

How to Enhance Your Watch Party

There are two main ways to enhance your watch party discussion:

1. **On Your Own:** If you want to ensure your watch party is lively and interesting, you can prepare a list of questions or topics to guide and moderate the conversation with your audience. Ask questions to spark others' ideas and solicit their participation. By being prepared to lead the conversation, you'll help others open up and feel more comfortable joining in.

If you selected a film for your watch party that you haven't seen before, you might be unsure about how to prepare a list of "conversation openers". Don't worry, our knowledgeable programming team can help. Email ncfd@reelcanada.ca and we'll send you a few suggestions.

2. **With a Guest:** Invite a special guest to participate in your watch party.

How to Find a Special Guest:

Who should your guest be? That's up to you and depends on the specifics of your event. But remember, everyone is at home right now, united in our isolation and looking for ways to connect! So be creative, and be bold about whom you approach!

- A *filmmaker, actor*, or someone else involved with the movie you are watching.
- An *issue expert* who can speak about the subject of the film
- A *friend* who works in the film industry, and might have some insights
- A *film critic* from your local newspaper or your favourite film blog
- A *film scholar* (such as a writer or professor in film)

Live Commentary During the Film

If you've ever watched a DVD commentary track, this is the same idea but in real time. Your filmmaker or expert could chime in with behind-the-scenes stories, fun anecdotes, and interesting insights into creative decisions, adding an extra layer to the viewing experience.

For text-only commentary, Twitter and Slack would work well. There are also options for how to allow your guest to speak over the film. Download [How to Choose a Platform for Your Watch Party](#) for more info on how to make this happen.

Q&A After the Film

Organize an exciting Q&A after the film, just like at a film festival! Audiences get to hear directly from the filmmaker, actor, or other guest. You can run the show as the moderator to make sure there are always great questions for your guest to answer.