



Cinema/Chicago Education Program Screening : *Go For It !*

Director : Carmen Marron

83 minutes

In English, not rated

Please use the below synopsis, study ideas and questions, and helpful websites to lead your students in preparation and post-screening discussion. Following the film, students in the audience are required to respond to the screening with a one page essay that is sent to Cinema/Chicago. *

Synopsis

In this high-energy coming-of-age tale from local filmmakers, feisty Carmen spends her days working and her nights wowing club crowds with her dancing. But an opportunity to win admission to a prestigious dance school forces Carmen to choose between fulfilling her obligations to her family and urban community or moving on to a brighter but uncertain future.

Study Ideas/Questions

1. Carmen struggles with balancing her studies, work, family and passion for dancing. Think about the aspects of your life you have to balance. Do you work and attend school? Do you sometimes have to choose between extracurriculars and homework? How do you make that choice, and what are the consequences?
2. A school administrator refers to Carmen as “her kind.” Why do you think he was discriminating against Carmen, and have you ever experienced discrimination personally because of your race, gender, religious affiliation, etc.?
3. Mr. Martin and Carmen constantly clash and have arguments in the classroom. Yet, Mr. Martin sees potential in Carmen and encourages her to apply to Lockland School of Dance. Do you have someone in your life who challenges you the way Mr. Martin challenges Carmen?
4. Carmen tells her mother that she doesn’t want a life like her. Why do you think this upsets her mother and family?
5. Jared’s parents are shocked to hear that Carmen lives in Logan Square. They worry that the “inner city” isn’t a safe place for their son. Think about your community and what perceptions people outside of Chicago might have about it. Why do you think they have this perception? What can leaders and members of your neighborhood do to create positive impressions of the community and of Chicago?
6. Carmen blows up at her father when he finds out she got suspended from school. She leaves home and moves in with Gina. Do you think this was a good choice? If you had been in Carmen’s position, what choices would you make?
7. Carmen finds is able to express herself through her dance. How are you able to express yourself? Through art, performance, writing, your studies?

8. Gina is in an incredibly abusive relationship. Carmen tries to help Gina, but Gina refuses help and becomes angry at Carmen. Why do you think Gina refuses the help? If you had been in either Carmen or Gina's position, what would you have done?
9. Do you think the film correctly represents Chicago? The school system, the club scene, and Chicago families are all shown. Do you think the filmmakers accurately describe these areas and people?
10. When Carmen tells Mr. Martin that she has decided not to go to dance school, he blows up. What lesson is he trying to teach her? Why do you think he is so angry about her decision?

Useful websites

<http://www.goforitmovie.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/goforitfilm>

<http://www.cinemachicago.org/education/>

*Teachers who do not facilitate the completion of this requirement will not be invited to attend future Education Program Screenings