

SCHOOL PROGRAM 2021



GRADES 4-6

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 (RPF) 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. RPF 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.

RPF 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.

GRADES 4-6 FILMS



Welcome to My Life | 9 mins

Dir: Elizabeth Ito

A day in the life of Douglas, aka T-Kesh, a monster trying to fit in at his high school



GirlsBoyMix | 7 mins

Dir: Lara Aerts

Wen Long is very calm and candid when explaining that she was born intersex. This insightful, playful documentary reveals how preposterous the imposed binary gender divide really is.



Only a Child | 7 mins

Dir: Simone Giampaolo

Only a Child is a child's desperate call to action for the future of our planet. A visual poem Only a child gives shape and colour to the original words spoken by Severn Suzuki at the UN Summit in Rio in 1992.



Seeking Home | 6 mins

Dir: Omar Elgohary

An 11-year old girl finds herself disconnected with her Egyptian roots as classmates interrogate her about her culture. She becomes eager to reconnect with her culture but finds herself going to places she never thought she would.



Inuktitut Dialects in the 21st Century | 9 mins

Dir: Ulivia Uviluk

Ulivia explores what is accessible via Internet in relation to Inuktitut. A complex language with several dialects which varies from one generation to the next. Inuktitut is threatened by dominant languages. Are there solutions so that these technologies are allies and not enemies?

LESSON PLAN:

ACCEPTANCE & BELONGING

GRADES 4-6

This program deals with themes of acceptance and belonging in nuanced ways; navigating school life, being open to change, and staying true to ourselves and our diverse cultural and gender identities. Despite Canada being made up of a mosaic of people from different cultures and countries, for many Black, Indigenous and racialized youth, the pressures to conform to western ideals of identity is very confusing and limiting. This line-up of films explored how youth can be true to themselves while standing up for what they believe in and also being embraced and celebrated for their differences.

Definitions and Terms:

Cultural Assimilation: The process in which people of differing ethnic groups or cultures are absorbed by a dominant group so they can resemble them or assume their values, behaviours, and beliefs. This results in loss of many characteristics of the absorbed group.

Ally: Someone who supports or stands up for others with less privilege or power.

Intersex: Someone with reproductive anatomy that does not fit the binary definitions of a man or woman. Intersex folks are born with any of several physical or genetic characteristics found within the Gender Spectrum.

Climate Change: Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperatures, weather, air quality and terrain changes around the globe. Climate has changed throughout Earth's long history, however Human activity since the industrial revolution is causing worldwide temperatures and conditions to rise higher and faster than any time we know of in the past.

Microaggression: Passive comments or actions that put down and insult racialized people, women, LGBTQ+ folks, people living with disabilities and other marginalized people. These are often day-to-day interactions.

- **Examples:**

- *“Complimenting” a person of colour on their ability to speak english well*
- *Expecting someone to be good or bad at certain activities because of their race or ethnicity*

Inuktitut: A dialect of the Inuit language, spoken by Indigenous peoples from Alaska to Greenland.

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Themes & Threads:

- What does being a good ally mean to you? How have you supported others in your life when they needed it?
- How do you welcome and learn about people who have different cultures or experiences than you? How do you ask questions without putting pressure on peers to educate you?
- How do you stay true to yourself and/or encourage others to do the same?
- Have you experienced Cultural Assimilation? What did that look like? Did you feel pressured to assimilate in order to fit in?
- Have you ever felt that you've been the subject of a microaggression based on your beliefs, culture, racial background, gender identity or expression?
 - *Further Thinking:* How did that make you feel? How do you re-empower yourself after that experience?
- Do you think young people have or should have a role to play in improving global issues?
- How does technology enhance your learning? How do you think your learning experience differs from your parents or older family members because of your access?