

SCHOOL PROGRAM 2021



GRADES 1-3

ABOUT US

Hello, and welcome to Regent Park Film Festival's 2021 School Program! It's been another tough year, so before we begin, we want to honour and commend all of the educators and their efforts to provide the best possible educational experience for our students whether online or in the classroom. Thank you.

Regent Park Film Festival (RPFF) is a non-profit cultural and educational media arts organization. We're Toronto's longest-running, free community film festival, and is the sole community film festival in Canada's largest and oldest public housing neighbourhood. RPFF is a staple in the community. In addition to our annual festival in November, we offer year-round screenings, our annual School Program, workshops and community events at no cost.

RPFF is dedicated to showcasing local and international independent works relevant to people from all walks of life. The key communities we serve are Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) communities, people with low-income, people who live in public housing, and Regent Park residents. The films we present break stereotypes and show that no one place or person has just one story.

This year we are excited to provide a selection of films for the School Program that address themes of personal agency, community building, cultural diversity, and much more. We hope this program will provide an entryway into having nuanced conversations about big concepts and ideas within the language arts, health and physical education, and social studies curriculum, among others.

Along with these films, you will have access to free lesson plans that are meant to prompt conversation after viewing.

LESSON PLAN:

BUILDING COMMUNITY

GRADES 1-3 FILMS



Mishou | 7 mins

Dir: Milen Vitanov

The lives of four lively Arctic hares take a turn after discovering a strange new creature.



The Healing Dance | 4 mins

Dir: Shaelyn Johnston

Rosie is preparing to dance in her first pow wow, but after Nookomis tells her the origin story of jingle dancing, she worries that she's not as ready as she thought she was. The drums are calling, but will Rosie answer them?



Tokri | 14 mins

Dir: Suresh Eriyat

A clumsy accident leads a young girl onto the streets of Mumbai in the hope of making things right. A gentle and touching father/daughter story depicted in exquisite stop-motion from Indian animation mainstay, Studio Eeksaurus-Short of the Week



An Emancipation Story | 5 mins

Dir: Petriann Trancoso-Millard

A true story of an unforgettable event which began in Africa and has impacted many African descendants worldwide. It highlights the heroism that took place in many Caribbean countries including Haiti and Jamaica which led to the eventual emancipation of Africans who were once captured as slaves for 400 years.

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This program presents themes of conflict management, environmental considerations, and fostering ancestral knowledge as a tool to experience kinship and understanding of one's self. Together these themes work together to build a well rounded program that discusses how communities are built and maintained despite inner and outer conflict.

Definitions and Terms:

Community: A group of people living or working together in the same area. People in communities might go to the same schools, shop in the same stores, or enjoy doing the same things.

Culture: The traditions, art, and beliefs of a particular nation, or group of people. These things are passed down from generation to generation and can change over time.

Community Care: is made up of small and large scale actions taken to show support for another person, or group of people. This includes being committed to using your privilege to be there for others who have less in various ways.

- *For Example: This could look like sharing your lunch if you notice someone doesn't have one, or helping someone who's having a hard time*

Emancipation: The process of giving people with little or no freedom or power, the right to the same treatment as others. Historically this has looked like freeing groups of people from the control of another person or group of people with more freedom and power

Homeland: The place where you or your family members were born, raised or currently live.

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Themes & Threads:

- What do you know about your family's homeland(s)? What makes these place(s) special or different from where you currently live?
 - *Further Thinking:* Why do you think it's important to learn about your family or homeland's history?
- What communities do you belong to? What makes them unique or different from others?
- What family or community traditions do you enjoy taking part in?
- What do you do to make people who are different from you feel safe and welcome?
- If you made a mistake that could hurt someone's feelings, how would you handle it?
- Are there experiences in the films you've watched that you feel a personal connection to that you'd like to share?
- Teachers, we encourage you to discuss Emancipation Day from a Canadian context; here are some resources to help you get started:
 - Canadian Encyclopedia: [Slavery Abolition Act, 1833](#)
 - Historical Canada: [Black History In Canada Education Guide](#)