



# 15TH ANNUAL REGENT PARK FILM FESTIVAL

## SCHOOL PROGRAM GRADES 4-6

### Program Description

It's hard to make sense of the world sometimes. There are many things that are out of our control, which can be pretty frustrating. But we ask, what can *you* do to make the world a better place? In this collection of short films, the main characters challenge the status quo through ingenuity, patience and empathy. With films examining bullying and mental health, as well as creativity and ecology, these eight films challenge you to see the world as a bright and exciting place where anything is possible if you put your mind to it.

### Definitions To Consider

**Gender Identity** - the internal perception of one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be.

Common identity labels include man, woman, genderqueer, trans, and more.

**Diversity** - The inclusion of different types of people (such as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization.

**Indigenous People** - A term that has been adopted to refer to people who self-identify as native, inuit, metis, and other aboriginal people in the land currently known as Canada.

**Environmentalism** - The movement to protect the environment.

### Before The Festival

1. **Share the program description with students:** Let them know they are about to see short films about how we have the power to change things for the better if we put our mind to it.
2. **Have a brief discussion with some of the following questions:**
  - What do you think it means to "put your mind to something"?
  - Can you think about a time when you put your mind to something? What happened?
  - Have you ever been in a difficult situation that you were able to turn into a positive one? What happened?

### At The Festival

- **Be a Film Critic!** Print out the *Be A Film Critic* sheet attached, and bring it to the festival to review the films you see!

### After The Festival

1. **Have a discussion**
  - a. In "A Hole" and "AMI", the filmmakers use plants as a metaphor. What do you think the plants represent for the characters at the centre of the story?
  - b. If you could transform into your ideal self, just like Princess Jack, who would you be and why?
  - c. Racism and bullying are the central issues of "Amelia's Closet" - if you saw this happening in your class what would you do to help stop it?
  - d. Did any of the films inspire you to make positive changes in your community?
2. **Creative Response**
  - a. **Rice Balls** is a story about a father and son who become closer with one another and their extended community by making together rice balls, a traditional Japanese food. Though the little boy is embarrassed at first to bring his rice balls to school, but food has a way to bring people together since everyone has to eat! Draw your favourite meal that you didn't like at first but ended up loving!
  - b. **The Three Sisters Community Garden** and **Awaskinawason** ask the audience to respect and understand the earth and what it gives us. If you had a garden what would you grow?

## FILMS

### UKA



#### SYNOPSIS

Uka is a little girl who lives in a grey abandoned factory. While she's painting of her canvas, she finds a way of changing how she sees the world.

**THEMES** Imagination, creativity, perspective

### THREE SISTERS COMMUNITY GARDEN



#### SYNOPSIS

Access to fresh food is one of the biggest issues facing communities across North America. Having the confidence and knowledge of how to grow your own food is inspiring! Zachary Greenleaf, a young Mi'gmaq shows the connection between song, gardening and community.

**THEMES** Agriculture, independence, capitalism, skills

### AWASKINAWASON (CHILDREN OF EARTH)



#### SYNOPSIS

Awaskinawason is made up of the Atikamekw words awacic (child), aski (earth) and takonawason (having the responsibility for). An animated short calling on us to respect the great circle of life.

**THEMES** Ecology, Indigenous history, respect for nature and the land

## A HOLE



### SYNOPSIS

An unlikely friendship between a little girl and a hole blossoms from the ground up into something so beautiful and unexpected.

**THEMES** Growth, Imagination, Ingenuity

## AMELIA'S CLOSET



### SYNOPSIS

Bullied at school by peers and neglected by teachers, a young Amelia must find a way to empower herself. The answer just might be hiding in her closet.

**CONTENT ADVISORY** Trigger warning for bullying and racism

**THEMES** Race, bullying, class, insecurity, self-empowerment

## RICE BALLS

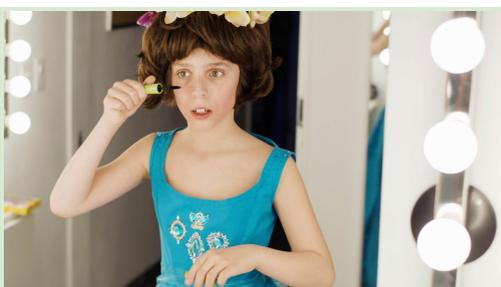


### SYNOPSIS

Josh is very particular about the way he packages himself and his lunch. Born in Australia to a Japanese father, he struggles to reconcile these traditions when it comes to the food he takes to school, preferring a sandwich over the rice balls he usually eats. Questions of identity and heritage, much like the special ingredient in rice balls, imbue the film with a unique quality.

**THEMES** Mixed race identities, culture, tradition

## PRINCESS JACK



### SYNOPSIS

Jack is not your typical 11-year-old boy. His closet is packed with dresses and tulle and his room is stacked with hats and wigs. A documentary about a boy with high-functioning autism, whose life is filled with make-believe.

**THEMES** Gender Fluidity, LGBTQ, autism

**BE A FILM CRITIC! 5 STARS = HIGHEST**



**UKA**



**A HOLE**



**THREE SISTERS COMMUNITY  
GARDEN**



**AMELIA'S CLOSET**



**AWASKINAWASON**



**RICE BALLS**



**PRINCESS JACK**

