I’m Not Racist … Am I?

The Movie and Q&A: 2:30–4:30 p.m.

I’m Not Racist … Am I? is a feature documentary by Point Made Films following a diverse group of teens through a yearlong exploration to get at the heart of racism. Through some tense and painful moments, we see how these difficult conversations affect their relationships with friends and parents and ultimately challenge them to look deep within themselves. By the end of their time together, we’ll see these remarkable young people develop deeper bonds; a stronger resolve; and a bigger, more significant definition of racism than any of us ever imagined.

The Workshop: 4:30–5:30 p.m.

In the documentary I’m Not Racist … Am I?, Martha—who is White—says to the group that she often wishes she were Black or Hispanic. It’s not an uncommon feeling, but it leads to an awkward tension in the room, with rolled eyes and some muffled laughter. No one challenges the statement at the time, but by the end of the film, Martha realizes that her comment was hurtful and that she wasn’t thinking about all that comes with being a person of color.

Participants will watch additional video footage shot during the production of I’m Not Racist … Am I? to explore what was behind Martha’s comment; why it could be considered hurtful; and how racial identity in America has more to do with power, privilege, and access than with physical characteristics or accessories.


For more information about this event or the Dietrich School’s Open Door Project, contact Carol Mullen at cam108@pitt.edu.