

WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE FILM LIST

Babette's Feast

Directed by Gabriel Axel (1978)

In a 19th century Danish village, French refugee Babette enters the lives of two older sisters who sacrificed independence and youth to take care of their father, the pastor of a small church in the village. When Babette receives a costly award, she decides to cook a French meal for the sisters and village that will teach them all a life-changing lesson. This **film** depicts the importance of friendships and the lessons one can learn from people who appear to have little in common.

Justification

World Youth Alliance members can benefit from a viewing and discussion of *Babette's Feast* for its portrayal of Babette's gift of self. Themes of truth, mercy, righteousness, and sacrifice are intertwined throughout the film and inspire reflection on the unique ways we can contribute to the world around us--beginning with our family members, neighbors, and local community.

Guide questions for discussion groups

- What does the film reveal about the relationship between food and the human person?
- How does Babette's character lead us to more deeply understand the human condition?
- Discuss the relationship between the father and his daughters in light of WYA's charter?

Supplementary ideas:

- Show this film surrounding a potluck dinner celebration.
- Read Isak Dinesen's short story that inspired the film.