

Discussion Questions

Frankie & Alice explores complex issues of violence, tragedy, racism and family dysfunction and embarrassment. Included here are some questions and responses to help guide a discussion or to encourage a deeper understanding of mental illness and its impact.

Discussion Questions (Use the space below each question for your notes)

1. **Do you think race was a barrier for Frankie—and individuals today—either socially within their families or community in receiving appropriate mental health care?**
2. **How can access to care be improved for groups who find it more difficult to gain access to treatment?**

Facts About Mental Illness

African Americans in the U.S. are less likely to receive an accurate diagnosis. Prior misdiagnoses, inadequate treatment and a lack of cultural understanding by providers prevents people from seeking treatment.

3. **How important is the relationship Frankie had with her mental health care provider, Dr. Oz, and what did this mean to the progress of her recovery journey?**
4. **How important, and/or destructive, is the family relationship in the film? What role does family play in getting and providing help and support?**



Discussion Questions

5. What role do movies play in public education and awareness about mental illness or other causes?

Facts About Mental Illness

Nearly 1/3 of all people with mental illness and 1/2 of people with severe mental illness also experience substance abuse.

6. Are education and awareness the same? Is one more important than the other? How important do you feel an accurate portrayal of mental illness is in films such as Frankie & Alice?
7. What's the difference between the kind of mental, physical or emotional abuse shown in Frankie & Alice and the kind you might see in an action movie?
8. Frankie seems to use drinking, smoking, sex and drugs to cope with her problems. What are the consequences of that kind of behavior/thinking in real life?

Continue the Discussion Online & in Your Community



Join other NAMI members in the discussion groups to share your thoughts about the film at [NAMI.org/frankieandalice/discussion](https://www.nami.org/frankieandalice/discussion).

Or use the hashtag **#FrankieandAlice** on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.

