

**Homework Due: Questions on *Ma Vie En Rose* (below)**

**Screening:** *Ma Vie En Rose* (Alain Berliner, 1997). In French with English subtitles.

**Awards:** Golden Globe (U.S., 1998)- Best Foreign Film  
Cesar Awards (France, 1998)- Best First Work- Alain Berliner, Director  
European Film Awards (1997)- Best Screenwriter- Berliner, Vander Stappen  
Film Critics Australia (1998)- Best Foreign Language Film

*Ma Vie En Rose* (*My Life in Pink*) has been alternately called a “drama”, “comedy” and “satire” by film critics. Released in 1997, this feature film enters the world of Ludovic Fabre, a seven-year-old suburban Belgian. Ludovic’s fantasy world, of “Barbie-like” television characters, Pam and Ben, who inhabit a welcoming imaginary universe, contrasts with the real world, in which Ludo’s identity as a “girlboy” (in Ludo’s words) often causes significant conflict at home, at school and in the neighborhood.

Questions on *Ma Vie En Rose*- **Due Session 20.** (one to one and a half pages)

Write about at least TWO questions: Question 3 and at least 1 other.

1. What is the meaning of the first (“establishing”) scene at Ludo’s home? What visual details are especially important in this scene?
2. Which other two or three scenes seem especially powerful in presenting Ludo’s sense of self as female? What attitude does film director Alain Berliner seem to express about Ludo’s dressing and acting as female?
3. How does Ludo explain being a “girlboy”--from a child’s perspective?
  - . In what ways does this film connect to this week’s readings (mention at least one) and more generally, to class discussions of sex and gender?
4. How do the fantasy sequences contribute to developing Ludo as a character? What effect is the director trying to achieve through showing Ludo’s attachment to media characters “Pam” and “Ben”? Who or what does Ludo threaten?
5. What scenes are important in showing changes in each parent’s reactions to Ludo’s female attire? Does the film offer an explanation (verbal or visual) for the neighbors’ negative reactions to Ludo’s wearing female dress?
6. What roles do Jerome, Ludo’s grandmother, the therapist and Christine play in Ludo’s life? What influences do they represent or symbolize in society?

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