

WGS. 101 Spring 2023

Homework for Class 19: Questions on *Ma Vie En Rose*

Screen: *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 living in a suburb in Belgium. Ludovic’s fantasy world, of “Barbie” and “Ken”-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 Class 19** (one to one and a half pages)

Write about THREE questions: Question 2, 3, 5 and at least 1 other. We will discuss all questions in class.

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 Phyllis Fry reading 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 various changes in each parent’s reactions to Ludo’s self-presentation as female? 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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