gay people have? Can they marry? Live together openly? What problems could there be behind coming out as gay? There are many different religious groups in the U.S. What are their views on homosexuality? What is the orthodox Jewish view on homosexuality?

Arbetsbladet är skrivet av Nina Olivier

Upphovsrätten till innehållet i det här arbetsbladet tillkommer UR, om inte något annat särskilt anges. Arbetsbladet får endast kopieras, distribueras digitalt och visas i undervisningssammanhang.