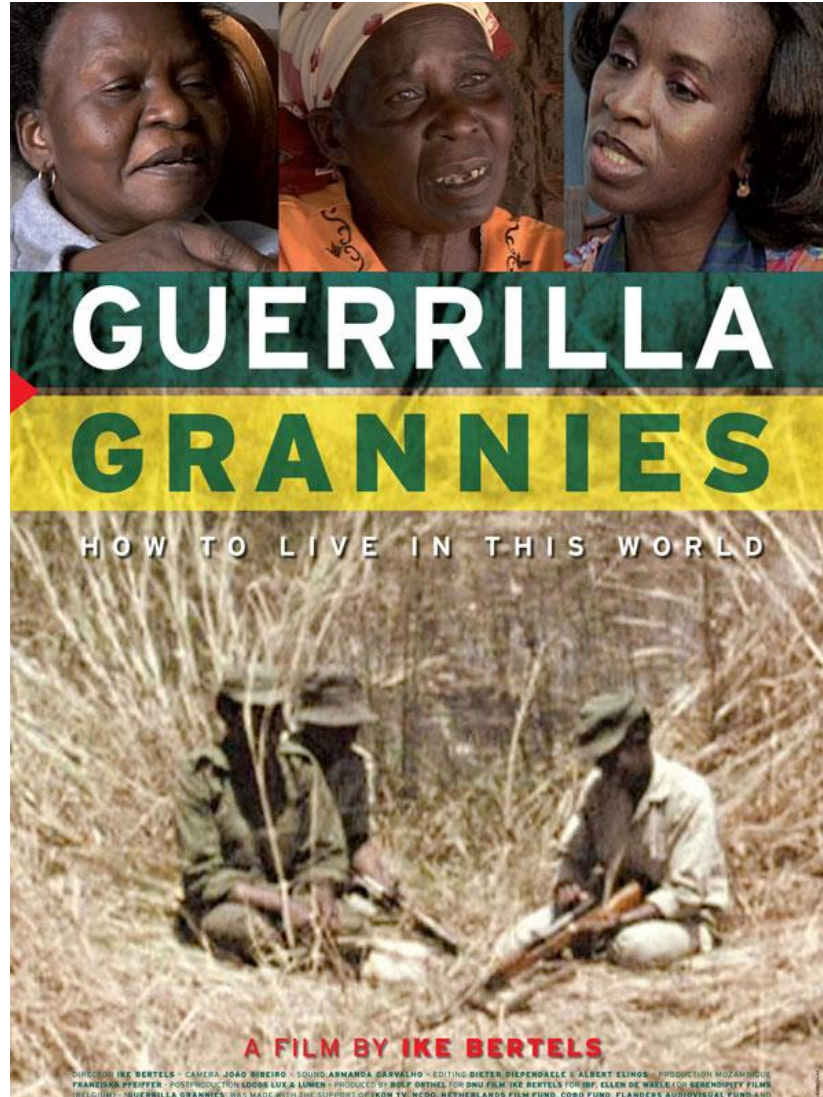


FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE



Before viewing the film:

1. How do you define 'independence'?

2. What do you know about the lives of your grandparents before you were born?
What legacy might they have created?

3. Do you plan on pursuing higher education or training? Why or why not?

During the Film:

Identifying Characters

Match the character with the appropriate description:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ___ Amelia Omar e | a) Maria's son |
| ___ Monica Chitupila b | b) Guerrilla soldier who now lives in Maputo with her grandson |
| ___ Maria Sulila g | c) Amelia's daughter and son |
| ___ Mwayi a | d) President of FRELIMO |
| ___ Lucia and Joaquim c | e) Guerrilla soldier who returned from the bush to become a farmer. |
| ___ Libertad f | f) Monica's "daughter" |
| ___ Samora Machel d | g) Guerrilla soldier who became the most educated of the three women |
| ___ Miko i | h) Married to Mwayi |
| ___ Mila h | i) Monica's grandson |

Comprehension Questions

1. Who was the FRELIMO guerrilla army fighting against in the 1970 documentary that first featured the three women featured in this film?
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-

2. What year did Monica leave home and go into the bush?

3. Maria cannot be filmed in the current documentary. Why is this? How does her son describe her?

4. Why did the Portuguese refer to the FRELIMO fighters as ghosts?

5. The colonial war occurred during what years?

6. Name two reasons that Amelia has such a small crop this year.

7. What African tradition does Lucia describe that she has continued from her mother's example?

8. How old was Joaquim when his mother returned from the war? Describe their reunion.

9. What is significant about Liberdad's birthday, June 25th, 1975? What does her name mean?

10. Explain the relationship between Monica and Liberdade in your own words.

11. Name two causes for which the Women's organization held campaigns in the years soon after Mozambique became independent?

12. FRELIMO fought to liberate women. They were slaves to what two masters?

13. What is Miko's primary interest? Why did he quit school?

14. After gaining their independence, Mozambique experienced a civil war that lasted 16 years. How many people were killed during this time?

15. How does Samora describe the rebels who started the civil war?

16. Name at least two positive changes observed shortly after the civil war ended.

17. Why is it that many FRELIMO members cannot play a role in politics?

18. Describe the relationship between Amelia and Joaquim today.

Post-Viewing Discussion Questions:

1. “Whites occupied us. It wasn’t just the land. They occupied our very selves, they set up camp inside our heads.” Explain this quote in the context of colonization.
2. Amelia takes great pride in caring for her mother. She says that she wants her mother to know that she gave birth to a good child and that if her mother is sad, life can’t be good. Do you feel that we value our parents in the same way in our society? Why or why not?
3. Mozambican independence promised a hope for education, nourishment and equality between men and women. Why was gender equality so important? Americans experienced their own fight for gender equality. Have we achieved it?
4. Maria’s son says, “my parents were younger than I am now when they decided to go fight. You don’t see that these days, young people with ideas like our parents used to have, to acknowledge a bad situation and do something about it, something radical to bring about change.” Do you agree? Why or why not?
5. Libertad says that she is who she is today because of Momma Monica. She made her study, taught her how to behave and how to treat people, how to socialize and to be patient in life. Choose someone in your life who has had the same effect on you and describe what they’ve taught you.
6. The film ends with Amelia and Maria’s sons expressing their fears that Mozambique may be losing its local culture. Why might their culture be threatened? What can be done to protect it?



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