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Water Lilies (Naissance des pieuvres)

2007

Director: Céline Sciamma

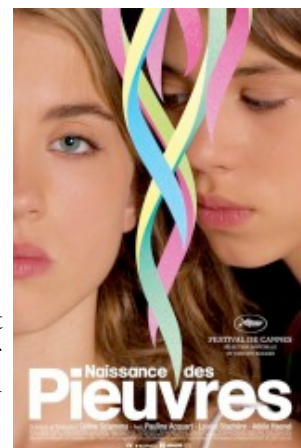
Stars: Pauline Acqhart, Louise Blachère, Adele Haenel, Warren Jacquin

Length: 85 minutes



Water Lilies Synopsis

It's summertime, and in a suburb outside Paris three fifteen year old girls are experiencing their first flushes of love and lust in the unlikely surroundings of the local swimming pool. Marie is our narrator, quiet and pensive, best friends with the ungainly Anne, obsessed with the synchronised swimming team generally and its devastatingly pretty captain, Floriane, in particular.



Desperate to see the team practice Marie trades favours with Floriane, escorting her to seedy meetups with boys from the swimming team and growing more and more confused as her burgeoning feelings are invited one minute and rejected the next. Anne falls out of favour as Marie starts to grow closer to Floriane and all three girls get caught up in their own personal haze of confusion, frustration and hormones.

Opinion on Water Lilies

Water Lilies is an astute and beautifully made look at the transition from girlhood to womanhood through the eyes of three very different characters. That the stories are embedded in the world of 'synchro' - a exclusively female sport with no career opportunities - makes it an even more intriguing prospect, though any film that portrays women as thinking, feeling, three-dimensional characters is to be welcomed.

The young cast are wonderful. Pauline Acqhart's Marie is quiet but watchful, a well of emotion waiting for recognition in another but fearful of rejection. Louise Blachère brings a melancholy quality to Anne, the girl whose too-early physical development has set her apart from her peers - she has a lot in common with Adele Haenel's wilful, sulky Floriane, the supposedly streetwise slut with a brittle edge born of being forced to grow up too fast to cope with the inappropriate advances of men.

(page 1 of 2)

[next >](#)



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