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Flower Girl

Céline Sciamma made headlines when she came out at Cannes while getting rave reviews for her directorial debut film, *Water Lilies*. Now the film is ready to take on an American audience.

By Michael Giltz

An Advocate.com exclusive posted April 4, 2008

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Writer and director Celine Sciamma makes it look easy. Her first directorial effort, *Water Lilies* -- a delicate but sharp-edged look at three 15-year-old girls exploring their sexuality against the backdrop of synchronized swimming -- debuted at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival to rave reviews.



Just two days later, with the world at her feet and boundless new possibilities, Sciamma came out with casual aplomb to *The Advocate*. Now her film is coming to America, giving U.S. moviegoers a chance to see her work. Sciamma always thought of herself as basically a writer, but apparently that's going to have to change.

"I really enjoyed doing the movie," admits the 27-year-old. "I felt like I was at home. So I can't say I am not a director. But in terms of career and what is your job, what is your craft? I really enjoy writing too. The future will tell."

Water Lilies looks at three very different girls: Anne, a heavysset girl exceptionally eager to lose her virginity; Floriane, a sexy girl who loves to flirt but is a little overwhelmed by the effect her body has on boys and older men; and our heroine, Marie (a gawky Pauline Acquart), who is friends with Anne but obsessed with Floriane as only a teenager on hormones can be. In one hilariously driven scene, Anne is so besotted with Floriane that Anne steals her trash and even eats scraps of food that Floriane has thrown away.

In an unexpected way, Sciamma is using homosexuality to get viewers to see the story of first love with fresh eyes.

Story continues on next page...

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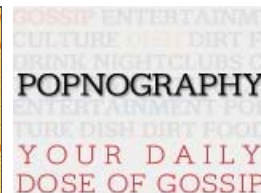
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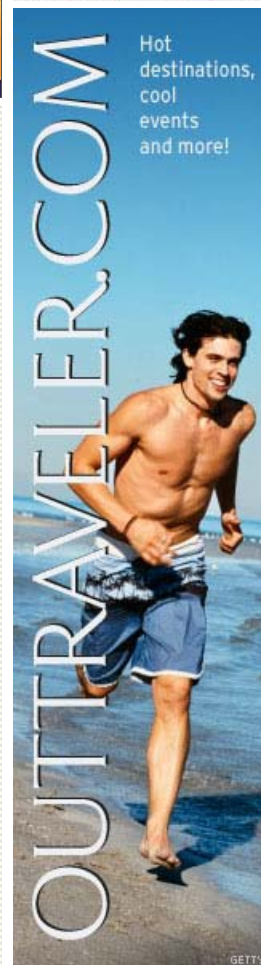
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Recession?

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Taking Back the Workplace

In the 1950s, Frank Kameny was fired from his job in the Army Map Service for "sexual perversion." Now he's watching an openly gay man run the very office once responsible for scrubbing gays from the government.

Oprah, Lesbianism, and a Colonoscopy

Gays steaming it up at a Jersey sports bar, Oprah trendsetting with an episode on sudden lesbianism, and a bit too much info from Tyra Banks re: her colonoscopy

L Word Spin-off a No-go?

The Hollywood Reporter and *Variety* are both reporting that the future looks grim for *The Farm*, the planned *L Word* spin-off that was to star Leisha Hailey.

Hot Sheet: Week of April 6

Dolly Parton is heading to Broadway, *Hannah Montana* is heading to theaters, and shoulder pads are back in fashion as season 4 of *Dynasty* hits DVD.

The Original Gossip Gal

In her heyday, Rona Barrett got in bed with Cher, reported on the antics of Patty Duke, and even got Burt Reynolds to address those gay rumors. Now, Barrett looks back on her career with Advocate.com.

Cruising on the High Seas

Traditionally afraid of gay cruises, one man takes his chances with a gay cruise company aboard an otherwise straight ship and lives to tell about it.

Time to Reset Our Revolution

COMMENTARY: A bold agenda that would provide full equality for all LGBT people is currently gaining ground outside gay organizations and politicians -- Lane Hudson says it might be what our movement needs.

Green Becomes Her

With a film career that includes *Death Becomes Her* and *Blue Velvet*, what could Isabella Rossellini possibly do to surprise fans? How about shtupping sea creatures as star of a short film series about animal sex, *Green Porno 2*?

Polishing Cavafy's Dazzle: A Conversation With Daniel Mendelsohn

Classical scholar and best-selling memoirist Daniel Mendelsohn explains why the time is right for his new translation of eminent gay poet C.P. Cavafy's collected works.

Girls' Guide to Dinah Shore

Did you hear the fire alarm? Yes, that pulsing, clamorous pull toward the desert? It's that time again -- Dinah Shore weekend, complete with three different promoters clamoring for your attention.

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