

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – CHOKING MAN

1. One of CHOKING MAN's themes is visibility and invisibility. What kinds of stylistic choices does the director make to deal with this theme? How do people look at others, and how are they seen by the outside world?
2. How does the director use music to set the mood for CHOKING MAN?
3. To what extent does New York City play a character in this film? How does the main character, Jorge, interact with the city, and what is his relationship to it, if any?
4. How do we see the act of gift-giving in the film? What affects do gifts have on the story's development, and on the characters emotions? How are the gifts representative of larger issues in the film?
5. While the main character, Jorge, is mostly silent, his roommate, Bobby, often speaks in lengthy soliloquies. What kinds of voices do we hear in CHOKING MAN? How do the characters use language to express themselves? What kinds of alternative means of expression are used?
6. To what degree are Amy and Bobby symbolic characters in the main characters world? How does the director use fantasy and fiction to convey Jorge's version of reality?
7. The title CHOKING MAN clearly comes from the poster of the Heimlich Maneuver that hangs over Jorge's dishwashing station. How is this title a metaphor for larger issues we see playing out in the film?