

## Study Questions on [SAFE] (USA/1995)

**Director: Todd Haynes**

**Writer: Todd Haynes**

**Producer: Christine Vachon**

### Cast (select)

Julianne Moore	Carol White
Xander Berkeley	Greg White
Martha Velez	Fluvia
Chauncey Leopardi	Rory
Peter Friedman	Peter Dunning
Kate McGregor Stewart	Claire'
April Grace	Susan
James Le Gros	Chris

1. What does it mean to be “allergic to the 20<sup>th</sup> century”?
2. How is this film a metaphor for AIDS?
3. What different genres does this film encompass/traverse?
4. How is the architecture of the film—including the shots and visual framing, particularly in relation to Carol—related to the content of the film?
5. Haynes says that Carol is a figure who expresses *our* fragility. How so?
6. Haynes
7. What do you think it means that this is a period film? Shot in 1994, but set in 1987? What and how can we learn from that?
8. Haynes interviewed women who suffered from environmental illness and he was struck by this quote from one of those women: “We humans would rather accept culpability over chaos.” What do you think this means in the context of this film?
9. How is this film about “individuals”? Why does Haynes say this is something that we all do when it comes to illnesses: for example, we say, “I did this to myself.” How is this connected to the type of society we live in and what does this tell us about it?
10. As a film about environmental illness, how can we productively think [SAFE] in relation to the Anthropocene?