

PRAYING WITH MY LEGS

Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Search for a Meaningful Existence

A Film by Steve Brand

www.prayingwithmylegs.com

COMMENTS FROM LOS ANGELES SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE (6-16-05)

(39 response sheets filled out)

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE WORK IN PROGRESS SCREENED TONIGHT?

EXCELLENT	20
VERY GOOD	12
GOOD	2
FAIR	5

WOULD YOU GO SEE FINISHED FILM?

yes	38
no	0
not sure	1

WHY?

-To be reminded and inspired.

-It gave a good flavor of a very interesting man. I was one of the ones who hadn't heard of him prior to seeing this movie – I had only heard of his name as the school in the valley.

-Very important film.

-It presents an era in America – and Jewish life – that is largely lost now due to racial polarization, religious fundamentalism & suspicion of progressive thought.

-A man who touched so many lives.

-He is badly needed in today's world.

-He has "integrity" and that is rare.

-It's truly inspirational.

-It's exciting. It presents his ideas in good context.

- Fantastic footage – would love to see more!
- The film is a fascinating evocation of Heschel – it makes me want to know more about him.
- I'd like to learn more about Heschel.
- Subject is great and visual showing of Heschel is important.
- Rabbi Heschel is a spiritual giant whose life transcends the trivial that often pervades our world.
- Heschel was a tzaddik!
- AJH one of my mentors and heroes (Reverend James Lawson).
- Because of his morality combined with his political activism that portrays Judaism at its best.

WOULD YOU PAY TO SEE THIS IF IT WERE PLAYING IN A MOVIE THEATRE?

yes	34
no	3*
maybe	1

*Make possible for many to see it.

WOULD YOU PURCHASE OR RENT THE FILM IF AVAILABLE ON VHS OR DVD?

yes	35*
no	2
not sure	1
n/a	1(no tv)

*Absolutely!

IF YES, WOULD YOU

purchase?	20
rent?	16*

*initially and then purchase.

WHAT IF ANYTHING GRABBED YOU ABOUT THE FILM?

-Everything.

-Everything. The man, the others who were touched by him.

-All his experiences and what major events he was part of. The power he had over those of other faiths.

-The way his “presence” affected people. MLK & Heschel.

-His theology, activism, humility and wisdom.

-Spirituality at work.

-His political philosophy grounded in the Prophets.

-His prophetic deliverance.

-His spirit.

-The man’s passion for God.

-The words from Heschel himself.

-Heschel’s words.

-Seeing the words and the man connected.

-Every interview was fascinating – each shed light on a distinct focus of Heschel. Good editing!

-The film had many powerful & touching scenes.

-Seeing Heschel!

DO YOU THINK THE FINISHED FILM WILL BE EFFECTIVE AS A TOOL FOR BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER THROUGH INTER-RELIGIOUS AND INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE?

yes	34
no	0
not sure	4

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

-Excellent material for Jewish, interfaith, social justice and other educational programs.

-More detailed biographical material, as well as of Heschel's philosophical contribution to modern Judaism would enhance this film.

-More about his past, his beliefs, his theology and ideas expressed in his books.

-Would like to learn more about him as a figure of controversy, so that to Jews not become a hagiography.

-This has to be a religious/spiritual piece for Americans to see in the 21st century.

-Finish film for wide distribution.

-If it helps, I'm not Jewish and under 30.

-Excellent editing!

-I was very moved.

-Thank you.