



The Arc®

For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

Conversation Guide



where hope grows

STEALTH TIGER ENTERTAINMENT AND GODSPEED PICTURES PRESENT A GODSPEED PICTURES AND AT THE LIGHT PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WARRIORS PRESENT "WHERE HOPE GROWS"
KRISTOFFER POLAHIA • BILLY ZABKA • BROOKE BURNS • KERI SMITH • MICHAEL GRANT • ALAN POWELL • DANICA MCKELLAR • MCKALEY MILLER AND INTRODUCING DAVID DESANCTIS AS "PROUD"
CASTING CARISA KELLY • COSTUME DESIGNER RACHAEL LATHAM • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREA AHL • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LAURA O'KEEFE • PRODUCED BY BECCA BROOKS MORRIS • EDITOR TIMOTHY MUNGER • MUSIC BY KYLE NEWMASTER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER DUNCAN MATHIESON • CO-PRODUCED BY SOOJIN CHUNG • DIRECTED BY ALEX LEHMANN • EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESSE S. JONES • PRODUCED BY SEV OJANIAN AND BILL HOLLAND • CO-PRODUCED BY ALEX LEHMANN
PRODUCED BY STEVE BAGHERI, SIMRAN SINGH, JOSE PABLO CANTILLO AND MILAN CHAKRABORTY • WRITTEN BY CHRIS DOWLING • GODSPEED PICTURES
www.wherehopegrowsmovie.com

IN THEATERS MAY 15, 2015

Where Hope Grows follows the developing friendship between two people with very different backgrounds. Written and directed by Chris Dowling, one of the characters is a grocery store employee who has an intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD).

The Arc of the United States is delighted that Mr. Dowling and producers Steve Bagheri, Simran Singh, Jose Pablo Cantillo and Milan Chakraborty hired actor David DeSanctis, a young man with Down syndrome, to star in this film. The film's optimistic message is portrayed through Mr. DeSanctis' character who influences his community with a gentle power that progresses through the story. The Arc's Conversation Guide was developed to help viewers reflect on the film's story and to specifically discuss the portrayal of a person with Down syndrome shown as an independent person who is fully included in his community.

After viewing this film we encourage you to join with others to share your views and continue the conversation. *Where Hope Grows*, coming to 400-theaters in the U.S. in May 2015 gives us a wonderful opportunity to share and celebrate the contributions that our family members, friends, co-workers, fellow students and others with I/DD bring to their communities.



GENERAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the message of this movie and do you agree or disagree with it?
2. Was there something you didn't understand about the film? What was that?
3. Who was your favorite/least favorite character in the movie and why?
4. What part of the story told by the movie was the most powerful and why?
5. If you could ask a character in this movie a question, what would it be?
6. What feelings did you share with any of the characters in the movie?
7. Did any of the characters in this movie make you angry? Tell us why.
8. Did you come to respect any of the characters in this movie? Who was it and why did you come to respect that character?
9. Did you come away from watching the movie feeling that it provided an honest and respectful treatment of a person with I/DD?
10. Do you think the movie offered any strategies for how a person without a disability can/should interact with a person with a disability?
11. Why do you think the screenwriter chose to tell this story? Do you feel the screenwriter is trying to make a statement? Explain your reasons.
12. Would you recommend this movie to a friend? Explain your reasons.

- 1 The young man called "Produce" is the only character in the film who is not referred to by his given name. Why do you think that is?**
 - Would you feel the same or differently if the character did not have an intellectual/developmental disability?
 - Does this character's name convey a message to the general public?
 - If someone had a nickname that you felt could be demeaning or made you uncomfortable, how would you address it?
 - Does his name make you feel differently about him and his role in the film?
- 2 "Produce" is seen hugging a customer who is not a close friend or relative while at work. What is your reaction to this?**
 - Does seeing "Produce" hug make you think anything about his ability to do his job?
 - If you were supporting or coaching an employee with an I/DD, would you address this type of behavior and, if so, how?
- 3 The grocery store has an employee of the month program. "Produce" is determined to work hard to earn this honor.**
 - What is your reaction to the grocery store supervisor's opinion about "Produce" and his aspirations?
 - How would you guide an individual with a disability to advocate for themselves to talk to their supervisor if they were trying to achieve an honor like this?
- 4 "Produce" has a strong sense of himself, high standards for others and deep moral values.**
 - How do you feel the other characters reacted to advice from a person with intellectual/developmental disabilities?
- 5 "Produce's" disability is referred to using a variety of terms including the R-word.**
 - What does this message communicate to the general public?
 - What terms do you use to describe people with intellectual/developmental disabilities?
 - What do you think about the ex-baseball player's efforts to stop people from referring to "Produce" with the R-word? How would you react?
 - What recommendations do you have for others who may feel uncomfortable with language used by others?
- 6 In one scene "Produce" is shown physically defending someone he cares about.**
 - Does the scene reinforce or break stereotypes about people with intellectual/developmental disabilities?

