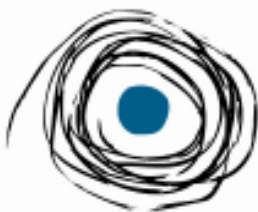


VASERMIL

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. VASERMIL is shot in a “cinema verite” style, with handheld cameras and a documentary aesthetic. What do you think were the filmmakers’ goals in shooting the film this way? How does it affect your perception of the events and characters?
2. Discuss the music in the film. What songs do the characters listen to? How does this reflect upon them? All of the music in VASERMIL is “diegetic,” meaning that the characters hear it as well as the audience - with the exception of the electric “Hava Negila” that bookends the film. What is the significance of this particular piece of music? How does this non-diegetic scoring work to frame the film?
3. VASERMIL raises questions about national, ethnic, and religious identity - particularly, how one does or doesn’t define oneself as Jewish. Discuss the different positions put forth by the film’s characters. Do you agree or disagree with them?
4. Does VASERMIL have a “moral” or a “message”? If so, what might it be? Do you “agree” with this film?



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