

STUDY GUIDE



URGENT LOVE (AMOR URGENTE)

a Film by DIEGO LUBLINSKY

ARGENTINA / 2018 / 90 MIN
Spanish with English subtitles



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BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before watching a foreign film, it is important to know the current events and history of the country where that film comes from. Find two or three articles on schooling, sex education, and coming of age stereotypes in Argentina.

INTRODUCING THE FILM

A **film synopsis** is a piece of text designed to summarize the film's narrative, genre, style, and key participants in a way that appeals to a wide audience. The synopsis is part of the film marketing process and tends to follow a traditional format. Read this official synopsis for *Urgent Love*:

Agustina and her mother, extroverted, sociable fashion designer, have just arrived in the small town of Resignación in Argentina. Her mother's messy love life has caused Agustina to develop a mental block when it comes to boys. Pedro, a teenage "loser", falls in love with her and gradually manages to chip away at the emotional wall Agustina has erected. Teenage hormones, the popular kids with their motorbikes and gelled-back hair, bragging about sexual conquests... everything is intentionally exposed in this subtle, intelligent, and entertaining comedy that dares to be different.

- ❑ From the film synopsis, can you imagine the genre and tone of the film? From this same text, try to identify the main elements from the film's plot and the socio-political background to the film. When do you think it's set?
- ❑ How do the trailer, poster, and still images encourage you to watch the film?
- ❑ Can you make any assumptions regarding what the film is about just from the marketing materials (i.e. trailer, poster, and still images)?



AFTER WATCHING THE FILM:

CINEMATIC ART/TECHNIQUES

- ❑ What do you think is the meaning of the opening shot? How does it foreshadow the proceeding characters, themes, and narrative? What can the image tell you about what's to come?
- ❑ How would you describe the color palette throughout the film? Are the colors dull, bright, vibrant? Think about how the colors of the film might reflect its themes.
- ❑ One of the unique elements of this film is the use of green screen. Why do you think the filmmakers decide to tell the story of this film using a green screen? How does it change the overall look and tone of the movie?



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CINEMATIC ART/TECHNIQUES *(continued)*

- ❑ How is the theme of artificiality relevant in the film? Do you find that the green screen adds to the theme?
- ❑ How would you characterize the set design? How does it reflect the themes, tones, and mood of the film? Do you think it's set in a certain timeframe or do you think it's not specific?
- ❑ Think about the costuming in the film. How do the different costumes in the movie build your image of a certain character? Pick two characters and compare/contrast their costumes to analyze the differences in their character.
- ❑ Pick three characters and specify which coming of age movie stereotype they fulfill.
- ❑ How does the costuming reflect the main themes of the film?
- ❑ How did you feel about the music in the film? How did it change the mood and tone of the movie? Pick a scene with music in the background and specify what it told you about what was happening in the plot.
- ❑ Analyze the shot at 1:26:00 -- shown below. Why is this shot significant? How is it comedic? How is it meaningful?



- ❑ What is the significance of the final polaroids during the credits scene? Why do you think the filmmakers decided to include this? What does it say about the theme of youth and innocence?

NARRATIVE

- ❑ Do you think Pedro is a hero in his own right? Why or why not? Do you think he is the stereotypical nerd or is there a deeper layer to his character?
- ❑ How would you characterize the relationship between Augustina and her mother? Do you think she is a good mother? Why or why not? Do you think her role as a mother seems at place in Resignación or do you find it conflicting with the town's spirit?
- ❑ How do the teenagers in the film deal with their own confused emotions? What does this say about teenagers in general? What does the film say about the teenager's perceptions on lust and love?
- ❑ Whose story do you think this is? Is it Pedro's story? Is it Augustina's? How can you tell? Use specific scenes as evidence for your answer.

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NARRATIVE *(continued)*

- ❑ What is the symbolism in Augustina and her mother running lingerie store? What does it say of Agustina's mother performance of femininity?
- ❑ Why do you think Augustina tells Pedro that she promised herself that she would not have a boyfriend? Why do you think Pedro tells Augustina that he's okay with "just being friends"?
- ❑ Why is Pedro diagnosed with "fear" by his doctor? What is the significance of this? What does this scene tell you about the film's theme of artificiality?
- ❑ How are the adults absent in the film? Specifically, think about Pedro's parents and Augustina's parents. How does this relate to the web of lies tangled in the plot?
- ❑ Do you think that the adults in the film are responsible people? Do you think the parents are good examples to their children? How do their behaviors reflect on their kids?
- ❑ What did you think about Pedro's best friend? How does his friend give him the wrong information? Does he fit the "sidekick" stereotype?
- ❑ How would you characterize the characters' sexual awakenings? Are they funny? How so?
- ❑ Did you find the story funny or comedic? Why or why not? Think about specific scenes that you think were specially comedic and analyze what about them works comedically. What is the role of humour in the film and what theme does it feed into?
- ❑ In what ways are the teenagers more mature than the adults? And in what ways are the teenagers trying to be old?
- ❑ How did you feel about the film's ending? Were you satisfied? Why or why not? Did you expect a different ending?



THEMES

- ❑ Do the teenagers in the film do the same things that you would do as a teenager with your own friends? How did their families react to their adventures?
- ❑ Think about sex education: what are the sources nowadays for teens on the subject? Do you think there are differences in sex education by genre? How does current sex education affects genre relationships?
- ❑ Analyze the theme of masculinity within the film. How do some of the men treat women, and how do they treat other men? Think about specific characters and scenes that demonstrate how the film deals with masculinity.
- ❑ How do you compare male friendships and female friendships in the film? Did you see any friendship blossom between a boy and a girl? Do you think that Pedro and Augustina fall into that category? Why or why not?
- ❑ Do you think Pedro and Augustina really love each other? Why or why not?
- ❑ Do you think the film is a comedy or a tragedy? Consider the philosophical definition of the terms to answer this question and give examples to support your answer.
- ❑ What did you think this film was about? What do you think the filmmakers were trying to accomplish when they made this film?
- ❑ How is this movie different from other coming of age features you've watched? How does this Argentinean art house film compare to American commercial productions?

