



Watch Party Guide



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS WATCH PARTY GUIDE?

Throughout the 2020/21 Season, each show includes a virtual watch party guide to deepen audience connection to the plays on our stages and to encourage broader conversation about the social themes they raise.

For all of our Mainstage Series shows, since we won't be able to have everyone in our lobby, we're bringing the same pre-and-post show lobby experience to your own home! This watch party guide includes resources to facilitate conversations, opportunities to dig deeper into the play's questions, ways to take action here in Baltimore!

The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks and Curls is a collection of monologues and scenes exploring the complex relationship women have with their hair. From afros to braids, weddings and funerals, falling in love, to grieving a loss, these stories serve as a powerful reminder that for Black women in particular, hair is both deeply personal and political. That said, the themes in *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks, and Curls* will resonate in many communities, and we're curious what connections you might make from wherever you're experiencing the play!

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

We believe in the power of stories as catalysts for conversations and that *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks and Curls* provides many opportunities for conversations that resonate today. In this document, you'll find:

- **BCS Dialogue Starters:** a list of conversation starters to use with your friends and family
- **BCS Intersections:** a few of our favorite songs, articles, and videos that intersect with *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks, and Curls*
- **Take Action Corner:** featuring ways to participate in the national movement towards hair equality related to *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks and Curls*

BCS DIALOGUE STARTERS

The dialogue starter questions below are an offering from BCS to you. Feel free to generate your own dialogue questions as well

- Who are some Black women you admire?
- How do you practice self-care?
- What is your relationship with your hair like? Name a time you got really frustrated with your hair. Name a time you were really happy with your hair.
- If your hair could talk to you, what would it say?
- How do you support and uplift Black women in your life?

BCS INTERSECTIONS

BCS Intersections is an online platform featuring multimedia dramaturgical content around our shows, spotlighting the intersections between the worlds on our stages and the world at large. We've chosen three of our favorites from the *The Glorious World Of Crowns, Kinks, And Curls* Intersections page to share directly with you here.

For more content recommendations, see [bcsintersections.tumblr.com](https://www.bcsintersections.tumblr.com)

LISTEN

[The Glorious World Playlist](#) includes inspirational and empowering songs that celebrate Black women and their hair. Use this playlist for your pre and post show after party.

WATCH

Good Hair

A 2009 documentary in which Chris Rock sets out to get to the bottom of the complicated role of Black hair in our culture. The film focuses on how Black women have perceived their hair throughout history.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1m-4qzx08So>

Dark Girls

2011 movie that explores the way dark-skinned women are treated around the globe and documents colorism within the Black community. The film contains interviews with Black women describing the role colorism has played in their lives.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7GeGRulqYE>

40 Year Old Version

In each of our conversations about *The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks and Curls*, Keli has emphasized how important it is to her to tell stories of Black joy rather than only the more frequent representations of Black pain. The new Netflix film [The 40 Year Old Version](#) by playwright Radha Blank features this same theme, as the main character balances writing a play that will be popular enough to be produced without exploiting Black suffering. This 2020 film explores how Black artists' voices are policed, the idea of "poverty porn" and representations of Blackness.

Hair Love

One of the themes in the play is the importance of teaching young people to love their hair. This theme is explored in the Oscar-winning short film [Hair Love](#).

READ

Hot Comb by Ebony Flowers: <https://drawnandquarterly.com/hot-comb>
<https://www.newyorker.com/humor/daily-shouts/hot-comb>
<https://scoundreltime.com/virgin-hair/>

That Hair by Djaimilia Pereira de Almeida: <https://tinhouse.com/book/that-hair/>

Teen Vogue/ History of Black Hair Politics:

Black hair, and in particular Black women's hair, has long been both a source of pride and a site of political turmoil. Natural Black styles are seen [in opposition to Eurocentric beauty standards and labeled as unprofessional](#).

Elle/A brief history of Black hair:

Techniques like braids, wrapping, protective styles, and [more are key cultural practices and symbols of pride in Black heritage](#).

How Natural Black Hair at Work Became a Civil Rights Issue: <https://daily.jstor.org/how-natural-black-hair-at-work-became-a-civil-rights-issue/>

Twisted: The Tangled History of Black Hair Culture By Emma Dabiri: <https://www.harpercollins.com/products/twisted-emma-dabiri?variant=32207514337314>

2016 "Good Hair" Study: <https://perception.org/goodhair/results/>

TAKE ACTION CORNER

Every show in our 20/21 Season has featured a “Take Action Corner” in which we share resources from local direct service providers or movement building efforts related to themes and topics from the plays. Since we don’t have a physical Take Action Corner in our lobby, we’ve curated a special list for you here! Click through to learn more.

The CROWN Act

The official CROWN Act Campaign/Coalition: <https://www.thecrownact.com/>

CROWN Act Petition to sign: https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/end_hair_discrimination/

Some overall articles on the CROWN Act:

<https://www.harpersbazaar.com/beauty/hair/a34316254/crown-act-federal-and-state-hair-discrimination-law/>

<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2020/04/15/crown-act-movement-seeks-protect-black-people-racial-discrimination-based-hairstyles>

<https://www.glamour.com/story/the-crown-act-september-2020-cover-story>

<https://www.glamour.com/story/the-crown-act-banning-hair-discrimination>

The CROWN Act in Maryland

The Crown Act was [passed in Maryland](#) on February 6, 2020— months before the national legislation—due to the hard work of folks like Maryland State Delegate Stephanie Smith.

So you want to organize a Virtual Watch Party for The Glorious World of Crowns, Kinks, and Curls? Here are some tips from Team BCS.

How do we get folks excited to come?

Frame it as a virtual happy hour, dinner theater, or a matinee brunch!

Organize simple group activities to pair with the play: an online game like Quiplash, a guided meditation, a story circle where everyone shares, a mini open mic / talent show

Give your community what they need in the moment. This play focuses on the history, love, and power surrounding Black women and their hair. After the show, have a community meeting and check in with each other, or discuss an issue that is specific to your community.

Make it an opportunity for gratitude. Take time to shout each other out after the watch party!

If people want to nerd out, consult our program and get into the content of the play. Analyze, analyze, analyze!

When do we watch the play?

It is **not required** that your group watch at the same time (the link is good for two weeks).

If you DO you all want to watch together, **Zoom** allows you to share videos on screen while simultaneously seeing others on the call. In this scenario, only the host needs the link to the play.