



Cinema/Chicago and the 47th Chicago International Film Festival

Education Outreach Program Screening: *Tomboy*

Director: Céline Sciamma

84 minutes, not rated

In French with English subtitles

Please use the below synopsis, study ideas/questions and helpful websites to lead your students in preparation and post-screening discussion. Following the film, students are required to respond to the screening with a one-page essay. Essays (either all or select) must be sent to Cinema/Chicago.*

Synopsis: Gender identity and growing up are at the heart of this sweet and heartbreaking film about Laure, a 10-year-old girl who pretends to be a boy in her new surroundings after being confused for one by neighbor Lisa. As Michael, Laure soon wins the admiration of neighborhood boys for her soccer skills. No matter how imaginative Laure is in dealing with boy issues, keeping her true identity secret will prove difficult as Laure and Lisa become closer.

Recommended for: world, humanities, cultural, gender, French studies, film and video students.

Appropriate for: mature high school students.

Study Ideas/Questions:

1. What does the word “tomboy” mean to you?
2. Describe and talk about Laure’s relationship with her little sister, Jeanne. How are the two girls different and how are they the same? How does Jeanne view and accept Laure?
3. What colors are identified as “boy” or “girl” colors, and why? What colors does Laure identify herself with?
4. How do Laure’s parents accept her identity? Is her “tomboy” appearance discussed within the family? How does that acceptance change after Laure’s lie is discovered?
5. What are the typical/stereotypical things Laure does to make herself appear masculine?
6. How does Laure’s lie get exposed?
7. Do you think Laure’s parents respond and act appropriately after her lie is exposed? Do you think her mother is right in what she makes Laure do?
8. How does Lisa react when she finds out Laure is a girl? Do you think she acts appropriately? What do you think will happen to their relationship?
9. Research gender identity, do you know anyone who does not adhere to the stereotypes that come along with their assigned gender role or identity?

10. What resources are available in your school or community for people with gender identity questions?

Useful Links and Resources:

Film website (includes trailer, interviews with director): <http://tomboymovie.com/>

American Psychological Association's general information about gender identity:
<http://www.apa.org/topics/sexuality/transgender.aspx#>

Information about Cinema/Chicago's Education Outreach Program:
<http://cinemachicago.org/education/>

*Schools who do not send in essay requirement will not be allowed to attend future Education Outreach Screenings.