

## **Quaker Family Film Nights—at Home or at the Meetinghouse**

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These films work very well for multi-generational events!

**NOTE:** Please always preview films before showing and sharing them. Allow some time after the film to process the experience together, whether in the meeting or at home.

When in doubt, use the Godly Play®/Faith & Play™— reflection questions:

- I wonder what part of the film you liked best?
- I wonder which part is most important to you, today?
- I wonder where you are in the story or what part feels like it is about you?
- I wonder if there is any part we could take out and still have all the story we need?

### ***The Children's March, 2005***

Available through [Teaching Tolerance](#)

Ages 11 and up

Children and youth played a pivotal role in the Civil Rights Movement, but this story isn't often told. Travel back to 1963 in Birmingham, AL and watch as children and teens courageously took to the streets by the thousands and filled the jails to overflowing bringing the white establishment to a halt and even catching the eye of President Kennedy. The film weaves together news footage, interviews with now grown-up participants, yearbook pictures, and the rock music of the early 60's. Bold, brave, and determined, the children changed history. This is a story to celebrate!

### ***Cool Runnings, 1993***

[Trailer](#)

Ages 7 and up

A delightful, uplifting story about four Jamaican athletes, runners actually, who had a mishap in the qualifying heats and decided to find another way to get to the Olympics! They took the bold, many thought crazy and laughable step, of taking up bobsledding! Coached by a retired and long out-of-practice former bobsledding star, we all cheer them on and roar with laughter as they reach for their dream and go to the Calgary Olympics in 1988. Great film for Quaker Meeting or showing at home.

### ***Edge of America, 2006***

[Trailer](#)

Ages 11 and up

Our Family Film Night audience laughed and cried as we watched this film about an African American teacher who takes a job on an Indian Reservation with a white school principal. To make ends meet, he agrees to coach the girls' basketball team which has

a long, losing record. The film gives us a front row seat watching the characters negotiate or trip over the three-way cultural and racial divides. We can see the dynamics of bias and prejudice more clearly when we are not ourselves caught up in the situation. One of the girls becomes pregnant and this complicates life on the basketball team. Reactions to her pregnancy highlight the cultural differences, once more, contrasting the anger of the coach and the support of the Indian women. There are many lessons here wrapped up in an engaging and entertaining story.

### ***Endgame, 2009***

[Trailer](#)

PG-13

This peace-making, suspense thriller is set as the apartheid system in South Africa is careening to an end, one way or another. The film takes us into secret, high stakes negotiations that narrowly averted a violent end to apartheid. William Hurt, Chiwetel Ejiofor, and Jonny Lee Miller star in this spellbinding, real life story of danger, courage, integrity, and hope. This British film, directed by Pete Travis, from a script by Paula Milne is based on the book *The Fall of Apartheid* by Robert Harvey.

### ***The Long Walk Home, 2002***

[Trailer](#)

Ages 11 and up

Sissy Spacek and Whoopi Goldberg star in this film dramatizing the Montgomery Bus Boycott. We see the larger social issue of Civil Rights played out in one household where relationships are strained to the breaking point as different members hold different ideas about equality and freedom. The vivid presentation of a segregated society with two drinking fountains and two sets of restrooms, etc. proved shocking at a visceral level for Young Friends in our Meeting who knew about the history intellectually but had never encountered it visually. Such is the power of film!

### ***Mad, Hot Ballroom, 2005***

[Trailer](#)

Ages 9 and up

This is a delight of a film evoking both laughter and tender tears. The film follows fifth grade New York City public school students who learn the meringue, foxtrot, swing, and rumba as a part of their Physical Education Program. After about 10 weeks of classes, there is a gala competition. We cheer on each child as we come to know him or her with visits into homes and bits of personal stories revealed through interviews with the dancing teachers and the school principals. The photography beautifully catches the children's faces. The viewer is swept up in the unalloyed feelings of the children—joy, hope, excitement, and anticipation. We can see the transformative effects of love and affirmation as the children grow in confidence, poise, and skill. Latin, Asian, African

American, and white students mix effortlessly. Later, we are told that for many schools, the strongest common element in this sea of diversity, is poverty.

Begin your Quaker Family Film Festival with *Mad, Hot Ballroom*. Increasing cultural sensitivity with a look into New York City public schools is a great way to begin a multi-generational conversation about equality and racial justice.

### ***Remember The Titans, 2001***

[Trailer](#)

Ages 11 and up

Denzel Washington stars in this true story of combining an African American and a white football team in a Virginia high school about 1970. The whole school will be integrated in the fall and this challenge comes first to the football team who train all summer. Combining two full teams means there are two of every position including two accomplished coaches. Viewers can feel the tension and watch as expectations have to be modified and flexibility and grace are tested all around.

### ***Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North 2008***

The film can be purchased and to view clips, use this [link](#)—full length 86 minutes and an abridged version of 56 minutes.

Ages 11 and up

A spell-binding documentary about the DeWolf family from Bristol, RI who come to learn that their family's wealth stemmed from central involvement in the slave trade. They peel away layers of family history to find even the names of two slave children their ancestors had owned encoded in what had seemed innocent homemade nursery rhymes. We go along as members of the family travel to Africa to retrace the source of the trade. The audience is drawn into their own hard realizations as it becomes painfully clear that everyone in New England had a hand in the slave economy. For example, barrel makers made barrels used to transport molasses as part of the Triangle Trade and so on. We are left with the same hard questions about privilege and what we might be called to do in our own time to face these truths and make amends.