



For Colored Girls



Synopsis

For Colored Girls weaves together the stories of nine different women – Jo, Tangie, Crystal, Gilda, Kelly, Juanita, Yasmine, Nyla and Alice – as they move into and out of one another’s existences; some are well known to one another, others are as yet strangers. Crises, heartbreaks and crimes will ultimately bring these nine women fully into the same orbit where they will find commonality and understanding. Each will speak her truth as never before. And each will know that she is complete as a human being, glorious and divine in all her colors.

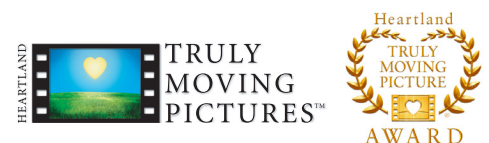
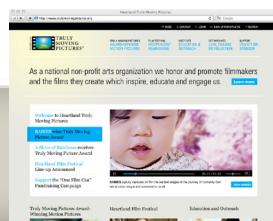
Discussion Questions

- In 1974, Ntozake Shange’s choreopoem *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* made its stage debut, combining poetry, dance and music, and most significantly, placing the black female experience center stage. In lyrical, honest, angry, funny and tender language, Shange’s “colored girls” evoked the feelings woven into the fabric of black female life in America. Within two years, the play became a Broadway sensation, won an Obie and Tony Award, and would eventually be produced in regional theaters throughout the country. In what ways were the poems and the stage play represented in the film adaptation?
- *For Colored Girls* deals with issues such as rape, abortion, infidelity, HIV and abuse. It also deals with love. How does love play a role in each of the above issues and each woman’s story, whether it is being in love or the desire to be loved?
- After Crystal’s children are killed she sinks into a deep depression. Gilda comes into her apartment one night and tells her that to move forward with her life she needs to take some responsibility for the death of her children. What do you believe Gilda meant by Crystal accepting responsibility? Could this sentiment be applied to any of the other women in the film?



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- Men were not always represented in the best light throughout the film. What do you believe the intent was in developing the male characters as represented in *For Colored Girls*?
- A wide range of circumstances and relationships are examined in the film. Was there a character or situation with which you most identified? How?
- How did each of the nine female characters in the film embody a facet of strength, courage and being a woman?
- *For Colored Girls* ends with many of the main characters not only embracing the strength of being a woman, but also embracing the bonds they have formed with one another. What circumstances in your life have allowed you to form strong bonds with people? How have those individuals impacted the rest of your life?

Get Involved

- HIV, domestic abuse and abortion are some of the key issues with which the women deal in *For Colored Girls*. While the women in the film relied on one another for support to get through these difficult circumstances, not everyone has a support network to lean on. Get involved by either reaching out to a person whom you know needs some support, or get involved with an organization that seeks to support women.



Here is a web site to get you started:

- **National Network to End Domestic Violence:** www.nnedv.org

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