

IN ORBIT

Gobelins, 2019.



Synopsis:

In a far away future, Sonia is about to be transferred from her space station to a newer one. While everything appears to be going well for her, her mind is elsewhere, disturbed by a past not far behind.

Run Time:

5:27

Suggested Grades:

10+

The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:

Loss is a universal experience, and the gender of any of the characters could be changed without changing the story. The story doesn't centre around queerness, and the tragedy that Sonia is dealing with is not the result of queerness. Even though this is a darker film, it's still a good example of queer representation.

Content Flags:

Grief, loss, trauma, flashbacks, flashing lights

Keywords:

Queer, LGBTQ, representation, dark, space, grief

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Pre-viewing Questions:

- What does queerness usually look like in film/television?
White, cisgender, gay men; story centres around coming out or finding a partner, how hard it is to be gay, etc. entire personality of characters is their sexual orientation; ends in tragedy

Post-Viewing Questions:

- What would you assume is the relationship between Sonia and the person in the coma? What in the film indicates this?
Sonia and their partner appear to be in a romantic relationship. Signs could be the flashbacks to their intimacy, the photo of the two on the table, and the type of grief we are witnessing. Of course, we are still making assumptions, which are largely based on our own experiences and how we interpret our observations.
- What is Sonia's relationship to their own gender?
Sonia has short hair, but otherwise, we can't tell much about Sonia's gender as it's not really talked about in the film. Questions of Sonia's gender also sometimes get raised when we observe Sonia's response to being called "Miss."
- How is the storyline for In Orbit similar or different from other examples of queer representation you've seen in mainstream media?
 - Mainstream media tends to focus on two tropes: the coming out story, or the tragedy and hardship surrounding being queer or trans. Mainstream media representations of queerness still often center stories about white people, and largely, men. This film is still a story about tragedy, but that tragedy is not the direct result of queerness
 - Different: interracial, women(?), sci-fi, story centres on loss rather than queerness

Common Questions:

Associated Activities:

- Discuss how the filmmakers established the mood of the film
- Brainstorm how queerness might look in the far future