

The King's Jew

(Based on the play Deus Ex Machina)

12 Episode TV Series

Synopsis

The great Barcelona Disputation of 1263 set three of the most influential men of their time--a King, a Rabbi and a Friar--on a collision course that would change the destiny of Spain. The King is James I of Aragon, known as James the Conqueror. The Rabbi is Nachmanides, known to his people as the Ramban. And the Friar is Raymond De Penyafort, Father of the Inquisition, canonized a Saint in 1601.

In the Disputations of the Middle Ages, Dominican Monks challenged Jews to debate such hot topics as whether or not the Messiah has come, whether he's divine and whether his name is or is not Jesus. The problem was that the rules of Disputation were such that the Jews always lost, which usually meant forced conversion.

One can only speculate on what would have happened if the rules of Disputation were fair. The King's Jew is such a speculation. It begins with a debate of the above mentioned topics. But quickly moves from a discussion of the truth and falsity of one religion versus another, to a discussion of the deceptive nature of belief, itself.

The plot is full of intrigue. The Rabbi must face the fact that his daughter has fallen in love with a Christian. The King is caught between two religious and political worlds, a distraught Queen and his young Converso lover. And Penyafort is involved in a forbidden gay relationship with his protégé, as he works towards establishing the Inquisition.

The King's Jew is based on actual events lifted from the pages of history with these two provisos:

- 1) The rules of the Disputation depicted here are fair and
- 2) The religious issues disputed are issues that are current today.

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