

JBFC EDUCATOR FILM GUIDE

LANDFILL HARMONIC

2015. 1hr 24min. Paraguay. Documentary.

Recommended Age: 5th Grade +
(Spanish with English subtitles)

STREAMING: [KANOPY](#), [YOUTUBE](#),
[AMAZON PRIME](#), [GOOGLE PLAY](#)

Kanopy is a free streaming service that can be accessed with a library card.

We strongly suggest that you watch the film prior to your class viewing the film. Follow along with the questions below to see how it might support your units of study.

SYNOPSIS

Most of the families in the Latin American country, Paraguay, in a town called Cateura, make a living digging through the landfill that makes up much of the town. When the leader of a popular free music enrichment program, Favio Chavez, saw an opportunity to create instruments from the recycled material, the Recycled Orchestra was born. After word gets out about the Recycled Orchestra, Chavez and the music students must contend with being on the big stage.

FILM TERMS

When watching the film, be on the lookout for these film techniques. We suggest sending the terms in advance to students and having them explore the Visual Glossary links below to see the techniques used in real time in different film clips.

MONTAGE: An editing technique that favors the expressive power of the juxtaposition of shots over narrative continuity or realism. Montage means “editing” in French.

DIEGETIC SOUND: Any sound that originates within the world of the film.

NON-DIEGETIC SOUND: Sound that does not originate from the world of the film, such as narration or musical score.



FILM FACT

- The film began as a short media piece, made as a proof-of-concept and fundraising tool for the documentary that went viral and set in motion the extraordinary events of the film.
- The production process of the film took six years from conception to post-production and completion.

INTRO FILM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is a documentary? How are they different from other films?
2. Many people know what a landfill is (a place where garbage is collected and buried), but what about Harmonic? Have you heard of the word Philharmonic? What comes to mind when you think of Philharmonic? What kind of music do they play?

POST FILM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to what you had imagined before the film started about kids and families who lived in a landfill. What was something unexpected the film revealed about either people’s living conditions, or even the people’s relationship with garbage?
2. How is the orchestra more than just a place for students to play instruments?
3. Now having watched the movie, what are your views on garbage, recycling, waste? Have your preconceived notions about people living near garbage been broken? How were your expectations broken?
4. What did you realize you took for granted after viewing this documentary?