

Diversity Literacy Week 6 – HIV/AIDS

Group Assignment 2 – Wa ‘n Wina

Directed by Dumisani Phakathi

“Filmmaker Dumisani Phakathi returns to his old neighborhood. With a camera on his shoulder, he engages with friends to discuss relationships, sex and love. Strong characters like Phumla and Timothy expose their emotions as they talk intimately about the realities of their street and the choices they have been forced to make. It’s a rock and roll journey that reveals the gaps between everyday life and the AIDS education campaigns that often talk past the very people they are supposed to address. It is the recognition of the people's will to survive in the age of AIDS.”

Extract from <http://newsreel.org/video/WA-N-WINA>

Please consider the following questions before the film starts. Think about the questions as you watch the film and then as a group discuss the group assignment questions at the end and together formulate an answer. This is an academic piece, proper referencing is required.

1. What are some of the “gaps” between everyday life and AIDS education/awareness programmes that the film illustrates?
2. How can these gaps be explained by the limits of the “behaviourist-orientated traditional model” (Patton, p. 71). How does this model open up or close down an understanding of HIV/AIDS in the context portrayed in Wa ‘n Wina and how people there relate to HIV/AIDS?
3. How do constructions of gender and sexuality feed into these “gaps”?
4. How does stigma play out in the film?

Group Assignment 2 (1500 words)

- Think about Phumla’s positionality in the film as she navigates life. Think about her struggles and how at one point in the film she talks about how much “easier” it is to be a man than it is to be a woman. How does this assertion play out in the film? How could you link the experiences of Phumla (and other characters) and the realities of HIV/AIDS they face in the film, to the readings?
- How are your life experiences/choices as a group different from Phumla’s?

