

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which film in the program was your favorite? Which film in the program was your least favorite? Which did you find the funniest? The most beautiful? The scariest? Why?
2. Think about the main characters in *Welcome to My Life* (T-Kesh), *Mast Qalander* (Montek) and *Amelia's Closet*. In what ways are they similar? How are their experiences and their surroundings different? How do these factors affect the choices they make?
3. What connections to real life did you see in these movies? Did anything in the stories remind you of a book you've read, a place you've visited or something you learned in school? Did any of these films make you think differently about something?
4. Describe the different filmmaking techniques used in *The Law of the Sea*, *Little Mouse* and *Soy Yo*. Why do you think the filmmakers chose to make their film in that style? What would change about the film if they used a different style?
5. If T-Kesh were to give Amelia some advice, what do you think he would tell her?



WELCOME TO MY LIFE

USA, Animation, Elizabeth Ito, 2015, 9 min

The animated high school challenges of T-Kesh, your average Monster-American teenager.



MAST QALANDER

UK/India, Live Action, Divij Roopchand, 2016, 15 min

Sometimes we amplify our fears. Usually, they're not as bad as we think.



THE LAW OF THE SEA

UK, Animation, Ekrem & Ozynska, 2016, 4 min

Expressive paint strokes illustrate the story of fishermen on the Greek island of Lesbos who find themselves reeling in Syrian refugees as often as fish.



AMELIA'S CLOSET

USA, Live Action, Halima Lucas, 2016, 18 min

Amelia must clean out her head—and her closet—in order to rise above the bullies she faces.



CACOPHONY

USA, Animation, Melody Aih-suan Shih, 2016, 2 min

The chaos of urban life creates its own dissonant symphony, composed of multilayered drawings, abstract textures, colors, and sounds.



LITTLE MOUSE

Hungary, Animation, Ervin B. Nagy, 2016, 7 min

Eleven-year-old "Little Mouse" is a naturally gifted swimmer who earned a spot at the Bucharest Youth Championship. Will she have what it takes to out-lap the big kids?



SWEATY ARMPITS

USA, Animation, Tony Dusko, 2016, 1 min

A short but sweet ode to perspiration.



SOY YO

Denmark/Columbia, Live Action, Torben Kjelstrup, 2016, 3 min

Fearlessly navigating side-eye and mean girls, one city girl shows unbridled self-confidence and unbeatable dance moves.

ACTIVITIES

1. Break into groups of five and select 2 films that you would like to explore. 2-3 people in the group should each select a character from the films and act out an interaction between those characters. The whole group, both the "actors" and the "observers" should work together to help give shape to the scene.
2. If you could spend time with one of the characters from the films who would it be? Write three paragraphs about what you guys would do together. You can bring along characters from other films or create new ones. Don't forget to include where you go, and if there is any special music or sounds.
3. In *Soy Yo*, the main character is dancing to her own song, the title of which translates to "It's me." Take a character from another film and create a short song for them that features lyrics that relate to their story. It could be to the tune of *Soy Yo*, or any other song you know or make up. Record your song or make a music video!

Send your creations to: education@nyicff.org