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## Water Lilies (Naissance des pieuvres)

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The lack of parental figures in the film means there is no distraction from the high dramas erupting between our teenagers, and this time the attention is only on the girls. Boys are there, usually in giggling packs or arriving alone to take what they want from their female targets but, while men watching this film may feel misrepresented, how often is this dedicated female perspective allowed such a platform in modern cinema? A line from Floriane where she talks about her face inviting male attention when she has no desire for it is particularly poignant.

Synchro isn't just at the periphery of this film, it's everywhere and it looks amazing. Sumptuous underwater shots of legs flying about in perfect formation are breathtaking and closeups on the maniacally grinning made-up faces of the girls are unsettling. The electronic score by Para One works beautifully to reinforce the angst and confusion of the characters and the overall result is a film that's less about action than relationships, desire and disappointment.

### Facts about *Water Lilies*

- The movie won director/writer Céline Sciamma several awards in her native France.
- The film is not to be confused with the 2005 film also called *Water Lilies*.

*Laura Kidd*

*Laura saw this film courtesy of The Ritzy, Brixton*

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