

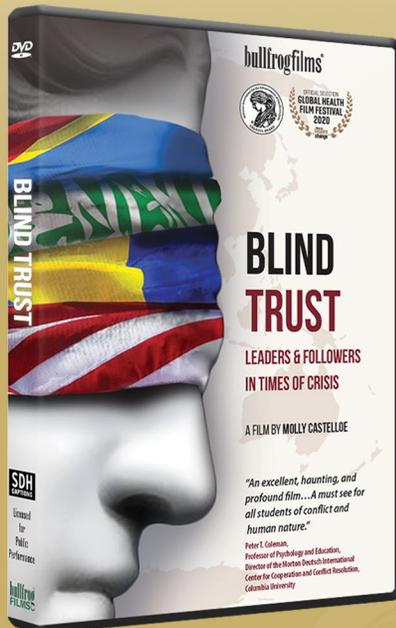
BLIND TRUST

Use your screening of **BLIND TRUST** as a tool for educating your community about shared trauma, conflict resolution, and the work of Dr. Vamik Volkan. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening.

Good Luck!

what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to talk! discussion guide
- ready to act! handout



About the film

BLIND TRUST celebrates the life and work of psychiatrist and psychoanalyst Dr. Vamik Volkan, a five-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee who has spent over four decades bringing enemy groups together in areas of conflict all over the world. The film traces Dr. Volkan's journey from his birthplace on the ethnically divided island of Cyprus to his development of a model of diplomacy based on the emotional life of nations. This look into his pioneering fieldwork and peace-building missions in Europe, the Middle East, and the US sheds light on how large-group identity and shared trauma can both unite us and divide us for generations.



About the filmmaker

Molly S. Castelleo, Ph.D., holds a doctorate from New York University in theater and psychology. She has presented on the subjects of performance and applied psychoanalysis at national symposia including the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Her scholarly articles have appeared in international publications and refereed journals including the Journal for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, The Psychoanalytic Review and The American Journal of Psychoanalysis. Molly is a candidate at The National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis.

ready to watch!

Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

1. Publicize Your Event! This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/blindtrust> to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at info@bullfrogcommunities.com if you need help getting started!

2. Visualize Your Goal! What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.

3. Where To Host? Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating an in-person community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouse spaces, a local business, outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings. Virtual screenings can be hosted on <https://streaming.bullfrogcommunities.com>, or by using a customized screening room on Vimeo.

4. Find A Partner! Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Participate in a panel discussion or Zoom meeting after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at schools, universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.

5. Invite A Guest Speaker! Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening—in person, via Skype or Zoom, etc—and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.

6. Engage Your Audience! Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Talk! with a few suggested discussion questions to get the conversation started, and a section called Ready to Act!— which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

7. Spread The Word! Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Instagram, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can download a screening poster and press photos that can be used to help publicize your event: <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/blindtrust>

8. Tell Us How It Went! Visit <http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/blindtrust> to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film’s discussion page (if available) to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

ready to talk!

Your audience will be excited to discuss the issues raised by the film.
Here are some questions that will get people talking.

LARGE-GROUP IDENTITY

1. What is large-group identity and why is it the most important factor in international relations?
2. How does personal identity become intertwined with large-group identity, such as nationalism, to create hatred of others?
3. How does the concept of large-group identity help us understand the Capitol insurrection January 6, 2021, as a group dynamic?
4. When is large-group identity a progressive formation, and when is it a destructive phenomenon?

GROUP TRAUMA

1. What is collective trauma and how does it impact the individual?
2. In what ways does a large group of people mourn?
3. How does a shared trauma get transmitted across generations?
4. What is “chosen trauma” and how does it inform certain large-group identities as with the Kosovo rally of 1989?
5. The film’s climactic scene dramatizes Slobodan Milošević’s rally at Kosovo, Serbia (1989), illustrating how destructive leadership uses a nation’s unmourned injury to create “time collapse” and foment enemies in the present. Can you think of other examples of how a political leader inflames an old injury in order to foment an enemy in the present?

LEADERSHIP

1. What emotions connect a political leader to his followers?
2. What happens when basic trust becomes blind trust?
3. What do we look for in our state and national leaders of the 21st century?
4. What qualities differentiate a reparative leader from a destructive one?

MOURNING

1. What kind of acts facilitate the important task of collective mourning? What are obstacles to this process? process of grieving?
2. What is too hard to mourn is passed onto the next generation and into our monuments. How does Dr. Volkan's insights into mourning sheds light on the recent controversies erupting over Confederate statues in the US.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. How do you think the concepts of the film can be useful in providing a model of conflict resolution in areas of intolerance and enmity?

ready to act!

handout

The Carter Center — <https://www.cartercenter.org/>

Guided by the principles of founders, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, and founded in partnership with Emory University on a fundamental commitment to human rights and the alleviation of human suffering, the Carter Center seeks to prevent and resolve conflicts, enhance freedom and democracy, and improve health.

Youth Peace Initiative at The Hague — <https://youthpeaceinitiative.net/>

The Youth Peace Initiative (YPI) is a youth led organisation that promotes the inclusion of youth in peace and reconciliation processes. Established in 2014, YPI empowers youth to be partners in peace and to be recognised as such. YPI connects youth in (post-)conflict regions, engages youth in dialogue and capacity building activities, and creates a platform to advance inclusive peace.

International Dialogue Initiative (IDI) — <https://www.internationaldialogueinitiative.com/>

The IDI is a private, international, multidisciplinary group comprised of psychoanalysts, academics, diplomats and other professionals, who bring a psychologically-informed perspective to the study and amelioration of societal conflict.

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) — <https://ispp.org/>

ISPP is an interdisciplinary organization representing all fields of inquiry concerned with exploring the relationships between political and psychological processes. Members include psychologists, political scientists, psychiatrists, historians, sociologists, economists, anthropologists, as well as journalists, government officials and others. The Society is international, with members from all regions of the world: the Americas, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education — <http://www.ifpe.org/>

Founded in 1991, IFPE recognizes that contemporary psychoanalysis has many faces and varying discourses: clinical, academic, historic, artistic, literary, scientific, philosophical, experiential, and more. IFPE believes that through psychoanalytic work we serve to keep alive the flame of humanitarian decency and respect for others.

International Psychohistorical Association — <https://www.psychohistory.us/>

This IPA is comprised of academics, clinicians, and other practitioners from diverse disciplines who seek to understand how history and public affairs shape and are shaped by individual and group psychology. The IPA is open to all who wish to study, teach, and conduct research in psychohistory.

“Peacemaking in the 21st Century”

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-me-in-we/201308/peacemaking-in-the-21st-century?eml>

Molly Castelloe interviews Dr. Vamik Volkan for Psychology Today.