

LUCKY

Discussion Guide

1. LUCKY examines aspects of South African society and culture that may be unknown to the American viewer. For example, the dichotomy between urban and rural it portrays, or the particulars of race-relations between different non-white groups. What surprised you most about the image of South Africa presented in the film?
2. Director Avie Luthra has suggested that Lucky is a victim of the AIDS crisis; although the cause of his mother's death is not made explicit in the film, this context does inform the story. For example, the monetary incentive Padma receives after adopting Lucky is a response to the vast numbers of uncared-for AIDS orphans in the country. Does this context change the story? If so, how?
3. While Luthra spent time in South Africa, he works in Britain. As such, LUCKY has an outsider's perspective. Did you find it "authentic"? Why or why not?
4. LUCKY is shot largely on hand-held cameras, giving it a documentary-like quality, as well as a sense of constant motion. Discuss how this choice affects your experience of the film.

