January 12, 2011

Dear Friends:

Schooling the World is a film that will challenge your deepest assumptions about modern education and its impacts on traditional indigenous cultures around the world. Teachers from the middle school to the graduate school level have been finding the film a useful tool for generating intense debate, deep questioning, and an occasional dose of hilarity among their students — and for engaging those students who often remain silent during class discussion.

A discussion guide for the film is included in this CD-ROM. Because the intertwined issues of education and culture lie at the heart of every society, the discussion guide includes questions which relate to the study of anthropology, education, history, economics, environmental science, psychology, ethics, and women’s issues. We hope that you will browse the guide and use or freely adapt what you need for your group.

The one suggestion that we do make is that you and your students watch the film in its entirety before your discussion, since the line of thinking that Schooling the World explores is so unfamiliar to most people, teachers and students alike. The discussion questions do not reiterate the points made in the film, but assume a familiarity with them.

Please visit our website at http://www.schoolingtheworld.org to learn more about the film, view the trailer, explore our resources page, check out our Frequently Asked Questions, or purchase a DVD. All profits from sales of Schooling the World will be donated to nonprofit organizations concerned with education and traditional cultures.

Thank you for your interest, and we hope you enjoy the film.

Warm regards,

Carol Black
Director, Schooling the World
RESPONSE FROM EDUCATORS

"An important and fascinating movie."


"Painful, provocative, and oddly exhilarating."

– Paul Campbell, International Baccalaureate

"Powerful, effective, direct, clear... and at the same time poetic, subtle, delicate, tender."

– Gustavo Esteva, co-founder, Universidad de la Tierra, Oaxaca, Mexico

“A film of profound insights and the quest for hope in the thick of much violence by mainstream cultures against the marginalized and the silenced peoples of the world ... Challenging, courageous and thought provoking.”

– Dr. Madhu Suri Prakash, Professor of Education Philosophy, Pennsylvania State University

“Every teacher and prospective teacher should watch and discuss Schooling the World.”

– Bill Bigelow, high school social studies teacher, editor, Rethinking Schools