

**Black Adam: End of the white guy?**

***Supplementary Guide***

**Background**

The eight minute video featured on the DVD is the promotional trailer used by film maker, Dominic Wilhelm to generate interest in the full length film which is currently in production. With funding provided by the Centre for Educational Technology at UCT and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, iNCUDISA was able to convert this trailer into a teaching tool which can be used to generate conversation around whiteness in post-apartheid South Africa.

This DVD features an eight minute trailer made by Dominic Wilhelm to promote the full length version of the film. The issues raised by the trailer on the topic of whiteness were coded into the themes “Construction of Whiteness”, Norming Whiteness”, “Emotion”, “Naming Whiteness”, “Postcolonialism and Whiteness”, “Deconstructing Whiteness”, and “Agency in deconstructing Whiteness”. By selecting one of these themes, you will be able to view the content of the trailer which pertains to it.

While there are infinite ways in which an educator or facilitator could employ the DVD as a resource, below you will find instructions and discussion questions according to our vision for using it as a teaching tool as part of our Diversity Studies Honours and Masters programmes at the University of Cape Town. Ideally, the DVD will be used alongside relevant critical whiteness theory. Those who are new to the field of whiteness studies or are simply looking for additional sources are strongly encouraged to refer to “Towards a Bibliography of Critical Whiteness Studies, which can be found on <http://cdms.illinois.edu/pages/Research/06-07/CriticalWhiteness/Bibliography.pdf> . Also, Jennifer Schmidt and Mary West (2010) produced a useful bibliography of resources on whiteness in South Africa, “Whiteness Studies in South African Literature: A bibliography”[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Suggested Instructions:**

**Screen ‘full length’ 8 minute version**

Debrief using the following discussion questions:

**a**. What do you think the film maker, Dominic Wilhelm, is trying to achieve with this film? Has he accomplished this?

**b**. What were some significant or surprising moments in the film?

**c**. What questions does the film raise for you?

**d**. What topical social issues are raised by the film?

**e.** What does the film reveal about the relationship between identity construction and social context

1. **Divide students into pairs or small groups (depending on class size) and assign them each a theme to focus on and present to the group. The ‘themes’ are available on the main menu of the film:**
   1. Construction of Whiteness
   2. Norming of Whiteness
   3. Emotion
   4. Naming Whiteness
   5. Postcolonialism and Whiteness
   6. Deconstructing Whiteness

Ideally, students will present their theme to the class, relating the content to relevant literature and theory, and discussing how the literature can help one to ‘unpack’ the content of the film. Also, students could provide a critique of the film through the use of literature. The following questions could assist students in developing a critique:

1. At one point, one of the individuals in the film says, “the greatest thing that globalisation has given us is a choice”. Do you agree with this? Does everyone have an equal amount of ‘choice’?
2. Are white people the only ones who can deconstruct whiteness?
3. What other voices could have been heard in the film?
4. Intersectionality is only briefly addressed as the film maker questions what is beyond being a white man. Where else can you see Intersectionality? What do we lose if we ignore intersections?

**We encourage you to provide us with feedback of your experience in using this DVD and guide as a teaching and/or facilitation tool. Please visit our blog (**[**www.incudisa.wordpress.com**](http://www.incudisa.wordpress.com)**) and post a comment!**

1. *English in Africa* 37 No. 1 (May 2010): 103–114 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)