

## MEN AT WORK – DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The giant rock and the men's attempt to topple it, has been interpreted as a symbol for various different things from patriarchal society to the weakness of man against the will of God. What is your interpretation?

Is the symbolism of the rock particular to Iranian society or is there a broader interpretation?

How does MEN AT WORK expand on the joke that begins the film - trying to get the rock off the cliff?

Discuss the different attitudes that the men and women have toward the rock and what that says about the male-female dynamics in their group.

Director Mani Haghighi said: "I'm sort of bored and tired with the stories that have been told about poverty in the Third World. I think it ends up presenting an image that isn't very useful anymore." Do you agree?

The director, Mani Haghighi has also said that the Iranian language is naturally oblique. For example the old man who owns the donkey tells the group of friends that every year people pass by the rock and think that they can do something about it but nothing ever happens. What do you think he is really trying to say to them?

Are there other instances of this oblique use of language?

How does MEN AT WORK compare to other films from the region that you may have seen?