

Activity Idea

DECEMBER 2022 LGBTQ+ VIRTUAL FILM FEST:

The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert Viewer's Guide

Rated Restricted: R - Restricted

Not suggested for children under 17, contains some adult material.

Resplendent in flamboyant ball gowns, looking down over the vast red Australian desert: for three showgirls (Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving and Guy Pearce) it was the dream of a lifetime, a four-week cabaret engagement in Alice Springs. The problem is simply getting there intact, along with their battered, pink tour bus, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. It's not easy being a drag queen in the outback!

Stream the film here on Kanopy: <https://www.kanopy.com/en/lacounty/video/11553147>

MOVIE RESOURCES:

- “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert review – riotous return trip” from *The Guardian*: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6kfdc4>
- “The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert: Why It Still Survives’ 20 years later” from *Out Magazine*: <https://tinyurl.com/6x8nvtvv>
- “How Australia fell in love with Priscilla, Queen of the Desert” from *LGBTQNation*: <https://tinyurl.com/c7wvnwvd>
- “Is Priscilla, Queen of the Desert the Ultimate LGBTQ Film?” from *taggMagazine*: <https://tinyurl.com/4nfv5wcd>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Which character in the film did you find you most related to? Did their gender expression/identity affect whether you’d had similar experiences or feelings?
- There were instances of homophobic threat from both heterosexual and homosexual characters in the film. Why do you think the film showed both? Which one did you find more alarming?



- In what way was this film ahead of its time in terms of LGBTQ+ representation? In what way did it still contain racially problematic portrayals, especially of Filipino immigrant women? If you were a Filipino immigrant woman watching this film, how might you feel about the portrayal of the character Cynthia Campos?
- Bernadette today would be considered transgender, and when Adam mentioned her birth name, he was essentially deadnaming her in the film. If this is the first time you have heard this term, how do you think this act made Bernadette feel and how did that contribute to her reaction towards Adam?
 - *Deadnaming - to speak of or address (someone) by the name that the transgender person was given at birth and no longer uses upon transitioning* – From Merriam-Webster: <https://tinyurl.com/2uyu4xce>
- Why do you think Tick felt the need to change his style of dress to connect with his son Benjamin? How does Benjamin's actual reaction change Tick's perspective about his own gender expression? How did Benjamin's mother Marion contribute to his open-minded attitude?
- Why do you think it was so important to Adam to climb to the top of a tall desert cliff in drag? How is that desire connected to how he expresses himself and relates to others during the film?
- What was your favorite song featured in the film? Why? Also, would this film inspire you attend a live Drag Show, if you haven't been to one already? Why or Why not?

OTHER FILMS BY STEPHAN ELLIOTT

- *Swinging Safari* on Hoopla: <https://tinyurl.com/3hsjppr7>
- *Rio, I Love You* on Hoopla (segment "Acho que Estou Apaixonado"): <https://tinyurl.com/32mrer28>