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## David and Kamal, an International Odd Couple

Author: [Bob Etier \(/people/missbobetier/\)](#)Published: <http://www.technorati.com/entertainment/film/article/david-and-kamal-an-international-odd-couple><http://www.technorati.com/entertainment/film/article/david-and-kamal-an-international-odd-couple>

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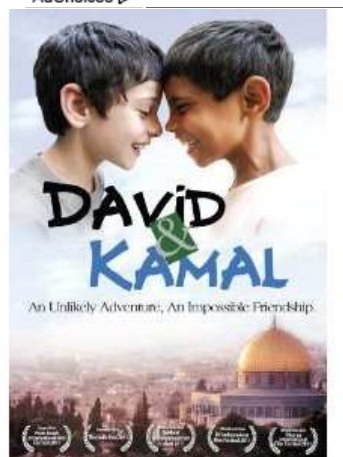
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[David and Kamal \(http://davidandkamal.com/\)](http://davidandkamal.com/) is a movie that one really *really* wants to like (even the box art screams out "Love me!"). After all, it's about an unlikely friendship between two nine-year-old boys: David, a shy, asthmatic, misunderstood (but privileged) American Jew visiting his father in Jerusalem, and Kamal, a poor Arab living in Jerusalem with his abusive grandfather and family. What makes their friendship unlikely is that they meet when Kamal (Abdallah El Akal) steals David's (Zach Cohen) rare coin collection.

David is visiting his father in Israel because his mother is on her honeymoon; father and son have not seen each other in five years and they have little in common. Kamal dreams of going to America and sees David as his ticket out of selling postcards ("Beautiful--3 for dollar") on the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem, poverty, and being beaten by his tyrannical grandfather.

While tweens *might* find *David and Kamal* interesting, the film disappoints with production values on a par with a 1970s *Afterschool Special* (with music to match), a soggy screenplay, and a less-than-gifted cast. In its mercifully short 78 minutes, it mines cliché after cliché. The characters are little more than two-dimensional stereotypes, and even they seem to know this story could have been told better. Tweens deserve more than that. *David and Kamal* will be available on [DVD \(http://www.amazon.com/David-Kamal-Abdallah-Ravitz-Rosenzweig/dp/B0060ANNP8\)](#) January 24, 2012.

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Article Author: [Bob Etier \(/people/missbobetier/\)](#)

Two words describe Bob Etier: "female" and "weird." Like many freelance writers, there's something about her that isn't quite right. Read her stuff and find out what.

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