



Cinema/Chicago and the 47th Chicago International Film Festival

Education Outreach Program Screening: *Kinyarwanda*

Director: Alrick Brown

100 minutes, not rated

In Kinyarwanda with English subtitles

Please use the below synopsis, study ideas/questions and helpful websites to lead your students in preparation and post-screening discussion. Following the film, students are required to respond to the screening with a one-page essay. Essays (either all or select) must be sent to Cinema/Chicago.*

Synopsis: A young Tutsi girl and Hutu boy fall in love, an army captain tries to stay true to her mission while keeping her humanity intact, and a priest grapples with his faith amidst unspeakable betrayals and horrors. *Kinyarwanda* magnifies the individual lives of those who suffered and endured in this compelling, wholly original take on the Rwandan Massacre of 1994.

Recommended for: humanities, world studies, history, social studies, film and video students.

Appropriate for: high school students.

Study Ideas/Questions:

1. How are the three storylines depicted in the film different from one another and how do they connect with other another?
2. Define what culture and race means to you and how it applies to your life.
3. What ethnic group do you identify with and why/how does this identity matter to you?
4. Do you ever feel like your culture/background is discriminated against by cultural groups or races that are different than yours? If so, how does this make you feel?
5. What is genocide? What genocides have occurred in world history?
6. Research the Rwandan genocide. What was the cause of fighting between the Tutsi and Hutu people?
7. Different characters and voices in the film use the word “cockroach” to describe a group of people. What do they mean by this word? How do they use it to hurt others?
8. There is a plan proposed to protect the people. What is this plan?
9. In the end of the film, a neighbor confesses to killing Joan’s parents. Do you think justice was served? How would you react if you were Joan?
10. What character or storyline did you respond to the most? Why did that section of the film connect with you?

Useful Links and Resources:

Film website (includes trailer, interviews with director): <http://www.kinyarwandamovie.com/>

United Human Rights Council (brief history of Rwandan genocide):
http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide_in_rwanda.htm

Rwanda-Genocide site (history, selected readings and resources): <http://www.rwanda-genocide.org/>

Frontline episode *The Triumph of Evil* (includes interviews, timeline and readings):
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/evil/>

Information about Cinema/Chicago's Education Outreach Program:
<http://cinemachicago.org/education/>

*Schools who do not send in essay requirement will not be allowed to attend future Education Outreach Screenings.