

No Ordinary Man Discussion Guide

How to Use this Guide: The discussion questions are listed after a brief summary of information about the film. If you watched the film with a group, use these questions to guide a conversation about the film. If you watched it alone, write down your answers to these questions to reflect on the film.

Film Description

For decades, the life of American Jazz musician Billy Tipton was framed as the story of an ambitious woman passing as a man in pursuit of a music career. In *No Ordinary Man*, Tipton's story is re-imagined and performed by trans artists as they collectively paint a portrait of an unlikely hero. Together, the filmmakers join Tipton's son Billy Jr. to reckon with a complicated and contested legacy: how do you tell the story of someone who was hiding in plain sight yet desperate to be seen?

First Impressions

1. In a few words, how did the film make you feel?
2. What aspects of the film surprised you? What aspects of the film were familiar?
3. Was there a moment in the film that you found particularly inspiring or disturbing? What was it about that moment that moved you?

Reflection

1. How does Billy Tipton's story reflect the survival of trans folks through assimilation?
2. How did the media perpetuate the story of trans deceit?
3. Why was Billy Tipton Jr. surprised at what the filmmakers shared with him?
4. What draws people to Billy's story?

Connection

1. What did you learn from the film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
2. If you were going to tell a friend about the film, what would you say?
3. How did what you learned in the film change, challenge, or affirm your perspective on transgender rights?

You can access additional resources about the film here and look for ways to take action on the film festival website [here](#).

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