“Sling Shot Hip Hop” – international award-winning documentary

Directed/produced/edited by Jackie Reem Salloum; produced by Rumzi Araj

2008

Documentary. In Arabic, English, and Hebrew with English subtitles

Running time: 83 minutes

Brief summary of the film: Palestinian young people living in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel use rap to overcome barriers imposed by the Israeli occupation, poverty, gender expectations, and generation differences.

Audience appeal: Teenagers will identify with the theme of music as a defining but also unifying force.

Challenges for educators: A few things to note, especially for high school teachers who want to show this film:

- There are some scenes of people smoking a hookah. Point out that they are smoking a mild form of tobacco, not drugs. Point out that, in fact, the rap artists talk several times about preventing drug use and state that their involvement in music and sponsoring youth programs are focused on opposing the use of drugs.
- There are scenes of war violence in the movie, but not gratuitous violence.
- There are 3 or 4 bad words, not in the music but in people’s conversation.
- The subject of Palestinians is always controversial (though being controversial doesn’t make it bad). Address this directly by stating that this film presents certain Palestinian perspectives, but that there are multiple perspectives of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Show different sides to the issues, such as you can find in the suggested lesson plans. Most importantly, be sure to set the ground rules that no hate talk is allowed during the class discussion (or ever).

For press releases and interviews: http://www.slingshothiphop.com/press/

For a trailer: http://www.slingshothiphop.com/trailer/