Teacher’s Resource: I Am Eleven

Second Level

Created by Genevieve Bailey, director and filmmaker of I Am Eleven, and Sarah Derrick, Head of Education at DCA

Discovery Film Festival: Sat 20 October - Sun 4 November 2012
discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

DCA
Dundee Contemporary Arts

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Introduction

A trip to the cinema is a very special event for any child. The excitement and magical feel of the huge darkened auditorium creates both a highly stimulating yet relaxed learning platform. Taking your class to Discovery Film Festival at DCA is an excellent way to open up the world of moving image education whilst training children to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner and be respectful participants in this setting.

Children learn intuitively to read and reading the screen is no different. Shorts for Wee Ones allows children to view films from a variety of cultures and lets them experience more unusual films to really get them thinking! Listening to different accents and voices is great fun and anything they can’t quite understand is helped by the visuals on screen allowing the brain to fill in the gaps to develop understanding.

Some of the short films here carry a strong message for children to identify with, such as being accepting of others who are different and often give the opportunity to challenge stereotypes. The delightful films will lend themselves to a variety of activities back in the classroom.

- Gill Paton
   English Department, Harris Academy, Dundee

Visiting the site movingimageeducation.org will also give you access to more films to use in class and play a vital part in how you use film to develop excellence in your classroom.

Discovery Learning Resources have been created by classroom teachers and education professionals. Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare for and extend the impact of a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy/moving image texts

Resources are free and available to download from discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk/resources or via the Discovery Film Festival area on GLOW, which can be found within the Dundee 21st Century Literacy Group.

We do hope that you find this useful and enjoy your cinema experience with us,

- Discovery Film Festival team
I Am Eleven
Dir. Genevieve Bailey

Synopsis

I Am Eleven is a life-affirming global portrait of humanity at a crucial age - no longer children, not quite adults, preparing to inherit a world changing as quickly and dramatically as they are. This documentary focuses on a series of 11-year-olds from 15 countries, each speaking in their own words. These children share, in different languages, their thoughts on subjects such as love, war, global warming, music, terrorism, culture, family, happiness, religion and the future.

Each of their situations allows a glimpse into a young mind, and combined provide a powerful insight into the future of our world. As straight up and personal as the 7 Up Series and with the comedy and honesty of Spellbound, this documentary allows us to explore an age where these not-quite-kids-not-quite-teenagers' briefly linger; between the frank openness and naivety of childhood, and the sharp and surprisingly brave wisdom and knowing of adulthood.

As much as it is a story about them, it is a story with them, of what it is like to be eleven today. The documentary and the website (iameleven.com) present a striking portrayal of a generation exploring their take on personal and global issues.

I Am Eleven is a great shared experience which can be extended by the filmmakers invitation to you to leave comments and interact with the featured eleven year olds (now sixteen and seventeen) by using the website as a live project.

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About the filmmaker

Genevieve Bailey grew up shooting her own family films on video in Melbourne, Australia in the late 1980s. She comes from a large family and she started playing with cameras and filmmaking with her brothers from the age of eight.

Since then Genevieve has been consistently intrigued and excited about film production. She graduated in 2003 with a BA Honours from the VCA, Melbourne University. Her honours year film and thesis focussed on Japanese Masculinity and Culture in the Dance Film.

She has made over 40 films and counting, a number together with Jarrah Gurrie. Genevieve is obsessed with story telling and does so through writing, directing, shooting and editing film that includes drama, comedy, documentary and music videos. Genevieve's films have screened internationally at festivals and have picked up over 30 awards to date.

Find out more about her and some of her films here: innersense.com.au/mif/bailey.html

“I chose 11 because I thought back to my favourite age in life – when you’re full of ideas and personality and you know what you’re really passionate about, and that for me was when I was 11. I was very curious to explore what it would be like to be 11, but rather than just shooting it here in my own backyard in Australia I wanted to shoot it on a global level and to involve stories from all over the world. I wanted to create a film that was going to be positive and optimistic and at that age in life kids express a lot of their personal views; they show a lot of courage and hope as well as optimism for the future. So I wanted to create a platform that would enable children around the world, who I found very insightful and inspiring, to share their voice with a global audience.”


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Before the film

1. Watch the trailer at iameleven.com

2. Discuss what a documentary film is, and what makes a good one. What kinds of documentaries have your pupils seen?

3. Have a go at predicting what children aged 11 from different countries may give as answers to Genevieve's questions

- What three things make you happy?
- What three things make you sad?
- What makes you scared or fearful?
- What would you change if you could change anything in the world?

Make your own questionnaire for P6 and P7 pupils in school or at another school in your cluster. Here are some questions suggested by Genevieve for you to use to start you off:

- What three things make you happy?
- What three things make you sad?
- What makes you scared or fearful?
- What would you change if you could change anything in the world?
- If you could find the answer to a question that you've always wondered about – what would the question be?
- What makes you similar to the children in I Am Eleven?
- What makes you different?
- What are you looking forward to in life?
4. Imagine being a world leader and write/perform a speech based on what you want to change about the world.

*I Am Eleven* is presented as a companion piece to two exhibitions in DCA's galleries throughout Discovery Film Festival. Dashndem’s *Imagine Being A World Leader* and Nicolaj Bendix Skyum Larsen’s *Tales From The Periphery* both consider similar representations from young people on the world in which we live – Find out more at dca.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/imagine-being-a-world-leader.html and dca.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/from-the-edge.html.

Have a look at the website of artists DashnDem and watch their film which is part performance, part documentary and part artwork: dashndem.com/Imagine_Being_a_World_Leader.html

Classes can visit *Imagine Being a World Leader* and take part in a related workshop during Discovery Film Festival. The exhibition features a scaled-down setting for a political event that uses a fictitious ‘Summit for World Change’ to create a framework for role-play.

The key focus of the workshop is teaching children core public speaking skills. Through speech writing, drama and design, pupils can explore the methods used by politicians and public leaders to persuade and win over an audience, challenging the myth of the naturally gifted speaker. Led by the Head of Education at DCA, pupils will develop public speaking skills and engage in exercises that are supported by a resource pack produced by the artists, DashnDem.

You can book a free exhibition visit and *Imagine Being a World Leader* workshop to accompany your cinema visit by calling our Community & Education team on 01382 909237.
After the film

1. Discuss the similarities and differences between the childrens' comments and their home environment. You could extend this into a literacy project and write a postcard or letter to one the children, describing home-life here in Scotland.

2. Make a self portrait page. Have a look at the childrens' pages on the I Am Eleven website. Use a photograph of yourself combined with drawings, painting and collage to create your own page. You can find examples at: iameleven.com/meet-the-children

3. Have a go at making a class documentary using the questions that Genevieve has given above or simply film pupils answering the questions individually, and then screen them on your class whiteboard. Discuss what happens or how we change what we think when see ourselves on a big screen. This site has a great step by step guide led by children on how to make a documentary: meetmeatthecorner.org/episodes/how-to-make-a-documentary

Useful websites and resources

movingimageeducation.org
iameleven.com/
dashndem.com/Imagine_Being_a_World_Leader.html
meetmeatthecorner.org/episodes/how-to-make-a-documentary

Send us some feedback

We are very keen to hear feedback from you, and welcome film reviews, entries to the Discovery review writing competition, letters from pupils or documentation of class work.

E-mail them to discovery@dca.org.uk or post them to Discovery Film Festival, DCA, 152 Nethergate, DD1 4DY