

14TH ANNUAL



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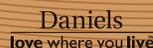
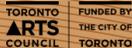
SCHOOL PROGRAM

Grades 9-12

Lesson Plans

The Regent Park Film Festival's School Program provides media-literacy programming to students in Grades 1-12 across the GTA. Our programming creates a dialogue surrounding social issues affecting Toronto's diverse student population.

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reserve your seat today /// www.regentparkfilmfestival.com

Daniels Spectrum is an accessible space, if you have any accessibility concerns please contact info@regentparkfilmfestival.com or call us at 416.599.7733 for more information about support.

#RPF2016

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Regent Park Film Festival's school program. This resource accompanies the films presented as part of the Festival's program for grades 9-12. It provides you with a program synopsis, and simple lesson ideas for **BEFORE, DURING** and **AFTER** viewing the films at the Festival. We hope that you and your pupils have fun and enjoy learning with this resource!

Regent Park Film Festival School Program Grades 9-12 films:

The Grandfather Drum
Handsome and Majestic
Twerk
Human
Failing Lungs
Muna
Sleeping with Family
How to Funny
Static

Program Description:

Each of the films in this year's Grade 9 - 12 program helps us challenge negative stereotypes about our identities, cultures and communities. Follow the stories of individuals who face adversity with resilience and strength. This program invites us to consider how urbanization, technology, institutional racism and trauma impact the experiences of young people of various backgrounds.

SYNOPSIS

THE GRANDFATHER DRUM

When Naamowin's grandson falls sick, he is gifted a healing drum in a dream which restores his grandson's life and continues to be used for healing by the Anishinabek people of the upper Berens River. However colonial and Christian rule shatter the balance of their world, dispossessing children from the village and forbidding traditional practices. Years later, Naamowin's grandson dreams of how to bring the beat of his grandfather's drum back home.

HANDSOME AND MAJESTIC

"I can explain it to you, but I can't understand it for you." Handsome and Majestic follows the story of transgender teen, Milan, and his quest for acceptance in his rural community of Prince George. Milan shines as a hero and a role model to other transgender and gender nonconforming youth, as he stands up to those who bully him.

TWERK

Though white mainstream media sources might report that "twerking" is a new phenomenon started by Miley Cyrus, the reality is that similar dance movements have been a central part of many African and African diasporic cultures for generations. Twerk's message adds to ongoing broader conversations about cultural appropriation, and as Shani Haynes says, "the style of dance has always been here and I think it's going to remain."

HUMAN

A powerful performance piece, Human explores the impact of hateful language. Paint, paper, and the body replace spoken words to emphasize the visceral experience of violence, ultimately speaking back to its dehumanizing effects.

FAILING LUNGS

Phoenix is a high school student who has a disapproving internal monologue, so much that she often struggles to breathe. In Failing Lungs we are confronted with the effects of stigmatization. Will Phoenix find relief?

MUNA

Following Sierra Leone's Civil War in 1991, Muna aims to put herself, and her community, back together by working at a rehabilitation centre for former soldiers. When a new patient arrives, the young nurse is faced with an unexpected choice. Muna is a powerful story about the long-lasting reverberations of war, and what it means to confront our oppressors.

SYNOPSIS

SLEEPING WITH FAMILY

Fifteen teenagers residing in Parkdale describe their sleeping arrangements with their family members. Through anonymous interviews, we learn about their apartment spaces, family dynamics, and the ways they negotiate privacy. In these light-hearted moments, *Sleeping with Family* comments on the rarely discussed experience of sharing close quarters that many immigrant families in Toronto's aging highrises experience.

HOW TO FUNNY

It is more than just about getting the laugh in this conversation-style documentary. Meet Nigerian born stand-up comedian Ify Chiwetelu, fuelled by the dogma that women aren't funny. Ify challenges the structures established in the stand up world while exploring her identity, and the lack of representation of Black female comedians.

STATIC

Following Sierra Leone's Civil War in 1991, Muna aims to put herself, and her community, back together by working at a rehabilitation centre for former soldiers. When a new patient arrives, the young nurse is faced with an unexpected choice. *Muna* is a powerful story about the long-lasting reverberations of war, and what it means to confront our oppressors.

Activity #1: Before viewing

DEFINITIONS

Familiarize yourself with the definitions below before viewing.

Activity #2: During viewing

Go to the last two pages and be a film critic! Rate each film from 1-5 stars.

Colonialism: A violent, ongoing process that has occurred for centuries, in which a dominant group or nation seizes control over land, territory, and regions outside of its borders. An example of this would be how European settlers and explorers dispossessed Indigenous populations in Canada, stealing their land and forcing them to assimilate to Western culture. Indigenous and First Nations continue to experience ongoing effects colonialism, and experience high rates of suicide in Canada.

Decolonization: "Recognizing, dismantling and unlearning the systems, practices and injustice created by settler colonialism," Rania El Mugammar, *Anti-Oppression Key Terms*. While centring and honouring Indigenous voices and leadership, the obligation for decolonization rests on all of us.

Gender identity: One's personal idea of the gender they identify with. Not everyone identifies with the gender they were assigned at birth, not everyone identifies with being called "he" or "she."



Activity #3: After viewing
REFLECTIONS

Which film spoke to you the most and why?

How has this short film watching experience different from the regular media you engage with?

Have any of these films changed our outlook on a particular topic, why?

Activity #4: After viewing **QUESTIONS**

This section will allow students to reflect on various social issues, and provide their own interpretations of film content. The last two pages contain pictures from films to help you remember them.

FILM: THE GRANDFATHER DRUM

1. The 2013 Ontario Curriculum defines residential schools as “federally funded, church-run educational institutions for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, these schools were particularly numerous in the first half of the twentieth century, although some operated into the 1990s. Indigenous children were removed from their families and sent to boarding (residential) schools as part of a government policy of assimilation. Students were deprived of their families, languages, and culture, and some were subjected to physical or sexual abuse” (209).

1. Explain in your own words, what is *colonialism*?
2. How does the film *The Grandfather Drum* show the repercussions of colonialism on the Anishinabek people? Feel free to describe the transitions they go through.
3. *Decolonization* requires a rejection of racism. How can we work towards addressing negative attitudes and representations in the media of First Nations and Indigenous peoples?
4. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada is a mandate to bring awareness to how First Nations were affected by Indian Residential Schools (IRS). This commission collects stories of survivors, families, communities and anyone who has been affected by the IRS experience. What implications will this commission have on Canada’s history? In your own words, what would *reconciliation* mean for First Nations communities?

Feel free to visit <http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=3> to research your answer.

FILMS: MUNA, TWERK, STATIC, HUMAN, HOW TO FUNNY, FAILING LUNGS, HANDSOME AND MAJESTIC

1. Describe how a form of violence (colonial, institutional, psychological, systemic, physical, societal) plays out in one of the films stated above.

Activity #4: After viewing

QUESTIONS

FILM: FAILING LUNGS

According to the 2015 Ontario Curriculum, “Mental health and emotional well-being involve the healthy balance of all aspects of life – physical, intellectual, social, emotional, and spiritual. A person with good mental health is able to think, feel, act, and interact in a way that permits him or her to enjoy life while being able to cope with challenges that arise. Mental health is connected to how we think about and appraise ourselves, our lives, and the people we know and care about. It involves our ability to make realistic sense of the world around us and to react meaningfully to it” (39).

1. What do think the friend of the main character represented in *Failing Lungs*?
2. What is the one thing a teacher of Guidance counselor or school support staff could day or do for you, when you are having a difficult moment or time in school?
3. What physical activities do you participate in on a regular basis, and how do they affect your physical and mental health? (A2.2 - Ontario Curriculum 2015)

FILM: HANDSOME AND MAJESTIC

GENDER ROLE BOXES ACTIVITY (by the Oakland Men’s Project)

1. Draw a box on the board. This is the “Act Like a Man Box.” Ask the class if anyone has ever been told or heard someone being told to “act like a man?” Each person takes turns writing a word down, that answers “What does it mean to “act like a man”?” What are the expectations that are associated with being ‘a man’?
2. Draw a box on the board. This is the “Act Like a Lady Box.” Ask the class if anyone has ever been told or heard someone being told to “act like a lady?” Each person takes turns writing a word down, that answers “What does it mean to “act like a lady”?” What are the expectations that are associated with being ‘a lady’?
3. **Answer two of the following:** Which box has more power and why? How are these boxes limiting? How do gender expectations hurt us?

BE A FILM CRITIC



The Grandfather Drum



Handsome & Majestic



Twerk



Human



BE A FILM CRITIC



Failing Lungs



Muna



How to Funny



Static