



AMANDLA! A Revolution in Four-Part Harmony

Film Study Guide

Director: Lee Hirsch

2002 | Documentary | 90 Minutes | South Africa | English | Unrated

Synopsis: The power of music to communicate, inspire, unite and, ultimately, beget change: the ideal, gloriously realized, lies at the heart of this film. *AMANDLA!* Explores the crucial role played by black South African freedom songs in the long battle against Apartheid. Threading the songs throughout the film, it covers 50 years of South African history and illustrates how resistance music grew and evolved in tandem with the fight for liberation. World-renowned musicians offer their candid personal recollections, while archival footage captures the brutal arc of Apartheid and the heroism of such leaders and Nelson Mandela, slain songwriter/activist Uyisile Mini and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Nine years in the making, *AMANDLA!* Tells an uplifting story of human courage, resolve and triumph.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. As far as you know, what factors led to the end of Apartheid in South Africa?
2. Conversely, how was the Apartheid system able to exist for so long in the 20th Century?
3. Can you describe other instances where music has played a role in liberation struggles around the world?

4. Why do you think music or other forms of art have such a powerful effect on people's attitudes about injustice and discrimination?
5. How did the songs of the Anti-Apartheid movement spread despite the government ban on radio airplay?
6. What effect did the songs and dance of the protesters have on the police?
7. How did the struggle gain momentum?
8. What role did the music have on support for the Anti-Apartheid movement overseas?