

I wish films were taught in high schools.

by Tet Rivera

I like films and I wish it were taught in high school.

The educational value of film may not be easily measured by the objective exams given in high school - the regular 'creative' journals, the mocking mastery exams, and the one-hundred item periodic tests. Its value, rather lies in the education of experience itself -- the awareness of the reality of emotions, and the resulting understanding.

At the same time, the inventions and developments in film-making open new horizons for education. Imagine learning what you would from a two-hour lecture, with as much impact, by watching a four-minute video!

Why this is important is because sometimes people get lost in the semantics, or get intimidated by the concepts they feel are outside of them. Yes, poverty and justice and love and death are big words, but these are real. Further, this will bridge the perceived gap between the constructs and reality - but films help us see and know parts of the world we may perhaps never reach, the imaginary lives are our own.

An education on film may possibly keep the young consumer from two extreme dangers - one is that of non exposure - so that their world and imagination are limited by what microcosm of the world they have encountered or few stories they have accepted to be true. The other is a product of overexposure that leads to desensitization. The product is the bored high schooler. He is addicted to novelty, he accepts everything that is presented to him as long as it is new, but the new experiences no longer teach him. Violence, exploitation, sex, everything - he may become a patron of the blunt.