



Short Films: Larry From Gary & From Sundown to Sunrise

Dive into this month's *Conscious Conversation* with these questions about the two Indiana Humanities INseparable short films: *From Sundown to Sunrise* and *Larry From Gary*.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The questions and discussion topics that follow are designed to enhance your group's conversation.

ABOUT THE FILMS



From Sundown to Sunrise

By Pat Wisniewski and Tom Desch

Trace one man's journey from sundown to sunrise as he and his family integrate an all-white Indiana town in 1968. By breaking the color barrier, they also helped transform the town and place it on a trajectory of inclusion.



Larry from Gary

By Dan Rybicky

A dedicated dance teacher continues inspiring his current and former students even after the arts high school where he's taught for decades is shut down by the state.

VIEWING THE FILMS

Watch both films on Legacy Foundation's website: <https://legacyfdn.org/community-programs/conscious-conversations/>



Short Films: Larry from Gary & From Sundown to Sunrise Discussion Questions

Larry from Gary:

1. How can the arts be used to teach Black culture and history? How can the arts be used to transform communities?
2. The film highlighted a number of professional dancers that came out of Gary, Indiana. What can be done to highlight those individuals, and others, to uplift the success coming out of Northwest Indiana minority communities? What can be done to encourage these talented individuals to stay?
3. When Larry first decided he wanted to be a dancer, people told him he “should leave dance alone and get a job like a real man.” What impact did Larry’s decision to break gender role expectations potentially have on the youth he taught?
4. The film shows Emerson High School staffed by African American teachers. How do you think it influences Black students to have teachers that look like them?
5. Larry touches on “white flight” in the film. What do you think motivates “white flight” and how can we prevent it from happening in other communities?

From Sundown to Sunrise:

1. Barbara Cotton’s ambition for Robert was that he “not go to jail and graduate high school”. What does this say about opportunities for black children growing up in the 60’s? How has this changed or stayed the same?
2. Local realtors wouldn’t sell to black families. This practice has continued with redlining and discriminatory lending practices. What policies have been put into place to protect discrimination against home ownership and what could still be done from a policy perspective?
3. Robert ponders “How do you move off the paradigm of perpetuating sameness, while you dig in and start treating neighbors of a different color like real neighbors?” What are your thoughts on this question?
4. Byron Martin states “It is very easy to romanticize the good that has already been done and to not remain critically conscious of what is yet to happen. The Cotton’s story is not complete, but is still ongoing. The power of that is because we still have some work to do.” What does he mean by this statement?

5. How can we encourage more people to take the initiative to stand up against racism like the Reiner Family?
6. Have you heard of “sundown towns” before watching this video? What has been your experience with them, if so, and what was your reaction to learning about them, if not?
7. At a young age Robert noticed that African Americans weren’t wearing the suits and weren’t becoming president, but they were dying in the Vietnam war. How does this demonstrate the value society placed on African Americans lives?
8. Throughout the film we see how sharing experiences and building relationships creates understanding and lessens fear. How can we create more opportunities to bring people from different backgrounds together?

AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION

We would love to hear about your conversation. If you would like to share any of your discussion notes, comments or photos with Legacy Foundation, please send them to mfishback@legacyfdn.org