

# Tomboy

Director: Céline Sciamma. France, 2011. 82 min. (U)

With: Zoé Héran, Malonn Lévana, Jeanne Disson,  
Sophie Cattani



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**Screened in partnership with the South London youth charity Free2B.**

**With an introduction by the Mayor of Merton.**

Summer holidays are when young people can find the freedom to push boundaries and explore their identity; relocating to a new home and school can let them change how they are perceived. In one such interlude of rupture and hiatus, a French pre-adolescent ventures into new territory.

After the success of her debut film *Water Lilies*, Sciamma side-stepped the pressure of expectations and opted instead to create this pared-down low-budget film, shot with a prosumer digital camera, a small crew of fourteen and a lead found on the first day of casting. *"I wanted to shoot quickly, in twenty days, with fifty sequences and two locations."* Sciamma situated the action in a mid-class suburb like the one she grew up in: *"I like the contrast: apartment / forest. The apartment is the cosy nest of my protagonist; the forest has echoes of fairy tales and arcadia..."*

The French Board of Education included *Tomboy* in its programme of films proposed for screening in primary schools, a decision that was fiercely debated.

*"The film's greatest accomplishment is writer/director Celine Sciamma's stunning ability to draw natural, believable performances from her adolescent cast, who never hit a false note. ... Tomboy gains power through its realism, not as an 'issue movie'."* Brian Tallerico, *HollywoodChicago.com*

**Winner: Berlin Jury Award; San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival Audience Award.**

You can rate the film by a show of 1 - 5 fingers (5 = top) at the door on the way out. A committee member will be noting the scores.

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