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Profs use film to encourage high school students to discuss tough topics

Edmonton – While racist incidents often make headlines, it’s a subject that isn’t always easy to discuss in everyday life. That’s why MacEwan University and Metro Cinema are teaming up to start that conversation by featuring the groundbreaking film Fruitvale Station.

Based on actual events, the film looks at the short life of Oscar Grant III, who was shot in the back by a white police officer in Oakland, California in the early hours of Jan. 1, 2009.

The killing of Grant, which was captured on video, incited protests and unrest and raised questions surrounding violence and race. Fruitvale Station begins with the actual footage of Grant and his friends being detained by police at the Fruitvale Station in Oakland right before his murder.

Following the film presentation, join MacEwan University’s Irfan Chaudhry, director, Office of Human Rights, Diversity and Equity, Dr. Sara Grewal, Department of English, and Dr. Kalyani Thurairajah, Department of Sociology for a discussion on race, racialization and police use of force.

“Racism is a tough topic to discuss,” says Chaudhry. “Through film, we can acknowledge difficult truths and how they impact our reality. The goal is to provide a safe space for younger students to start having these conversations, and help prepare them, both personally and academically, for topics they may face head-on in post-secondary”.

The REEL Learning series provides the audience with an opportunity to take a deep dive into movies and their relationship to current events. It’s presented by MacEwan University and Metro Cinema. Expert commentary is provided by industry leaders and MacEwan faculty members.

When: Tuesday, September 25
Where: Metro Cinema, 8712-109 Street
Time: 7:00 p.m.

The film screening is free for high school students with valid ID. Tickets are available at metrocinema.org or at the door.

$5 for post-secondary students with valid ID.

For more information, please contact:
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