



WINNER
FESTIVAL FAVORITE AWARD
sundance
film festival 2023

based on a true story

RADICAL

RESOURCE GUIDE

M Mature themes and coarse language





Radical shines a light on the incredible potential children can manifest when an innovative teacher empowers them to *think for themselves*.

This resource guide may be used to spur action or discussion after viewing *Radical* – based on a true story, the film takes place in a Mexican border town plagued by neglect, corruption, and violence, a frustrated teacher (Eugenio Derbez) tries a radical new method to break through his students’ apathy and unlock their curiosity, their potential... and maybe even their genius.

ABOUT THE FILM

Radical tells a deeply moving true story that highlights a widespread challenge: potential is everywhere, but opportunity is not. It also highlights what may be an answer to these challenges, kids exploring their inherent resources: their curiosities and communities.

Set in Matamoros, a Mexican city along the U.S. border, the systemic challenges shown in the film mirror the challenges many youth face across the world, where students of colour face compounded systemic and historic inequities like fewer community and school resources, graduation rates below the national average, and are often underrepresented in advanced mathematics and science classes.

**EVERY STUDENT DESERVES
AN ENRICHING AND ENGAGING
EDUCATION AND IT’S UP
TO US TO ENSURE EQUITY
IN EVERY CLASSROOM.**

Radical stars Eugenio Derbez, Daniel Haddad and Jennifer Trejo; is directed and written by Christopher Zalla; produced by Ben Odell, Eugenio Derbez and Joshua Davis; and executive produced by Javier Williams, Josh Bearman, Avelino Rodriguez and Patricia Sanchez. *The film will be released in Australian Cinemas on May 23.* [Find out more and watch the trailer here.](#)

To learn more about the real-life students from the film, check out WIRED Magazine's article from November 2013, [A Radical Way of Unleashing a Generation of Geniuses.](#)

HOW TO HOST A DISCUSSION

STARTING THE DISCUSSION

- Introduce yourself and your role.
- Read aloud the Discussion Guidelines and ask for everyone's agreement to kindly hold each other accountable to them throughout the meeting.
- Ask each person to introduce themselves, as far as they are comfortable, with their name, and a bit about their background.



SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Reflect on your experience with a radical teacher or leader – what did they do to make learning easy or engaging and what potential did that unlock in your life?
- Great leaders develop other great leaders. What did Sergio (Eugenio Derbez) do to develop leadership in his classroom?
- The statistics don't lie: many students and schools are not resourced enough to allow for successful student achievement on par with the national average. In our own community:
 - » What's working?
 - » What do we need more of?
- As the film illustrates, barriers to opportunities can take many forms. They can directly impact the ability to attend school, succeed in the classroom, find employment, or develop professionally.
 - » Can you identify a few barriers that would inhibit a person's participation in your school or organisation? (ex. Communication, inadequate housing, clothing, food, a lack of education, work experience, access to technology, transportation or child care arrangements.)
 - » Pick one or two and discuss how you, your school or organisation might support overcoming those barriers? Use Sergio's bravery and radical thinking to inspire you.



DISCUSSION GUIDELINES

- **APPRECIATE** that everyone in the room has good intentions and also biases. Everyone is doing the best they can from their current state of awareness.
- **REMEMBER** that identity formation and understanding is an ongoing process.
- **SPEAK** for yourself (“I feel...” “I think...”), not on behalf of your identity (“we feel...” “we are...”) or other identities (“they think...” “they act like...”).
- **LISTEN** to understand and not to respond. Take the time to process what you’ve heard.
- **AVOID** negative judgments, language, attacks, and name calling.
- **BE OPEN** to feeling uncomfortable – all growth comes with some discomfort.
- **UNDERSTAND** that groups of a single community can have multiple perspectives and even the most diverse groups will not represent every perspective that could be held by that group.
- **STAY ENGAGED.** Take a moment if you feel frustrated or misunderstood, but don’t drop out.
- **GIVE** those who are taking a moment to gather their thoughts the space to do so; respect each participant’s space to reflect before they speak.
- **DON’T** dominate the conversation. Everyone gets a chance to speak and be heard.
- **DON’T** expect resolution, complete agreement, or definite answers.
This is a discussion, not a debate or a lesson.

ABOUT MADMAN

Established in 1996, Madman Entertainment is an independent distributor with a focus on remarkable stories. We are proud to share films with audiences in Australia and New Zealand that transcend the screen; starting conversations, encouraging reflection and empowering change. From documentaries that reflect on our national identity, to bold dramas that push the boundaries of cinema, or animated content at the bleeding edge of creativity, Madman represents content that connects with audiences well beyond the cinema or lounge room.

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www.classification.gov.au/classification-ratings/what-do-ratings-mean