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**HBO Films Presents
Sometimes in April
Directed by Raoul Peck**

“No matter how idealistic the aim sounds, the new century must become the century of humanity, where we as human beings rise above race, creed, color, religion, and national interest and put the good humanity above the good of our own tribe.”

Lt. General Romeo Dallaire
United Nations Mission
Commander in Rwanda

History

The tiny nations of Rwanda and Burundi are like landlocked twins in the center of the African continent, a mirror image of each other with common histories, languages, and ethnic likeness. Cloaked by clouds that crown hills and mountain peaks, Rwanda and Burundi are two of Africa's most beautiful and poorest countries.

Under the League of Nations and a United Nations trusteeship, Belgium ruled Rwanda and Burundi as one territory from 1917 to 1962. This territory was known as Rwanda-Urundi. However in 1962, both countries were given their independence.

Major ethnic problems in the region date from the 15th century when the Tutsi migrated from Ethiopia and imposed feudal rule on the people they found living there called the Hutu. The Hutu were the majority in both countries making up 84% of the population while the Tutsi, the minority, constituted 15%.

In 1959, three years before independence from Belgium, the majority Hutus overthrew the ruling Tutsi king. Over the next several years, thousands of Tutsis were killed and some 150,000 were driven into exile to neighboring countries. The children of these exiles later formed a rebel group called the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and in 1990 began a civil war with the Hutu.

Movie Background

The drama is set during two periods, 1994 and 2004 that unfold concurrently.

In April 1994, the Hutu Army begins a systematic slaughter of Tutsis and the more moderate Hutus. Over the course of 100 days, close to a million people were killed. Augustin and a fellow army officer named Xavier, defy their leadership and attempt to get their wives and children to safety. Separated from his wife Jeanne and their two sons, whom he entrusts to his reluctant brother Honore', Augustin get caught in a desperate struggle to survive. Barely escaping the purge, he's haunted by questions about what happened to his wife, sons, and daughter who was a student at a local school.

In 2004, looking for closure and hoping to start a new life with his girlfriend, Martine, Augustin visits the United Nations Tribunal in Arusha, where Honore' awaits trial for the role he played in the genocide. In the end, through emotional meeting with Honore', Augustin learns the details of his family's fate, giving him closure and, perhaps, hope for happiness in the future.

The Movie Begins

For centuries the Hutus, Tutsi, and Twa tribes of Rwanda shared the same culture, language, and religion. However, in 1919, Belgium took control of Rwanda from Germany and installed a rigid colonial system of racial classification and exploitation. By elevating the Tutsi tribe over the Hutu, they created deep resentment among the Hutu majority.

In 1959, the Belgians handed over control of Rwanda to the Hutu majority. With independence, came decades of institutionalized anti-Tutsi segregation and massacre. Hundreds of thousands of Tutsi and moderate Hutus were forced into exile.

In 1988, some of those exiles formed a rebel movement known as the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RDF) to reclaim their homeland.

In 1990, from their base in Uganda, the RPF launched an offensive against the Hutu regime that was stopped by French and Belgian military support.

A deadly cycle of war and massacre continued until 1993 when the United Nations negotiated a power sharing agreement between the two sides. To protect their power, hard-line Hutu extremists resisted the implementation of the agreement and planned one of the most terrifying genocides in history.

1. What does the word genocide mean?
2. What point is made by the voice over and the film clips from the colonial era up through Clinton's apology?

Kigali, Rwanda: April 2004
A High School Classroom

3. What is the teacher's, Augustine Muganza's, answer to Vanessa's question: "Could the 1994 genocide have been stopped?"

Arusha, Tanzania: April 2004
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

4. What testimony does Augustin hear?

Kigali, Rwanda: April 1994
Radio KTLM

5. What is the DJ's message?

6. What reason is Augustin given for the need of military training?

7. Why are Augustine and his wife, Jeanne, arguing?

8. Why are Augustine and his brother, Hornre', arguing?

Arusha, Tanzania: April 2004
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

9. What type of media coverage does the Tribunal receive?

Kigali, Rwanda: April 6, 1994

10. What happened that night?

Washington, DC: April 1994
State Department

11. What is the Pentagon's assessment of what is happening in Rwanda?

12. What events happened on the ground during "Day 1"?

Kagali, Rwanda: April 6, 1994

13. What is the message of KYLM radio?

14. What is Augustin's plan for his family?

Arusha, Tanzania: April 2004
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

15. How does Honore's attorney defend his actions as a DJ for KTLM Radio?

Washington, DC: April 1994
State Department

16. Why is the United States doing nothing?

Day 77
Estimated Death Toll 616,000

17. What happened to reduce the killing?

18. What are the lessons of the April 1994 situation in Rwanda?

19. Did the actions in Rwanda in 1994 meet the definition discuss of genocide as given in question #1? Why or why not?

20. What act of heroism shown in the movie touches you the most?

21. What act of cowardice shown in the movie touches you the most?

