

FIRE & FLOOD FILM - DISCUSSION & CURRICULUM GUIDE

Developed for Sneak-Peeks September 20 - October 31, 2019

OPTIONAL PRE-SCREENING INTRODUCTION FROM DIRECTOR

Thank you for coming out to watch this sneak-peek of the Fire & Flood Film. This draft is 2 years in the making, since October 8th, 2017 and my personal lived experience of the fires in Sonoma County that you'll see in the film. However, while I appear in one of the scenes, the story you're about to watch is not mine. I am grateful to the 20 people, the vast majority of whom are two-spirit people and queer and trans people of color, who let me interview them, invade their space, and are allowing me to weave their voices together into this film. It is rare to see *any* media representing queer and trans people of color and two-spirit people, and when we do see them, it is usually as victims - victims of violence, of abuse, of homelessness. It is very important to me, and it is very important to many of the people that I interviewed, that **this story is *NOT* another victim narrative. It is a story of resilience.** It is a story of climate disasters but also the broader systems that drive climate change and how those systems impact people's daily lives and embodiments. More so- It is a story about **how histories of marginalization have provided marginalized people with strategies of resilience that are critical for us in this time.** The first 40 minutes of the film may seem slow, but it is because the stories of these two disasters cannot be told without introducing you to the storytellers themselves and the places where they live. This is their story. It is also an iterative story, meaning that it is still in progress. I am sharing this draft to invite your feedback, and give you the opportunity to bring your story into conversation with their stories.

In community,

Vanessa Raditz

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QUESTIONS FOR POST-FILM DISCUSSION

- Breaking the Ice (Suggestion: talk with a neighbor then share with the group)
 - Introduce yourself and the identities that are important to you.
 - Do any of the ideas in the film resonate with or connect to issues in your own life or in your community?

- This film is set in both California and Puerto Rico- two very different contexts temporally linked by these near simultaneous disasters, and also by shared histories of Spanish and then US colonization.
 - In what way was vulnerability and resilience similar in these two contexts?
 - What are key differences?

- Let's look beyond just California and Puerto Rico: What does climate vulnerability and resilience look like here in our community?
 - What local projects are building up local resilience?
 - What projects address root causes of climate change and gender oppression?

- The film brings up complex webs of unity between intersectional identities and struggles, but it also brings to the surface many tensions and "incommensurabilities" between these movements- these are issues that cannot be resolved or even compared.
 - What points of unity do you see between these many identities?
 - What tensions between movements surfaced for you?
 - Do you know of any great examples of groups or organizations trying to reconcile these intersections and incommensurabilities?

- One clip brings up the "Green New Deal" bill released by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who is herself of Puerto Rican lineage.
 - How would this bill support multiply-marginalized queer communities?
 - What else would it need to become a "New Queer Deal" ?

- Closing (Suggestion: Go around the room if small group, or popcorn if larger group)
 - What hopes or visions do you have for the future?
 - Leaving here, what step do you want to take towards that future?

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GOING DEEPER: IDEAS FOR BUILDING CURRICULA

Scene 1: At the Roots

Main theme:

- Climate change and injustice to LGBTQ communities share a common root in histories of colonization and neoliberalism

Suggested readings:

- Stolen From Our Bodies: First Nations Two-Spirits/Queers and the Journey to a Sovereign Erotic by Qwo-Li Driskill
- Oceti Sakowin Two Spirits, LGBTQ+, and Supporters. "This Land Was Made for Decolonized Love." <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2016/03/07/land-was-made-decolonized-love>

Scene 2: Biodiversity

Main theme:

- Intersectional identities emerge from the multifaceted dimensions of human diversity, which exists within the context of the greater biodiversity of the planet

Suggested readings:

- Introduction to "Queer Ecologies" - Mortimer-Sandilands, Erickson
- Disability Justice, a working draft - by Patty Berne of Sins Invalid and the principles of disability justice
<http://sinsinvalid.org/blog/disability-justice-a-working-draft-by-patty-berne>

Scene 3: Fire, Flood, Frontlines

Main theme:

- Vulnerability to climate disasters is constructed by structural inequalities in social, economic, and political power

Suggested readings:

- The Dangerous Erasure of Queer and Trans People of Color from the Climate Movement by Ceci Pineda and the Audre Lorde Project
<http://bluestockingsmag.com/2015/05/05/the-dangerous-erasure-of-queer-and-trans-people-of-color-from-the-climate-movement/>
- "Climate Change, Vulnerability and Responsibility" by Chris Cuomo

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Scene 4: Shocks, Slides, Shifts

Main theme:

- Rebuilding and recovery can occur in a just, regenerative, and radically-inclusive way that allows for transformation of root causes rather than perpetuating the crisis

Suggested reading:

- "The Battle for Paradise: Puerto Rico takes on the Disaster Capitalists" by Naomi Klein
- "Care Webs: Experiments in Creating Collective Access" from Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice by Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi.

Scene 5: Ancestral Futures

Main theme:

- Theories and cultural practices emerging from traditional ecological knowledge and LGBTQ history have important lessons and solutions for this era of climate change.

Suggested reading:

- First page of "Cruising Utopia: the Then and There of Queer Futurity" by Jose Munoz
- Eco-Queer Movements: Joshua Sbicca
- "Decolonization is not a metaphor" - Tuck & Yang

OTHER FILMS EXPLORING RELATED THEMES

- This Changes Everything by Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein
 - o Themes: structural root causes and solution to climate injustice, Indigenous resistance and global movements
- Two Spirits by Lydia Nibley
 - o Themes: history of colonization of gender and sexuality, contemporary Two Spirit communities, violence to Two Spirit people
- Out Here by Jonah Mossberg
 - o Themes: queer farmers, queer rurality, sustainable food systems
- Sins Invalid by Patty Berne
 - o Themes: Disability Justice, sexuality and disability, collective liberation
- Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock
 - o Themes: Indigenous resistance, decolonization, extractive economy and energy
- Life and Debt by Stephanie Black
 - o Themes: Neoliberalism and structural adjustment policies (set in Jamaica)