

ANGEL AZUL

Public School Outreach Program Discussion Guide

Dear Teachers,

Please find our downloadable Teacher/Student Discussion Guide on the SEE FILM page of our website to help generate discussion in your classrooms. If new ideas emerge we would love feedback so we can continue to develop this document.

Many thanks for sharing our film with students and to the **Berkeley Film Foundation** who has made it possible to gift this film to all public high schools and community colleges in the Bay Area. We hope to add our new film *Dirt Rich* to the program in 2017.

Thank you to teachers for helping students understand their role in protecting the valuable resources on which we are so dependent.

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PASSELANDE



PICTURES

Themes

Supply and Demand.

Question: What does the filmmaker want us to contemplate regarding supply and demand?

Discussion:

Who drives demand?

What drives demand?

How might humans take responsibility for what they demand?

Why does supply follow demand?

Where in film does filmmaker make this point clear?

Merging of Art and Science.

Question: How does the filmmaker use the merging of art and science in this film?

Discussion:

How could art be thought of as a “tool” in this film?

How does the filmmaker lure the viewer in?

What does the filmmaker hope the viewer will take away with them?

Is the film more or less effective in educating the viewer through the merging of art and science?

Is art “universal?”

How does the sculptor use his art?

Which statues resonated for you and why?

Is the sculptor an environmentalist first, or an artist first?

Can you think of other times when art and science have merged to deliver a message?

Is the art or the science stronger in this film, or are they equal?

The role of an artist.

Question: What role do artists play in society?

Discussion:

Do all artists deliver messages in their work and how do they differ?

Do artists act as a reflection of a given society?

Do artists have a responsibility?

Should artists hold back in their attempt to convey a message?

Are artists respected in our society?

Does everyone have an artist in them?

Do you like the personality of the artist in this film?
What other art forms are capable of conveying powerful messages?

The role of a scientist.

Question: What role do scientists play in society?

Discussion:

How important is science to you in evaluating your world?

Are scientists creative?

Is science controversial like art?

How do you feel about the science behind global warming?

Should one have an opinion about science or do the facts speak for themselves?

Do you like the personalities of the scientists in this film?

Fantasy of living under the sea.

Question: How does the fantasy of human life underwater play out in this film?

Discussion:

Has this theme been explored in other films or works of art that you are familiar with?

Where do humans come from?

Why are humans fascinated with living under water?

Would you prefer to be able to fly or live under water?

Did this film appeal to your fantasy?

Animals have a voice.

Question: Should an animal have a voice?

Discussion:

On numerous occasions the filmmaker uses animals convey the idea that they have voices too. Are you able to identify any of those times? The cat, iguana, alligator, parrot fish, sea worms.

Does it seem to you like the filmmaker respects animals as thinking, living creatures?

Metaphors and Symbols

Question: Where in the film can you spot the use of metaphor?

Discussion:

Can you spot when the filmmaker wanted you to think about the cycle of life and how was this symbolized? (how the caves were formed and a pregnant woman appears during this discussion.)

Who dominates in the quick transition from moped, to jeep, to iguana statue? What was the metaphor here?

What does the fossil Paul Navarro was holding symbolize?

What does the yacht suggest in the scene where we are asked to consider what we demand?

How was an alligator chosen to accompany the question, "Nature's calling, are we listening?"

Did the sculptor intend for his Listener statue to be metaphoric?

Message

Question: What is the message you gleaned from the film?

Discussion:

Do you think the message the filmmaker was trying to deliver differs from that of the artist?

Is there more than one message in the film?

Do the scientist and artists share the same message?

Tagline

Every film has a logline and a tagline. The logline is a one or two sentence synopsis of the film that does not reveal the ending. When you search for films to watch on Netflix for example, you will notice that each you scroll through has a logline to help you choose the film you want to watch. A tagline is different. A tagline is a catchy sentence that is intended to capture your interest and make you curious. It doesn't tell you too much about the story, but it get across the intent of the film in a clever way. Often you will see the tagline on the film poster.

Examples of famous taglines.

Alien – In Space No One Will Hear You Scream.

Starwars – In a Galaxy Far Far Away...

Monsters Inc – You Won't Believe Your Eye.

Angel Azul – **Casting For a New Generation.**

Question: How do you think this tagline is meant to be interpreted? Is it intended that this tagline have multiple interpretations?

Discussion: Consider the word “casting.” There are 3 ways that this word can be interpreted in the context of this tagline.

1- Casting as in casting for a film, play, theater production. Actors for example are cast to play a role and become a part of the cast.

2- Casting is a process used to create a mold for something

3- Casting as in “casting a fishing line.”

Music

The film is accompanied by the music of two distinct musicians, Ian Dolamore and Daniel Fries.

Question: How did the filmmaker use their music to define scenes?

Discussion:

Describe the two types of music that you are able to identify.

Are either of these types of music ethnic in origin?

Is one type more fitting for underwater scenes and why?

Why do you think the filmmaker chose the type of music that accompanies on land footage?

Title Chapter Quotes

The film is divided into three chapters, each defined by a quote or statement displayed on a title card at the beginning of the chapter.

1- The film opens with a quote from a famous filmmaker named Federico Fellini “The pearl is the oysters autobiography.”

2- The second chapter of the film opens with a title card that says, “Everything Connects.”

3- The film finishes with an Aristotle quote, “Hope is the dream of a waking man.”

Question: Why do you think the filmmaker chose these quotes?

Discussion:

Do these quotes resonate with you?

Describe how you interpret these quotes.

Did you have a favorite?