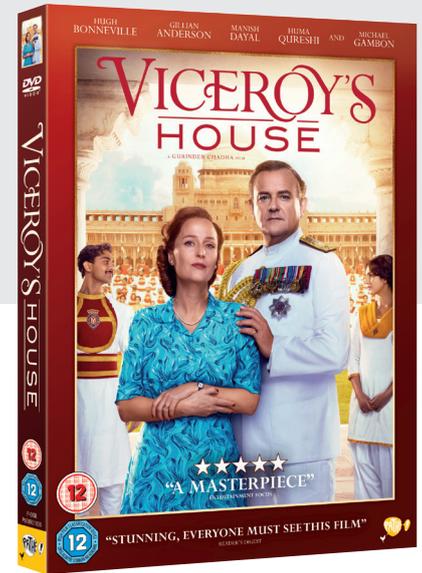




Leader's Guide



Download the discussion starter video from **Take-One.TV**



Background Information

- In 1947, Lord Mountbatten faced the unenviable task of overseeing the partition of India into (mainly Muslim) Pakistan and (mainly Hindu) India.
- Some 14 million people found that their homes were suddenly on the 'wrong' side of the border. They became refugees in one of the biggest mass migrations in history, during which up to a million people died from violence, starvation or disease.

Discussion Questions

1. Hugh Bonneville (who plays Lord Mountbatten) describes the film as 'a huge story that still has resonance today.' In what ways do you think that the consequences of separating people according to their faith resonates with issues in the world today?
2. In today's society what might it mean to 'dance with your own kind'? What do you think are the consequences of such an approach to life?
3. Manish Dayal (who plays Jeet) says that the Hindu, Muslim and political perspectives 'don't know each other's perspectives, but the audience does.' How important is it to see other people's perspectives? What unique contribution can movies bring to this process?
4. Hugh Bonneville (who plays Lord Mountbatten) says that the personal family history of Gurinder Chadha, the film's director, brings a 'level of passion and authenticity'. Do you agree? What do you consider to be the relative merits of personal experience and objectivity in art? And in politics?
5. Huma Qureshi (who plays Aalia) says 'it's about two people believing in a common dream.' What do you believe is, or could be, a common dream for all of humanity? What is the source and basis of that commonality?

A Key Concept: Tolerance and Respect in UK Education

- The UK Government requires all schools to actively promote four 'British' values, including 'mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those of no faith' (the other three 'British' values being individual liberty, democracy and the rule of law). Arguably there are many other differences between people that require tolerance and respect, indeed the 2010 Equality Act lists eight other protected characteristics alongside 'religion or belief'.
- A typical dictionary definition of tolerance is 'the ability or willingness to accept the existence of opinions that one dislikes or disagrees with.' Crucially, tolerance does not require us to agree with different beliefs, indeed the need for tolerance presupposes that we disagree with those beliefs - because if we agreed with them we would not need to tolerate them!
- Respect is a broader term with a range of definitions, including 'a deep admiration'. However, the UK Government requirement regarding the promotion of 'British' values specifically calls people to respect 'those with', which means respecting the person even if one disagrees with their belief. Arguably, showing respect for a person who holds different beliefs involves acting as a 'critical friend', raising questions to help them think more deeply about their beliefs.