

*NAFSA 2004 Conference, Charting New Visions, Baltimore, MD
Toolbox for Intercultural Awareness, Wednesday, May, 26, 2004 3:45 - 5 pm
presented by Susan Bender, University of Nevada-Reno, Darla Deardorff, Duke
University, and Alice Wu, Cornell University*

Using Films and Videos in Intercultural Training

Films and videos are a rich resource that can be used to help illustrate, dramatize, and facilitate understanding of culture, language, and intercultural communication differences when doing intercultural training. Films may be used to initiate discussion or may be shown in a film series. Clips may be shown to help spark discussion or illustrate a concept.

Some **films** suggested by Ellen Summerfield and Sandra Lee in their book, The Big Picture (Intercultural Press, 2001) include the following:

Native American culture:

Dances with Wolves
Thunderheart

African American Culture:

The Long Walk Home
Boyz 'N the Hood

Chinese American Culture:

The Joy Luck Club
A Great Wall

Japanese American Culture

Come see the Paradise

Mexican American Culture

Lone Star

Ellen Summerfield and Sandra Lee also have many other suggestions for how to use films, including related readings, discussion topics, and hands on experiences. They provide background information on the history, cultures, and time periods of the films listed above.

Some other suggestions of films to watch:

Greek American culture - My Big Fat Greek Wedding

Indian-British Culture - Bend it Like Beckham

Indian-American Culture - Mississippi Masala

Videos: There are also many videos designed specifically for intercultural orientation and training. Some examples include the following:

Cold Water (1987), 48 minutes, Noriko Ogami - Intercultural Press

International students at Boston University talk about their experiences adjusting to and living in the US, interculturalists give background on culture shock and American values.

Intercultural Classroom: A Different Place and Creating Community (1993), Jaime Wurzel, 37 minutes, Intercultural Resource Corporation

In this two part video, American and international students in a classroom interact with each other and their professor, using different cultural styles and behaviors. Interculturalists provide analysis and information on cultural differences.

The Aliens: Being a Foreign Student - Intercultural Press

International students try to figure out their new college environment and redefine their identities.

The Angry Eye, Jane Elliot - Intercultural Press

Jane Elliot conducts her "Blue Eyed, Brown Eyed" exercise with college students.

Let's Go International - film series - Griggs Productions

These videos give information about cultural adjustment, living and traveling abroad.

Beyond Culture Shock (1983) 30 minutes - discusses the phases of cultural adjustment when living abroad

Bridging The Culture Gap (1983) 30 minutes - discusses the challenges of living in another country

Welcome Home, Stranger (1983) 15 minutes - discusses issues of reentry shock and readjustment

Living in the USA (1986) 30 minutes - gives an overview of American society and culture (designed for international audiences)

Going International Safely (1987) 30 minutes - gives suggestions for traveling safely and avoiding accidents, risks, illness, and crime.

*Sources: Film and Video Resources for International Educational Exchange (1992), Second edition, by Lee Ziegler, Intercultural Press
Seeing the Big Picture, Exploring American Cultures on Film (2001), by*

*Ellen Summerfield and Sandra Lee, Intercultural Press
Films Around the Clock - handout from SIETAR-USA Film Festival,
2003 SIETAR-USA conference*