



**FRANK VS. GOD** was screened by Kino Ken and the LVCA webmaster at the Seton Hill University Performing Arts Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania as part of the 2016 Pittsburgh Jewish Film Festival. What follows is Kino Ken's review of that romantic seriocomedy.

14 of a possible 20 points

\*\*\*1/2 of a possible \*\*\*\*\*

United States 2014 color 100 minutes live action feature romantic seriocomedy  
BBA Studios Producers: Alan Pruzan, Scott Schill, Jillian Stein, Jeff Merriman-Cohen,  
Daniel Springen, Davin Michaels, Wilmore Fowler, Mark Mullen

**Key:** \*indicates outstanding technical achievement or performance

**(j)** designates a juvenile performer

**Points:**

- 2** Direction: Stewart Schill
- 2** Editing: Stewart Schill, Dan Aguilar
- 1** Cinematography: Stephen Campbell 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit DP: Ryan Patrick Dean  
Lighting: Stuart Hall (gaffer)  
Special Visual Effects: Michael Currie, Jeffrey Scheetz, Thomas Cheng,  
Robert Garfinkel, John Hughes, Jordan Land, Po Lin, Joel Perez,  
Peter Perkins, Paul Song
- 2** Written by: Stewart Schill\*  
Script Supervision: Asia LeMasters, Jared Cooley  
Scoring Engineering: Laurence Schwarz Score Mixing: Laurence Schwarz  
Music Editing: Denise Slenski
- 0** Music: Jonathan Beard, Weslie Brown, Edward Trybek
- 1** Production Design: Holley Morgan, Matthew Naumann  
Art Direction: Matthew Naumann  
Set Decoration: Andrea Murillo  
Graphics: Alan Nowogrodzki

**Props: Alisha O'Daniel (Props Master), John Rusnak**

**Set Costuming: Adrienne Cora**

**Makeup: Cori Adkins**

**2 Sound: Andrew Lloyd Johnson**

**Supervising Sound Editors: Tim Alward, Greg Stacy**

**Sound Effects: Ben Conley, Colin Hart, Lee Riley (Supervisor), Kyle Arzt**

**Sound Recordists: Mark Hammer, Andrew Raut**

**Sound Mixer: Tim Alward**

**Sound Rerecording Mixers: Michael Osowski, Kevin Valentine**

**CASTING: GERALYN FLOOD (L.A.), LAUREN O'QUINN, MELANIE MORENO (EXTRAS),  
SHANNON READY**

**2 Acting**

**2 Creativity**

**14 total points**

**Cast: Henry Ian Cusick\* (David Frank); Ever Carradine\* (Rachel Levin, God's defense counsel); Natalya Oliver (Gina Rodriguez); Brian Brightman\* (Karl Krauss, insurance company lawyer); Bern Cohen (Rabbi Grossman); Michael Houston King (Bennet); Lauren O'Quinn (Candy Frank); Ricky Wayne (Billy Frank, David's brother); Terry Loughlin\* (Bishop Rossini); Matt Riedy (Judge Randall); Ted Sod (Imam al Bakri); Lucius Baston (Guard); Eric Estaban (Buddhist Monk); Tim Goodwin (Odd Man); Karl Anthony (Claims Manager); Meghan Aruffo (Reporter); Jay Becker (Leonard); Dontrail Brinson (Courtroom Attendee/News Reporter); Amanda Nicole Castro (Courtroom Attendee); Joe Coffey (Court Clerk); Raul Colon (Courtroom Attendee/Protester); Ellen Marguerite Cullivan (Courtroom Attendee/Photographer/Reporter/Protester); Cher Davis (Courtroom Attendee/Protester); Jon DeLuzio, Eric Ditman, Brian Jalbert, Darrayl Miles, and Ylian Alfaro Snyder (Jurors); Heather Dodson (Heather Frank); Rachel Durose (j) (Lucy Frank, David's niece); Cameron Francis (Cop); Erik Gray (Rastafarian Minister); Gary Gross (Police Officer); Jeff Hamann (Hare Krishna); Travis Herndon (Intense Believer); Daryn Kahn (Jehovah's Witness); Wendell Kinney (Bailiff); Heather Lange (Patron); Alivia Latimer (j) (Lucy's Friend); Asia LeMasters and Loan LeMasters (Courtroom Attendees); Stephen Maddocks\* (Catholic Priest); Jim Miranda (Insurance Executive); Carlos Navarro (Luis Castro); Lindsey Marie Nelson and Tracy Wiu (Reporters); Mark Paskell (Private Eye); Andrew Raffelson (Rabbi/Protester); Valensky Sylvain (Baptist Minister); Kristen Wharton (A Mom); Kelcey Coe (Obese Man in Wheelchair); Audrey, Cherie, and Emma Dempster (Church Patrons)**

Disguised as a smart contemporary comedy, **FRANK VS. GOD** is actually an intelligent, probing dramedy nudging audiences to examine more closely their own views of God's relationship to man.

David Frank, a Job surrogate who has lost an adored youthful wife, is an attorney with a grudge against his creator. He blames an uncaring God for the death of his spouse. Without her presence, David meanders aimlessly through life, self-retired, content to entertain himself with weekend Monopoly matches pitting himself against hired prostitute / law student Gina Rodriguez and conversations directed at his beloved pet dog. Ignoring the advice of friends to blow his reserve money in one outing at Las Vegas casinos, thus compelling him to resume serious work, David prefers to stay at home and nurse his grievances.

When a pair of Mormon missionaries comes calling, assuring him of God's love, David is unable to resist the temptation to menace them with a firearm as a test which will determine irrevocably if they are truly saved. That escapade lands him briefly in jail. Released on bail, David soon reverts to outlaw form, pleading necessity for violating speed limits in order to save his isolated home companion from death by tornado.

Director Stewart Schill wisely gifts protagonist David with some sympathetic, humane qualities, all the same. David's niece, dying of cancer, elicits real compassion and tenderness from him, something no one else seems capable of doing. Why is this innocent child stricken with such pain and anguish? How can a just and loving God treat his creatures so mercilessly? These questions nag at her uncle constantly.

When one tornado spares David's house, only to be followed immediately by a less gracious second one bent on devastating it, the situation is clearly, to the property owner's way of thinking, an arbitrary act of a heedless or prejudiced Supreme Being. At least the home was properly insured.

Not actually, David discovers to his amazement. Insurance compensation is denied for certain special cases, acts of God enumerated in fine print clauses of his homeowner's policy.

That is the last straw. God has to be conducting a vendetta against him for inscrutable reasons. David isn't going to accept God's systematic attacks passively. He will counter with a lawyer's best weapon: a lawsuit. **Frank vs. God**.

If God is found guilty as charged, he will pay and pay and pay. David is certain God won't be declared innocent by a fair, impartial jury. Not by the time he finishes presenting an ironclad prosecution against him.

Rachel Levin, an alcoholic former attorney, volunteers to present the case for the defense pro bono. She wishes to justify God's ways publicly because privately she has considerable doubts about them. The upcoming trial will provide a means of atonement for her.