

Songs of Repression 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

This poignant portrait reveals the dark truth behind Chile's seemingly idyllic, tourist-friendly German colony, Colonia Dignidad. Led by a cruel cult leader for more than 40 years, it remains the home of several generations of perpetrators and victims, inexplicably coexisting without reckoning with decades of abuse.

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 did living in the colony create an environment where people accepted abuse as normal? What long term effects does this create?
2. What do you think of the community's principle to "forgive and forget"?
3. What effect did music and songs have in this community?
4. How did you feel when topics were switched abruptly from trauma to something lighter?
5. Who is harmed when the community suppresses the human rights violations that occurred there?

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 trauma and human rights abuses?

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

*Several questions from the edublog "TUNE IN Next Time" by Faith Rogow, Ph.D.,
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