

WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE FILM LIST

Life is Beautiful

Directed by Roberto Benigni (1997)

A Jewish book keeper in Italy, Guido, is arrested from the fairytale of a carefree life with his wife and son when German forces occupy Italy. After being transported to a concentration camp, Guido uses his imagination, humor, and story-telling to disguise the horror of the concentration camp for his young son, Joshua. Guido tells his son that the concentration camp is a game and in doing so, protects Joshua. In the midst of one of humanity's most hateful histories, this film examines the deep relationship between father and son and the transcendent power of creativity placed at the service of love.

Why Life is Beautiful

World Youth Alliance members can benefit from a viewing and discussion of *Life is Beautiful* for its portrayal of the inner freedom that is achieved when pursuing what is objectively good. This film's content is suitable for audiences of all ages.

Guide questions for discussion groups

- How would you describe Guido's character before and after his family's arrival at the concentration camp?
- In what way does Guido's sense of humor provide insight into the human condition?
- What was your reaction to Guido's death? Did you interpret it as defeat?
- Do you think the boy realized that his father was making up a story?
- What lessons can we draw from the doctor's character?
- How does physical space reflect ideas (true/false) about the human person, and how do we see this in the film?