

YRUU / YAC Film Viewing Statement

Created by YAC and YRUU, 2004-2005 programming year

The YAC, as the policy making body of the YRUU, has had extended conversations about a film viewing practice for lock-ins and other YRUU events. Both youth and adults take pride in YRUU programming and in the values that support all our work. Since youth empowerment is a primary YRUU and YAC goal, a film curriculum should reflect deep youth investment; film viewing is an important part of youth's cultural and social experience. YRUU films should be spiritually, intellectually and emotionally suitable. Film choices should also reflect questions youth have about growing into the adult world.

- ***At the end of each UU year, in May (at a date convenient to advisors and youth), the YRUU (in a regular meeting), compiles a curriculum list of 8 to 12 films for the following year which they consider important artistic vehicles for conversations about pertinent social and cultural issues; these films are discussed regardless of Motion Picture Association of America rating (G, PG, PG13, R). Youth and advisors should consider (1) varying stages of youth development and (2) the sensitivity of all YRUU members and their families. The compilation activity can be fun, prompting lively and stimulating discussion; during this time, both youth and adults hone their assessment and decision-making skills. Film theme categories are (list subject to expansion): male/female relationships, family ties, humans and the environment, big decisions, morality, coming of age, rites of transition, feminism, fitting in, handicaps, anti-Semitism, racial tolerance, cultural and political differences, justice, religion, sexual identity/orientation.***
- ***The proposed curriculum list is next brought to the YAC, at about the beginning of June, by its youth members, where in a regular meeting, there is further discussion of the curriculum; adults and youth YAC members view/research the films, later deciding which will remain in the final version of the next year's film curriculum. YAC may make substitutions and/or additions in the process of finalizing the film curriculum. The curriculum is then***

published to the YRUU, parents and interested UU community members. It is best not to make film curriculum changes after its publication in August of each year; but if YAC finds it necessary to amend the list, notification will be sent to YRUU, parents, guardians and interested community members.

- ***YRUU films should prompt reflection on UU values.*** Films are often shown at lock-ins. Any curriculum film will set the stage for purposeful and meaningful discussion right after the showing or at the next YRUU meeting.
- ***No youth is required to view a chosen film.*** Youth and parents should discuss the film curriculum; as in the public theaters, any youth under 17 must have parental or guardian permission to view any film rated R; while PG 13 films do not *require* parental permission, the appended permission form asks for parents or guardians to give their youth leave to participate in the film curriculum. Youth are encouraged to openly discuss YRUU films with their parents and other important adults in their lives.
- ***All youth, advisors, YAC adults and parents*** receive a copy of the film curriculum (usually at the YRUU Kick-Off in late August or early September); the film-viewing permission form is also distributed.
- ***The UUA and the TJ District have no set guidelines*** for teen viewing of films but leave it to individual congregations to shape their own film viewing practices. Please see resources listed below.
- ***Any concerns about the film statement and/or curriculum*** should be brought to the YAC (section 7 of Policies and Procedures for the YAC).

(See attached permission form)

RESOURCES:

Teaching With Movies:

<http://teachwithmovies.org/>

THE MOVIE MOM'S GUIDE TO FAMILY MOVIES, 2nd edition, by Nell Minow,
available library of the UU Congregation of the NRV, Blacksburg, VA

"Where movies end and personal responsibility begins," contact Robert
Denerstein at denerstenb@RockyMountainNews.com , April 16, 2000,
<http://www.rockypreps.com/election/0416movie.shtml>

UUA Resources:

"Film as Theological text, a new discussion series for adults and senior
youth": <http://www.uua.org/re/teach/winter01/adult/film.html>

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, Canada

Kathy Walker, DRE, Quimper Unitarian, Washington State

Jesse C. Jaeger, Youth Programs Director, UUA, Boston, MA,
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