*Hello America* Film Report

*Hello America* is a satirical film by Nader Galal starring Adel Emam and Sherine, a couple from Egypt who travel to NYC following their suspension from the people’s council. Their conception of American life is quickly dismantled as they stay with Bakhit’s cousin’s family, who find the two Egyptians’ behavior equally confusing and upsetting. Nader Galal’s vision is clearly a platform where nothing is safe from satirical criticism, religion, nationality, masculinity, femininity, race, etc. All conflict in the film surrounds people who look foolish for doing one custom in the presence of someone else doing it differently.

The difference between two countries’ legal systems is a major source of conflict. Bakhit and Adeela are appalled by the rampant vice in NYC while at the same time someone can be sued for millions of dollars over nothing. The social skills that Bakhit and Adeela know from Egypt do not transfer, and at times leave them possessionless, threatened, and homeless.

Nader Galal leans heavily on the objectification of women and sex appeal to fill time in the movie. Bakhit’s wife is constantly looking to him for direction despite the fact that she is much smarter and knows more English. Their relationship is saturated with heteronormative conflict, the wife is looking for stronger and younger men to give her attention while Bakhit is always looking at bustier women. The two have almost no trust for each other.

The relevance to this course is especially present in the character of Barbara, a woman Bakhit ends up marrying to get a green card which he is lustful about until actually meeting the bride. Her name is a slight to the darker skinned Berber people that have been labeled barbarians by other groups. Her character is extremely demeaning in that she is portrayed as dull, angry, mute, poor, greedy, violent, and caveman like. The joke relies on the racism that black women are unattractive and that they are more masculine.

I dislike this film primarily because it generates conflict through characters that are solely interested in money and sex. This makes for a very repetitive plot and predictable outcomes.

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