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One Night With The King

Set in biblical times, Tiffany Dupont stars as Hadassah – a young Jewish girl living in Susa, Persia with her Uncle Mordecai (John Rhys-Davies). She lives in dangerous times as King Xerxes (Luke Goss) is being pushed by his advisors to fight a war against Greece before they can move into Persia, forge an alliance with the Jews, and promote democracy, which would upset the monarchy and the current power structure that they benefit from.

**FIND OUT
WHAT'S
HOT**

After a split with the Queen, agitated by those who want to force the King into a war, a search for the new Queen commences, which leads to Xerxes's men kidnapping women from across the country and taking them to the castle for the King to choose from. Hadassah is one of the young ladies, but she has changed her name to Esther to conceal her true heritage and maintain her safety. Soon, she starts to make a positive impression on Xerxes, and we have to wonder if she will be the next Queen, stop the call to war against the Greeks, and be an obstacle to attacks against the Jews.



Back Shelf Beauties
by Willie Waffle

**FIND OUT WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT
EVERY FRIDAY!**

One Night With The King is a movie best appreciated by people who already know the story and want to see it come to life visually. Simply put, writer Stephan Blinn and director Michael Sajbel, have a mountain of material to cover here. We are presented with the relationship between Xerxes and Esther, plotting by those who want to topple Xerxes, another character seeking revenge for actions taken years ago, danger faced by Mordecai and more.

One Night With The King easily could have been a mini-series with so much plot and so many characters to keep track of, but Sajbel does a decent job keeping it all straight. The movie does fail when Blinn tries to modernize the dialogue and his attempts at levity and comic relief often come off stiff and out of place. However, Sajbel maintains the epic feel of the movie and the somber tone that reminds you how important these events are.

While you might wish Rhys-Davies had a larger part, especially as he captivates the audience in his big scenes, and Peter O'Toole, highly touted in all of the ads, trailers and posters for the movie, only appears for about 10 seconds, most of the acting falls into the good enough category. Dupont sometimes falls into sounding like a Valley Girl, but has enough screen presence to make the

character into the hero she is.

One Night With The King might be hard to follow, but is a welcome and honorable telling of the Purim story.

2 ½ Waffles (Out Of 4)

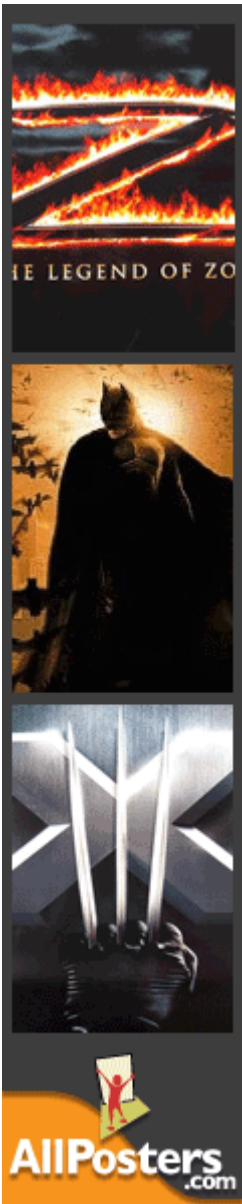
One Night With The King is rated *PG* for violence, some sensuality and thematic elements

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