



Where Do We Go Now?

Autumn
Season
2012

Release: 2011

Cert (UK): 12A

Runtime: 110 mins

Director: Nadine Labaki

Cast: Claude Baz Moussawbaa, Leyla Hakim and Nadine Labaki



Keswick audiences may remember Nadine Labaki from '*Caramel*' which went down well at the 2008 Festival. She is, again, the star, writer and director of this film, which again takes on some of the beliefs, politics and religions in the Middle East. Her unusual method of doing this is through comedy. '*Caramel*' brought her international recognition as a rising director and actor, '*Where Do We Go Now?*' takes her a bit further with a 'Special Mention' at Cannes.

We are taken to a remote Lebanese village where the Muslims and Christians have lived together in peace for centuries until recently, when the outside world intruded into their lives through the television. Suddenly they have learnt that their religion should make them enemies and the men have learnt to fight and kill each other. The film begins with a procession going to the cemetery again.

As in our earlier film this season on the power of women – '*The Source*' – what follows is a series of attempts by the women of the village to get the men to see things their way, in this case to prevent the men from fighting, to try and cool the tempers and get the men to discuss their differences. First of all they decide to sabotage the television, after which they get more and more inventive.

Critics have been split over this film, but audiences seem to like it – it went as far as winning the Audience Award at Toronto Film Festival. It seems that the split between the comedy and the tragedy has upset some, or maybe it is the presumption that if women ruled, there would be no more war. Whatever you think about these answers, the film is a brave attempt to face up to the huge issues it raises, and it does it with a smile on its face.

What will the Keswick audience think?

