



WEEK 3 DISCUSSION GUIDE: A WILD STREAM¹

Dir. Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda (T/F 2019)

- Like Hemingway's *Old Man and the Sea*, or Melville's *Moby Dick*, the characters spin tall tales about their catches – in this story – a massive octopus. Given that we do see Chilo impressively catch a little octopus with his bare hands, what do you make of his tales? Perhaps with some basis in truth? Perhaps embellished a bit?
- As you reflect with your “pod” over the past year of isolation and quarantine, in what ways do you identify with the isolation portrayed in the way that Chilo and Omar live their lives? A longing for connection?
- Related, Omar and Chilo mention on a few occasions that they don't fit in with the other locals, they consider themselves outcasts, and the others “scum.” However, as the camera pans wide on the beach that they call home, we see no evidence of others – only Omar's shack and Milo's RV. What do you make of who they are considering the “others”? True locals, or others in general?
- Chilo and Omar engage in some deep conversations in the evenings about life and death, love and loss, family and friends. How are these conversations similar to those you have with your closest friends?
- Director Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda captures this story without imposing herself into the narrative – a “fly on the wall” approach to storytelling (in some very confined spaces). She captured Chilo and Omar's actions and their dialog to tell this story. How might the story be different if her presence was known and if she engaged in dialog with Chilo and Omar?
- The life that Chilo and Omar live appears simple (living off the land, without electricity, etc.) yet clearly difficult at times (needing fish to survive, doing so with less-than-ideal equipment, etc.). Could you live off the land like this? If so, what's stopping you?
- Chilo and Omar's relationship clearly has “chemistry”, albeit ambiguous. Who in your life are you able to connect with in the way that they do?
- How do you interpret the title that director Nuria Ibáñez Castañeda gives to this film: *A Wild Stream*?

¹ Discussion questions were created by Stephen Witzig, former T/F staffer, current science education professor