

¡TU CINE! DISCUSSION GUIDE



We Are the Radical Monarchs

(United States, 95 mins., 2019, English, Documentary)

A group of tween girls chant into megaphones, marching in the San Francisco TransMarch. Holding clenched fists high, they wear brown berets and vests showcasing colorful badges like “Black Lives Matter” and “Radical Beauty.” Meet the Radical Monarchs, a group of young girls of color at the front lines of social justice.

Dir.: Linda Goldstein Knowlton

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/322378827>

SET THE STAGE THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Set in Oakland, a city with a deep history of social justice movements, **WE ARE THE RADICAL MONARHS** documents the Radical Monarchs - an alternative to the Scout movement for girls of color, aged 8-13. Its members earn badges for completing units on social justice including being an LGBTQ ally, the environment, and disability justice. The group was started by two, fierce, queer women of color, Anayvette Martinez and Marilyn Hollinquest as a way to address and center her daughter's experience as a young brown girl. Their work is anchored in the belief that adolescent girls of color need dedicated spaces and that the foundation for this innovative work must also be rooted in fierce inter-dependent sisterhood, self-love, and hope.

The film follows the first troop of Radical Monarchs over a span of three years and documents the co-founders' struggle to respond to the needs of communities across the US and grow the organization after the viral explosion of interest in the troop's mission to create and inspire a new generation of social justice activists.

Each Radical Badge Unit involves learning about social justice and self empowerment focused topics through experiential field trips and workshops. Some of the badges earned include: Black Lives Matter, Radical Pride, Pachamama Justice, Radical Coding.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Themes:** social justice, activism
- **Media Arts:** narrative, audience experience, media messages, tone, point-of-view.

TALK ABOUT IT DISCUSSION

- What is the mission of the Radical Monarchs?
- How do the Radical Monarchs attempt to solve problems in their communities?

- What lifestyles, values, and cultures were represented?
- Why were some people against the Radical Monarchs?
- What characters or issues could you relate to, and why?
- How might different people respond to this film?
- Who made this film and what is its purpose? (inform, entertain, etc.)
- What was omitted from this film that you might want to know?
- Describe your most memorable sequence in the film.

BEYOND THE FILM **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- <https://wearetheradicalmonarchsmovie.com/>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/jan/06/radical-brownies-documentary-berets-badges-and-social-justice>

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Media Arts Center San Diego offers project-based Youth Media classroom residencies where students can learn the art of digital storytelling. Contact Larry Da Silveira at larry@mediartscenter.org or (619) 230-1938 to learn more.



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