

HOSPITALITÉ

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Hospitalité has been called a “comedy of manners,” but it also deals with larger social and racial issues. In both of these regards, are the ideas and conflicts of this film particular to Japan? Why or why not?
2. What are Kagawa’s motives? Do your feelings about him change throughout the film? How so?
3. Discuss some of the film’s subplots (Mikio’s ex-wife, Natsuki’s blackmailing, Seiko’s aspirations to study abroad, etc.) How do these fit into, or splinter from, the main narrative? Does the multitude of story arcs change what you think the movie is “about”?
4. How do you think Mikio and Natsuki’s relationship has changed by the end of the film? How have they changed?
5. The film is bookended by the issue of the lost parakeet. Comment on how this might provide insight into some of the movie’s themes.

