

Thank you for signing up for our TalkFest session on "Queen of Glory"!

As the name TalkFest suggests, it is our intention for everyone to be able to participate and decide which of the issues raised by the movie they find most relevant and engaging. It is with this in mind that we are providing some additional resources and questions, not as points to be followed but as food for thought. We hope that they will raise many additional questions and thereby make the conversation even richer, but by no means should they be seen as required reading. Just as important is what we bring and share from our own personal experience, our culture and our traditions.

Additional resources:

- [‘Queen of Glory’: A Winning Indie About Immigrant Identity](#)
- [Nana Mensah On Her Directorial Debut 'Queen Of Glory,' Netflix's 'The Chair' & Doing It All](#)
- [Nana Mensah at TEDxBrooklyn](#) (video)
- [End of Skill](#) a short story by the Ghanaian writer Mamle Kabu which like the movie deals with cultural expectations and identity conflicts when living in that space between tradition and modernity.

Food for thought:

1. Do the ties that bind immigrants to their heritage aid or hinder their personal growth and progress?
2. What role does music play in the movie? And the frequent cutaways to footage of people in Ghana?
3. The movie begins with colorful samples of [kente cloth](#) and features Sarah wearing a [traditional red dress](#) at her mother's funeral. What is the importance of dress and hairstyle in asserting one's identity?
4. What assumptions do we make about people based on their appearance? What role does Pitt play in the movie? And Tanya?
5. According to Mensah "If there are ever African immigrants in a story, they're always refugees." Why do you think this is often so? Why is it important for her to show a different picture?
6. Mensah mentions that the movie industry has moved from "white privilege" to "light privilege" in its acceptance of darker-skinned women in roles that used to be limited to whites. But the actresses are almost always biracial or very light skinned. What does this say about our beliefs regarding race?
7. Mensah is quoted as saying, "The patriarchy is alive and well, and Black men and Black African men are not having the same experience that we are having as Black African women." How does the movie portray the intersection of discrimination based on race and gender?
8. How are the parental expectations Mensah mentions in her TedTalk similar to and how are they different from the ones that appear in the movie?
9. What point does she make in the TedTalk about the difference between information and knowledge? Can this lesson also be applied to Sarah?
10. What does she say in the TedTalk about the importance of community? How is this presented in the movie?

11. At the end of the story End of Skill, Jimmy's father reflects, "We have made a lot of money but we have also paid a price." What is the price paid by traditional communities when their cultural products and symbols are commodified? How successful is Jimmy at combining tradition and innovation? Why does he feel uncomfortable when he sees Vanessa's kente-patterned thong?
12. When Nana refers to her as 'white' Vanessa responds, "I'm not white, OK, I'm black! Just because I come from America doesn't make me white. Man, don't you guys understand anything about our history? How can you say that shit when you're our brothers? I'm an African, like you!" How is Vanessa's idea of what it means to be 'African' different from Jimmy's and Nana's? Why is it so difficult for them to understand her need to identify with her African heritage?

TalkFest Project

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