Mustang

France, Germany, Turkey, Qatar | 2015  
Cert. 15 | 97 mins  
Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven

Lale and her orphaned sisters live in a conservative village in northern Turkey. Approaching womanhood, their virginity is seen as a precious commodity. Hoping to secure suitable matches as soon as possible and guide them into an appropriate marriage, the girls are kept under lock and key by their family to eliminate any possibility that their virtue be tainted.

You will like this film if you liked
The Virgin Suicides (1999, 15)

Talk about it (before the film)
Which cultures and countries practice arranged marriage? Why do you think the custom is still common in many parts of the world?

How important is it to you to be independent? How would you react if you had your freedom limited?

Talk about it (after the film)
• Why do you think the story was told from Lale’s point of view?  
• How does the cinematography create mood and add to our understanding of the girls’ circumstances?  
• What role do women play in their village? What kind of values are considered important?  
• In what ways did the girls attempt to take back control of their lives? Were they successful?

Write about it
Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs’ website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it’s similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension Activities
In the film, the girls are forced to use their imaginations to recreate outdoor activities they might otherwise be enjoying within the house. Inspired by this, think about an activity you would miss if you were unable to take part in it, and film a group of you acting it out indoors.