

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA RELEASE



Multiple Choices

Volume

1



VHS

9195 093



Multiple Choices

Spanning the generations...
a lively exchange of ideas

Volume 1

- LOVES ME, LOVES ME NOT
- TYING THE KNOT



LOVES ME, LOVES ME NOT

ISSUES Choosing a mate for life
Betrothal customs and rituals

KEY CONCEPTS

Fidelity
Monogamy
Polygamy
Arranged marriages
Love and lust

QUOTES TO USE AS DISCUSSION STARTERS

- "I couldn't go out with you, you're a friend."
- "How can you love somebody after knowing them for five weeks?"

PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITY

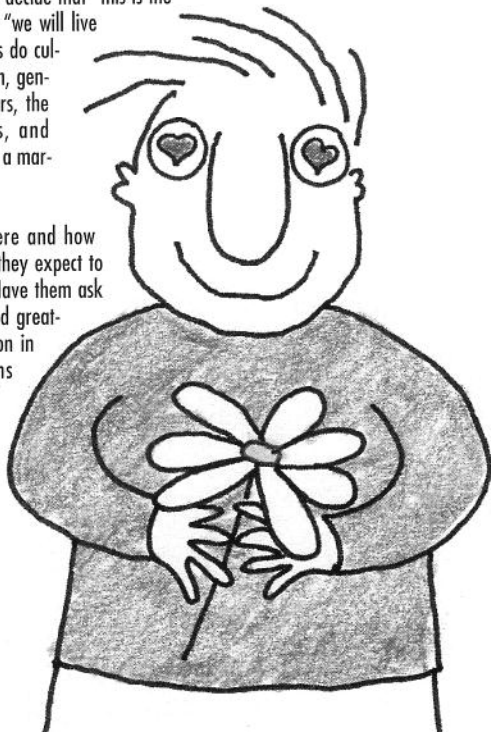
■ Try to define the phrase "getting married" in terms of rituals, legalities, benefits, liabilities, societal expectations, emotional components, lifestyle changes and responsibilities.

POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

1 The myriad customs, rituals and rites surrounding marriage all have one common element — the public joining of two people into a relationship sanctioned by their community. What are these marriage rituals and rites and how do they affirm, sanctify and validate the union of, and the relationship between, two people? How and why have these rituals and rites changed over time?

2 Try to list the ways people decide that "this is the person for me" and therefore "we will live happily ever after." What roles do cultural group, religious affiliation, gender, age, socio-economic factors, the influence of media images, and morality, play in the search for a marriage partner?

3 Ask group members where and how they met, or, where and how they expect to meet their prospective mate. Have them ask their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents the same question in order to determine patterns through the generations of where and how it was acceptable to meet prospective mates.



PULL OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Executive Producer
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27 minutes 29 seconds
Order number: 9195 093



TYING THE KNOT (starts at 16:27)

ISSUE Marriage versus common-law relationships

KEY CONCEPTS

- Living together
- Evolution of a relationship
- Social status of married and non-married couples
- Commitment and companionship

QUOTES TO USE AS DISCUSSION STARTERS

- "Marriage puts more of a strain on a relationship than just living with somebody."
- "Then why did you bother to get married?"

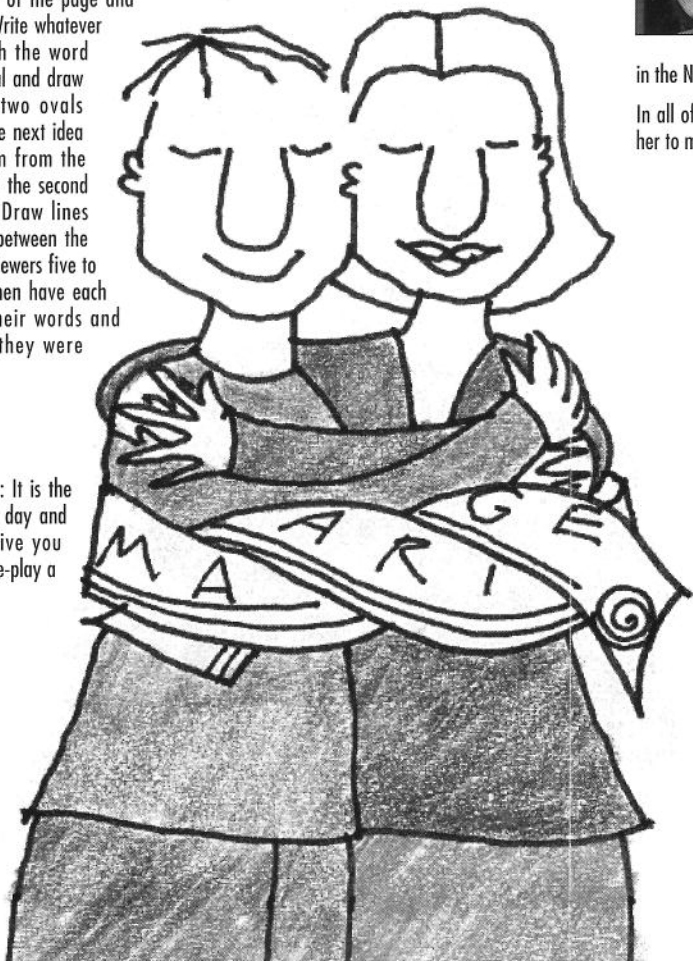
PRE-VIEWING ACTIVITY

■ Ask the viewers to draw a concept map starting with the word "marriage" in the center of the page. (A concept map is a graphic representation of a series of ideas as well as the links and associations between the ideas and their constituent elements. The map provides a visual picture of a person's thoughts and ideas around a particular topic. For example: put the word "marriage" in the center of the page and draw an oval around it. Write whatever word you associate with the word "marriage" in its own oval and draw a line connecting the two ovals around the two words. The next idea that you have may stem from the word "marriage" or from the second word that was written. Draw lines showing the connections between the words in the ovals. Give viewers five to ten minutes to do this, then have each person give three of their words and explain why and how they were included in the map.

POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

■ **Role-playing scenario:** It is the morning of your wedding day and your parents want to give you some words of advice. Role-play a conversation between:

- a mother and daughter;
- a mother and son;
- a father and daughter;
- a father and son.



2 Many religious institutions require the prospective bride and groom to take a marriage preparation course before their wedding. Invite a member of the clergy to give an overview of the course content and methodology and to discuss why these courses are offered.

3 Have the group determine if there are differences between living together and being married. Why would couples choose to live together or get married?

DISCUSSION LEADER



Cheryl Kies is a counsellor at John Abbott College in Montreal. She has worked as a community organizer and teacher with kids of all ages and their families, in a variety of multi-ethnic, urban settings. Her career, which began in a Chicago ghetto social service center, has also included working with Italian and Hispanic gangs in Brooklyn, the homeless in Paris, addicted teenagers in rural Quebec, and CEGEP students and staff from Montreal's West Island. Cheryl has also acted as the discussion leader in the National Film Board's video series, **Listen to Us**.

In all of these settings, Cheryl's warm approach combined with her keen perception has allowed her to make great strides in dealing with many different families.

USER
GUIDE

NOTES TO TEACHERS AND DISCUSSION GROUP LEADERS

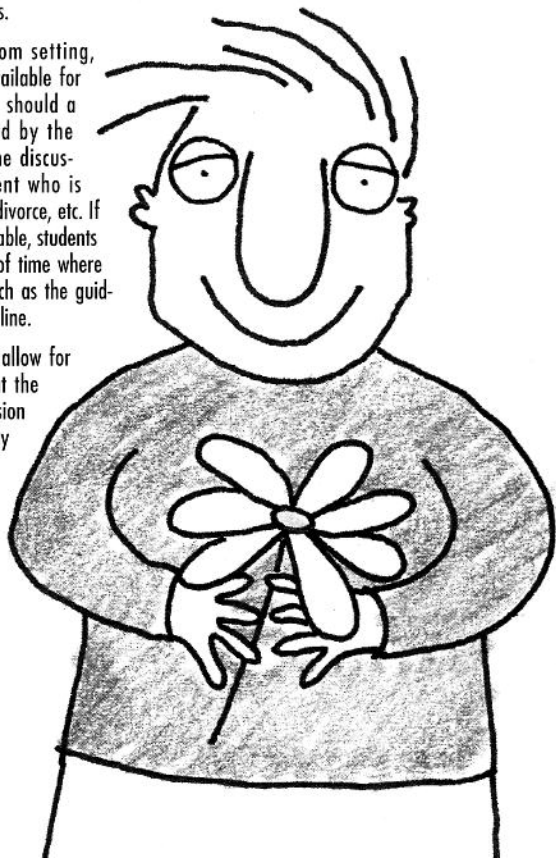
Multiple Choices sets a standard for a positive discussion process. It is hoped that your viewers will emulate the participants in the on-screen discussions.

This series deals with some very personal and sometimes difficult issues — marriage, family, divorce, sex, religion, love, parenting, and values. We suggest that each person who participates in the post-viewing group discussions and activities should agree to the following ground rules, so that everyone feels safe to say what he or she truly thinks and feels.

- 1 Confidentiality: Everyone must agree to treat what is said with respect and to avoid gossip.
- 2 Respect for ideas: No attacks. No blame. Everyone should agree that this is a forum in which it is all right to take a chance and say what he or she really thinks.

If used in a classroom setting, teachers should be available for post-viewing support should a student be distressed by the nature of some of the discussions, i.e. any student who is experiencing a family divorce, etc. If the teacher is not available, students should be told ahead of time where they can find help, such as the guidance office or local hot line.

Group leaders should allow for decompression time at the end of each class/session in order to relieve any anxiety or discomfort and to provide closure for the participants.



Multiple Choices

What does 82-year-old Doris have to say about love, sex and marriage to 17-year-old Russell? For that matter,

can Ruby, who has chosen not to have children, understand Anita, who at 21 already had two kids? And does Tasli, a Muslim teenager who looks forward to meeting the man she will marry at 18, have anything in common with Erika, a lesbian in her late thirties who is trying to have a baby through artificial insemination?

MULTIPLE CHOICES opens the lines of communication between the sexes, across the generations, and from culture to culture. From blushing shyness to forceful candour, the 30 participants, spanning three generations and a myriad of backgrounds, debate their opinions regarding love, marriage, divorce, relationships, sex, community, family, parenting, religion, and values — all the hot issues of the nineties.

Despite the controversial terrain, the participants display humour, tolerance, and a willingness to listen and learn. At a time when Canadian families and values are the focus of political debate and social upheaval, **MULTIPLE CHOICES** offers a lively and provocative forum for understanding and the exchange of ideas.

Packaged on five videocassettes, containing two or three segments each, **MULTIPLE CHOICES** is ideal for classroom, group or home discussion.

Note: The volumes in this series may be used in any order. The volume numbers assigned are for reference only.

LOVES ME, LOVES ME NOT (15:22)

"I'm sure I fell in love with my wife the first time I saw her," claims Ashley. What is love? Is it an essential ingredient in how we choose our partners? Does Nee, from Ghana, choose in the same way as Davina does in Montreal? The participants discuss love and marriage from across the great divides of culture, generations and alternative lifestyles.

TYING THE KNOT (9:45)

For 17-year-old Russell, "Marriage is just a way of informing the government of your legal status," while 25-year-old Davina maintains that marriage means, "I love him enough that I'm going to commit myself to him and to our son... for the rest of my life." Is there a difference between common-law relationships and marriage? To marry or to live together? That is the question.

Director: Alison Burns
Producer: Sally Bochner

27 minutes 29 seconds

Order number: 9195 093 (Volume 1)

Series order number: 193C 9195 098 (5-volume set)

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P.O. Box 6100, Station Centre-Ville, Montreal, Quebec H3C 3H5
Printed in Canada

