

## **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: MAMMA MIA**

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**Synopsis:** Parents and educators need to know that *Mamma Mia* is a musical inspired by the music of Swedish 1970s hit-makers ABBA. This lightweight, sun-kissed musical will appeal mainly to teen girls and their moms. Strong language includes "ass," "bitch," "crap" "holy shit" and UK terms such as "bollocks" and "bugger". Sexual innuendoes are throughout the show - there are plenty in the ABBA song lyrics alone - and one of the main characters is a woman who gets pregnant but doesn't know who her baby's father is. Expect prolonged scenes with kissing and hugging; one key character turns out to be gay. The show also contains alcohol consumption and partial nudity (bathing suits), mostly in the context of everyone having fun on a Greek island, and it's all in social settings. Characters also drink throughout and often appear to be drunk. Expect references to marijuana.

**Negative/Positive Messages:** Allusions to infidelity, abandonment, and sexual indiscretions. A daughter lies to her mother about inviting three men from the mother's past to her wedding. Otherwise, truly earnest and warmhearted.

**Negative/Positive Role Models & Representations:** Most of the lead characters are forced to come to terms with their past sexual indiscretions, especially in light of the fact that the bride-to-be is unsure who among three men is her biological father. Characters don't really emerge beyond archetypes ("the writer," "the cougar," "the banker," and so on), despite all outward appearances of strong and independent-minded women seemingly determined to make their own way in the world.

**Violence:** Men and women yell at each other about past disagreements and misunderstandings; a mother and daughter argue.

**Sex:** Sexual innuendo in song lyrics and conversations. One character is very open about her cougar-like sensibilities, preying on a younger man and vice versa. Lots of reminiscing about sexual escapades of the past. One key character turns out to be gay.

**Language:** Occasional profanity: "son of a bitch," "holy shit," "ass", "crap," as well as UK terms such as "bollocks" and "bugger." Frequent sexual insinuations. A woman points at her friend's breasts and asks, "Where did you get these?"

**Drinking, drugs & smoking:** Characters drink alcohol, act drunk. References to cigar and marijuana smoking.