

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review
Review Date: December 2006

A Tale of Two Teens (2006)

Format: Video (34minutes)

Target Audience: Grades 6th – 12th

Cost: \$79.95

Distributor: Cinema Guild

130 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016-7038 • 212.685.6242 • www.cinemaguild.com

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends** use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

A Tale of Two Teens is an engaging and informative documentary about the AIDS pandemic in Africa as seen through the eyes of two girls, an American and South African teenager. The teens have vastly different stories, but find a major connection through music (Dave Matthews Band and U2). It is a journey of discovery both for the two teens as well as the audience. *A Tale of Two Teens* brings to the forefront how girls represent the new face of AIDS and how young people in South Africa are not speaking out, but singing out about the disease killing their parents, teachers, neighbors, workers and friends.

The panel recommends *A Tale of Two Teens* for the following reasons:

- The information focuses more on the socio-cultural aspects of AIDS rather than the typical sex-ed information regarding transmission, etc. This point of view needs to be included in more resources to merge both views together.
- Cinematically well done and tells a compelling story.
- Clarity of message.

The panel has concerns about *A Tale of Two Teens* for the following reasons:

- The difference in cost for prescription drugs in US & SA and the issue of “Sugar Daddies” is glossed over and could be addressed further.
- It misses an opportunity to juxtapose HIV/AIDS positive teens from both countries.
- A perceived “Us” versus “Them” theme component.

The distributor suggests that the target audience is sixth thru 12th grade. But the age range is not written explicitly on the website or in curriculum guide. The panel feels that the video is not suited for a middle school audience, but would be better suited for audiences’ high school thru adult.

A curriculum guide accompanies the DVD; its purpose is to provoke the exchange of ideas and information among students. The panel feels the guide is not teacher friendly, but could be teacher friendly if it included answers to questions, had a more organized lesson plan and had stronger content.

Overall, the panel **recommends** *A Tale of Two Teens*. Panel members conclude that *A Tale of Two Teens* was well done, but would be more appropriate for a social studies class than a health class.

A Tale of Two Teens (2006)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about teen sexual health, e.g., risks of teen sexual activity, ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs, human growth and development, relationships, etc.	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Small amount of information about safety or transmission, but good information about AIDS situation in Africa. ▪ The information presented focused more on the socio-cultural aspects of AIDS rather than the typical sex-ed information regarding transmission etc. There is a definite need for more resources like this bringing both pieces of the puzzle together.
Focus - Focuses on ways to promote sexual health e.g., reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection; understanding healthy physical/emotional development; developing healthy relationships, etc.	2.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus is not really about HIV prevention methods-more about the environment surrounding the pandemic.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contains clear messages that there is a pandemic in Africa.
Addresses Social Pressures – Video demonstrates social pressures that influence sexual behavior. Guide includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	3.8 2.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The video clearly points out multiple ways that social pressures have negatively help perpetuate the Pandemic in Africa, i.e. not acknowledging when people have contracted HIV. ▪ The guide does not include activities that address social pressures
Communication Skills – Video provides examples of being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc. Guide includes activities to practice assertive skills, negotiation and refusal skills, decision-making skills, etc.	NA NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not goal of video. ▪ It would be great if the guide included something to promote communication skills- it does not do so now.
Teaching Methods - Engages participants and helps them personalize information	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not personalize to youth in U.S. Does not contrast similar teenagers in similar predicaments i.e. African American youth in the US with HIV/AIDS.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students (as stated by publisher.)	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Too advanced for 6th graders. Not sure that students in grades 6th –8th could really make the connection necessary to make the video meaningful, 9th grade-adult would be better.
Multicultural Perspective – This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower income audiences might not relate to American teen highlighted in documentary.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	2.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some questions in the guide seem repetitive. Others do not seem reasonable for students based on only viewing the video. ▪ The guide would be teacher friendly if it included answers to questions or more organized lesson plan. Needs stronger content in guide. Does not easily apply to a health class.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires leader with moderate content knowledge and group skills.
Presentation Quality – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.)?	4.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good quality video. ▪ The guide was not appealing.
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly - 0 ▪ Recommend – 6 ▪ Reject - 2