**DANCING WITH THE CANNIBAL GIANT: DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS**

1. What is your overall response to this film? What struck you the most? Who impressed you? What were your feelings as the film came to an end?
2. Native American Sherri Mitchell says *“We can’t put Giwaka back to sleep unless we wake up.”* Do you agree that we could avoid extinction by waking up? What does she mean by “Wake up?” What does “waking up entail for you personally?
3. Sherri also says that what we are seeing in the world today is a reflection of the separation between our inner truth and our external actions. Do you think this is true? Say more about this?
4. Simon Dennis says there must be a shift in individual and societal consciousness if we are to create sustainable culture, or to survive, for that matter. What does this illusive term ‘consciousness’ mean to you? How does it manifest in your life?
5. Russell Comstock of Metta Earth Institute says that the “new story” is really an ancient story about our human evolution, one that exists in relationship with the land and animals. How do you experience your relationship to the natural world? Is there a feeling of disconnection?
6. Cora, the young woman who worries about having just brought a child into the world, says that it’s hard to be aware. What does she mean by awareness? Is it hard for you to be aware? Could you say more about this?
7. Cora also says that Metta Earth is helping her not to “be so clouded with heaviness” that she can’t do something about the world. Do you experience a heaviness about the state of the world? What can you do about it? What helps?
8. Gillian Kapetyn Comstock justifies being on the farm with young leaders rather than at a demonstration or direct action. Do you agree with her? Why? Why not?
9. Activism: It is suggested in the film that **the way** we do our activism is as important as what we do. Do you agree with that? And do you agree that we must try to stop people from destroying the planet? How does that work out in your life?
10. Jonah at Soul Fire Farm and Sophia at Goddard College both say the most powerful resource we have to offer the world is love. What is love in this context? Is love a powerful resource for you? In what way(s)?
11. Leah at Soul Fire Farm says that she cannot desist from doing her part to shift the story in the face of “the machine,” while not feeling required to do it all by herself. Do you get overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge before us? What can you say about practices or understandings you hold that could help you bring both personal balance and strong social commitment to help change the story?
12. There is a lot of talk about “story” in this film. Is this language meaningful to you? Please talk about how you relate to “story.”
13. Alixa Garcia from Climbing PoeTree says “*We need to grieve a lot, and cry a lot*.” Is this important? Why? Are you in touch with grief these days? Can you say something about it?
14. Alixa also says, “*We have to tap into our rage because there’s power there*.” Do you find this to be true?
15. Naima from Climbing PoeTree says that money is nothing but digits on a computer, yet people are killing each other over it. Do you agree? If you think we place too much value on money, how can we change that in our lives? What way can you imagine money having a role in your life?
16. The first scene at Goddard College is about play and the role of play in critical thinking. Do you think they are separate? Do you find play liberating? How do you play?
17. One of the last points made in the film is about the value of community. Chris Piana, one of the brothers at Fable Farm says, “*Our whole survival is 100% dependent upon community.”* Do you agree that we have lost community? Have you lost community? How do you create community in a fiercely polarized world? Is it really “community” if it’s made up only of like-minded people? How do you get past that impasse of “the other?”
18. Jon Piana says, “*It sounds cliché, and every time I hear it I think it means something different, but we truly are all one and when we die, we’ll find that out.”* What does oneness mean to you? Is it a cliché? Is it real to you? If so, how do you experience oneness? How do you experience separateness?
19. Jon Piana says, “I am changing – and quickly!” He adds that the change that is happening now in people is happening quickly. Have you experienced this? Do you sense the world around you changing quickly? Are you changing quickly? In what ways?
20. Do you see yourself as someone who could create something like these inspiring people? What kinds of things come to mind for you? How would you like to see the world change? What do you see your role in coming years?
21. Anything else you would like to say?