

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE RIVER

FILM FESTIVAL

12SEPT - 12OCT

KEY STAGE 4

CITIZENSHIP



River
Tamar
Project

PENINSULA
ARTS
WITH
PLYMOUTH
UNIVERSITY



TROPIKOS, JOHN AKOMFRAH

In the 16th Century, ships built on and sailing from the River Tamar journeyed to Africa, participating in the profitable slave trade and introducing the experience of African culture to Plymouth on their return. Exploring how British and African citizens encountered each other, *Tropikos* juxtaposes the experience of the people, cultures and landscapes from Africa and the South West which have formed a disparate yet shared heritage.

Using a range of narrative texts and stunning locations in the Tamar Valley and evoking characters from Elizabethan history, *Tropikos* gives a re-imagined life and meaning to the 'age of discovery' and to characters who have been left to dwell in the archives of history.

Diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom and the need for mutual respect and understanding.

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IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION:

1. Watch the film in its entirety (36 minutes), or between 19:04 – 26:00 minutes.
2. Have you ever travelled abroad? What did you notice that was different? Is there anything you would like to embrace and take back to your home town or village?
3. What kind of effects has African culture had on Plymouth?
4. Are there any other cultures or religions which have been embraced in the local area?
5. What do you think you could learn from other cultures and religions?

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THE HALL, MELANIE MANCHOT

Centred on village halls and on the individuals and groups who occupy these spaces for a few hours each week, Melanie Manchot's *The Hall* reveals a complex and intimate portrait of modern life on the banks of the Tamar.

The different ways in which a citizen can contribute to the improvement of his or her community, to include the opportunity to participate actively in community volunteering, as well as other forms of responsible activity.

IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION:

1. How can you contribute to your community? Volunteering, helping people, offering services, working together, etc.
2. Do you think there is any way that you could have a positive effect on your community?
3. What could you change about your community?
4. Identify a project and make a plan. Is there a building that is not being used, is there lack of support for older people, is there a lack of activities for young people? How would you help to improve these issues?
5. Evidence could be shown through a map / drawn plan or a written plan. Encourage the young people to work in groups and to interview and speak to the local community.

FILM REFERENCE:

The Hall by Melanie Manchot

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HISTORY



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TROPIKOS, JOHN AKOMFRAH

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A study of an aspect of social history, such as the impact through time of the migration of people to, from and within the British Isles.

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IDEAS FOR ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION:

1. Watch the film, in its entirety (36 minutes), or between 13:10 and 15:30 minutes.
2. Ask the group what the key attributes of the British Isles are? (This could be pitched in any period of history)
3. Why would Africans want to migrate to the British Isles? What could they bring to the area? And what could they benefit from?
4. Set them the task of designing a campaign poster to encourage more Africans to migrate to Plymouth and the River Tamar. They could also write and perform a sales pitch.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY:

1. Find a way to persuade the people of River Tamar and Plymouth that Africans can bring something positive to their community.
2. Examples to consider would be the cost of labour, food and goods, etc.

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