

# WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE FILM LIST

## Children of Heaven

Directed by Bacheha-Ye Aseman (1997)

When Ali loses his sister Zohra's shoes, there is one problem: their family is penniless and cannot afford to replace the lost shoes. Ali and Zohra decide to solve this problem by sharing Ali's sole pair of shoes. As the two siblings learn to walk out of a single pair of shoes, they confront even more obstacles as their family struggles to make ends meet. "Children of Heaven" depicts the role of self-sacrifice, care for others, and solidarity in parts of the world where gratitude takes on an entirely different meaning.

### Guide questions for discussion groups

- Think about the film's ending. How did it make you feel and were you satisfied with this conclusion?
- Discuss the symbolism of the shoes in this film as a way of reflecting the values of family, gender and education?
- Examine a few of the ways this film tells us to be careful about our judgments on other people.
- Outline some of the choices Ali makes and consider whether he remains loyal to his sister and parents through these decisions.
- Consider the effect of Ali's determination on his own personal growth and development. What does Ali come to learn in the course of the film?
- Give your own conclusion to the film.