



## LUNAFEST 2020 Discussion Questions

### GENERAL QUESTIONS

Here are some questions to get you started and it's likely you will come up with some interesting ones of your own.

#### Reflecting on this program:

- 1) How did the films make you feel? Empowered, excited, inspired, refreshed, sad, curious, confused? Which parts of which films brought up these feelings?
- 2) Did you gain an insight, learn something new, or think about a familiar topic from a different perspective?
- 3) Do you have any questions that you would have liked to ask the director(s) or actor(s) of a particular film?
- 4) Which film was most memorable for you? What set it apart from the others for you?
- 5) Do you feel any of these films are particularly relevant now? If so, why?





## FILM SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

### **Purl**

1. Don't we wish we all could be as clever as Purl? Have you had any similar work experiences? How did you deal with them?
2. Women often express gratitude to those other women (and, yes, also men) who have mentored them. Have you had an experience being formally or informally mentored or mentoring? What do you think makes for a productive outcome?

### **Ballet After Dark**

1. How is the saying: "You need to learn how to write your own narrative or someone else will write it for you" relevant to of Tyde-Courtney Edwards' work and her refusal to be defined by trauma?
2. Another remarkable thing about this film is how body affirming it is (rather than the body shaming often associated with ballet) and how the women describe it as being "free." How do you think that works into the healing process?

### **There You Are**

1. With just three words and a loving look, Jessica's grandmother tips the balance of attitudes within the family to the recognition, acceptance, and inclusion that has been denied Jessica until that moment. How does this process work?
2. The trans community is gaining visibility in the entertainment industry, discussions have been renewed about their roles in the military and in athletics, etc but the power of this film has to do with the importance of family. Do you want to discuss this? Are there any trans women in the audience who would like to comment from their experience. Any folks who have friends or relatives with experiences like Jessica's?





:3. So much of this film is conveyed without words, and yet we can easily follow. This film “shows” rather than “tells” a lot. How did you react to this way of making the film?

### **Xmas Cake**

1. Can you relate to the idea that “you should tell your story from the scar not the wound” as it plays out in this film as an empowering life and/or useful filmmaking strategy?

### **Game**

1. Like Purl (and many female protagonists throughout cinema history), C.J. decides she has a better chance at success if she presents as male. Do women sometimes conceal their authentic selves in other ways as well?

2. C.J. doesn’t say much until that critical point late in the film.

Why is this so difficult (especially for women sometimes) to do, and what do you think went into her decision to clearly state what she wants?

### **Lady Parts**

1. Like Purl and C.J. this actress finds herself to be the only woman in a room full of men.

Have you had a similar experience and how did you handle it?

2. The film makes fun of shots that are designed to focus on specific aspects of the woman’s body; do you recognize these kinds of shots from other films

### **How to Swim**

1. Becoming a mother for the first time could be easier with your own mother to guide you, and in this film the very pregnant young woman is in dire need of a mother figure. While the underlying emotional content could be handled as being very sad, in what ways do you think the humor and the characters/acting work to uplift the story?

2. Talking to strangers, depending on the kindness of strangers doesn’t always work out so well. Why, do you think, it does this time?

