



Boys Will Be Men: A Videography¹

by Paul Kivel

YOUNG MEN ARE AVID CONSUMERS of movies and videos. Many or most of the films they see present them with images of men in traditional and extremely limited male roles, using unrelenting control and violence to get what they want. Some movies, however, portray (or show a glimpse of) men with more depth and complexity. These films can raise questions for young men about their own roles and the choices they face. You can use such films or videos to further discussions of the themes presented in this book.

Young men also need to see and think about women's roles in movies, beyond the narrow stereotypes to be found in most popular film. There are many films with powerful female characters; these can be used to start discussions of gender, sexuality, male/female relationships, family, race and economics.

Most of the movies listed below are for teens, although some are suitable for younger children.

Please send me suggestions for additions to this list.

A Family Thing (1996) Two brothers, one black, one white, discover each other's existence late in life and try to find common ground.

All Creatures Great and Small (1974) Story of a veterinarian's apprentice in rural England.

American Me (1992) The realities of gang wars and drug life on the streets of East LA.

And the Band Played On (1993) Story of the AIDS epidemic as it affected the gay and scientific community.

¹ Adapted from *Boys Will Be Men: Raising Our Sons for Courage, Caring and Community*.



An Angel at my Table (1989) A free-spirited young New Zealand girl, a writer/poet, is wrongly placed in a mental institution for eight years.

Antonia and Jane (1991) The story of a longstanding, heavily tested friendship between two women.

Antonia's Line (1995) Multi-generational story of a non-conformist Dutch woman's life in her village.

Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974) This film chronicles the life of a young Black girl in the south who lived from Emancipation through the Civil Rights Movement.

Ballad of Gregorio Cortez (1983) Because of a misunderstanding of language a Mexican cowhand kills a white sheriff in self-defense and then tries to elude the law.

Bastard Out of Carolina (1997) Autobiography of a white girl with who struggles out of poverty and childhood abuse in the South.

Bhaji on the Beach (1994) A group of Indian women organize a bus outing from Birmingham to a seaside resort in England.

Blood In ... Blood Out: Bound by Honor (1993) Violent portrayal of three youth in a LA gang and the choices they face.

Blue Collar (1978) The life of three auto workers trying to improve their lives by robbing the union.

Bopha! (1993) A conservative police officer and his anti-apartheid activist son deal with moral values and family relationships in pre-liberation South Africa.

Born in Flames (1983) Futuristic film of a women's army that intervenes when women are harassed on the street and challenges state control of the media.

Born on the Fourth of July (1989) A paraplegic veteran returns from Vietnam and becomes an antiwar protestor.

Boys on the Side (1994) Three women head west and confront pregnancy, AIDS, and male violence.

Boyz N the Hood (1991) Four very different Black high school students try to survive LA gangs and bigotry.



Breaking Away (1979) Working class youth compete in bicycle racing against local college students while trying to figure out their futures.

Bulworth (1998) A politician begins to speak the truth about politics and money sending shock waves through society.

The Burning Season (1994) Brazilian peasants in the Amazon form a union to protect their land.

The Children's Hour (1961) The teaching careers of two women are ruined when girls begin circulating vicious rumors.

The China Syndrome (1979) An executive at a nuclear power plant discovers a concealed accident and tries to sound the alarm.

The Chosen (1981) Friendship between the son of a Hassidic rabbi and the son of a Zionist professor in 1940s Brooklyn.

Citizen Ruth (1997) Rare portrayal of a poor young pregnant white woman delivered by the criminal justice system into the hands of anti-abortion and pro-choice forces.

Coal Miner's Daughter (1980) Biographic story of Loretta Lynn's life from her roots in Appalachia to her success as a singer.

Cocoon (1985) Senior citizens become involved in a scheme to aid a group of aliens.

The Color Purple (1985) A poor black young woman fights for her self-esteem when she is separated from her sister and forced into a brutal marriage.

Coming Home (1978) A look at the life of a disabled Vietnam vet as he returns to civilian life.

Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt (1989) Documentary about the AIDS Quilt and some of the people affected with AIDS.

The Crucible (1957) A story about the Salem witch trials in 17th century New England.

Crying Game (1992) Irish Republican fighter flees to London to deal with the aftereffects of killing a British soldier.

Dance Me Outside (1995) Native Canadian teens, cut off from their more traditional parents, confront contemporary problems.



Daughters of the Dust (1991) Five African American women on an island off the coast of Georgia prepare for changes in family and community around the turn of the century.

Dead Man Walking (1995) Anti-death penalty nun becomes spiritual advisor to a death-row murderer.

Eat a Bowl of Tea (1989) A post-World War II Chinese family tries to adapt old customs to their new American circumstances.

Eat Drink Man Woman (1994) The lives of four young adult modern Taiwanese sisters and their culinary father.

Eve's Bayou (1997) A young African American girl comes of age and deals with family secrets.

Family of Women (nd) A documentary of three women's communities, including the Seneca Women's Peace Encampment and a lesbian "retirement" community.

Five Heartbeats (1991) Relationships between five Black singers and their success and failures as individuals and as a group.

Follow Me Home (1997) Four men of color set out from California to paint a mural on the White House.

Free to Be... You and Me (1974) Stories, songs and dances challenging gender stereotypes and emphasizing human potentialities for boys and girls.

Free Willy (1993) Story of a young boy in trouble who befriends a whale and sets him free.

Fried Green Tomatoes (1972) The story of two white women running a café during the depression in the south confronting bigotry and family violence.

The Full Monty (1997) A group of unemployed British miners confront vulnerability and intimacy when putting together a strip show to raise money.

Gandhi (1982) The story of Gandhi's life and India's struggle for liberation from England using tactics of passive resistance.

Get On the Bus (1997) A busload of Black men drive from LA to Washington to be part of the Million Man March.

Girlfriends (1978) A young Jewish girl learns to make it on her own.



Girls Town (1995) Refreshing and painful look at the lives of three young women dealing with the impact of their friend's suicide after she was raped.

Go Fish (1994) Love story about two young women trying to find each other within a lesbian community.

Gorillas in the Mist (1988) Story of animal rights activist Dian Fossey's attempts to save the African Mountain Gorilla.

Hangin' with the Homeboys (1991) One night in the lives of four youth in the Bronx.

The Harder They Come (1972) Jamaican youth turns to crime before making a successful reggae recording.

Heartland (1981) Story of one woman's life in 1910 on the Wyoming frontier.

Heat and Dust (1982) A young bride joins her husband at his post in India and rebels against the caste system.

Hoop Dreams (1994) Documentary about two inner city basketball star's lives through high school

How to Make An American Quilt (1995) A grad student spends the summer with her grandmother and her friends who are making a wedding quilt while the young woman decides who to marry.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1979) Maya Angelou's memories of growing up in the rural South during the 1930s.

I Like it Like That (1994) Strong-willed black/Latina single mother in the Bronx trying to make it.

Incident at Oglala: The Leonard Peltier Story (1992) A documentary about the murder of two FBI agents and the trial of Leonard Peltier in the context of recent US government/Oglala Nation history.

The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love (1995) Story about a relationship between an African American and a white suburban high school young women and their families' attempt to come to grips with their relationship.

The Insect Woman (1963) Chronicles 45 years in the life of a Japanese woman who must struggle to survive.

Island of the Blue Dolphins (1964) Docudrama of a young Native American woman stranded on an island and learning to survive.



Jackie Robinson Story (1950) Jackie Robinson plays himself as he breaks the color bar in baseball.

The Joy Luck Club (1993) Mother daughter relationships among a group of Chinese and American-born Chinese women are explored through time and across cultures.

Just Another Girl on the I.R.T. (1993) Powerful young woman in New York has a vision for herself that gets challenged by an unplanned pregnancy.

Kids (1995) Docudrama follows a group of New York teenagers around for a day focusing on the consequences of the drug abuse, promiscuity, and violence they engage in.

King (1978) Docudrama about the life of Martin Luther King.

Kiss of the Spider Woman (1985) Cellmates in a South American prison, a revolutionary and a homosexual, struggle about issues of love, life, and freedom.

Klute (1971) A small-town policeman comes to New York and gets involved with a prostitute.

Ladybird, Ladybird (1993) Docudrama about a single battered mother of four caught up in Britain's social services.

Lady Sings the Blues (1972) Billie Holiday's struggles against racism and drug addiction in her pursuit of fame and romance.

A League of Their Own (1992) Fictional account of the All American Girls' Professional Baseball League formed in the 1940s.

Lone Star (1995) Stories of fathers and sons in a border town dealing with race, class, immigration and family issues.

Longtime Companion (1990) A group of gay men and their friends dealing with the crisis of AIDS in their community in the 1980s.

Losing Isaiah (1994) White social worker adopts a black child and later the biological mom, now clean and sober, comes to claim him.

Malcolm X (1992) The story of Malcolm X's growth from drug dealer to political leader.

Mandela (1987) A Focus on the struggle against Apartheid before Mandela's imprisonment in 1964.



Marie (1985) docudrama of a divorced and battered woman who works her way through school, heads the parole board in Tennessee and then blows the whistle on her bosses.

Matawan (1987) Coal miners organize and strike during the 1920s.

Mi Vida Loca (1994) Latina gang members from LA talk about their lives.

Milagro Beanfield War (1988) Members of a small New Mexico town organize to oppose land development and save their water rights.

Monkey Grip (1982) Unmarried single mom copes with drug addicted boyfriend while working in Australia's music business.

My Brilliant Career (1979) Young Australian women at turn-of-the-century fights to broaden her intellect and preserve her independence.

My Left Foot (1989) The life of cerebral-palsy victim Christy Brown as he moves from an impoverished Irish community to success as a writer and painter using his left foot.

The Nasty Girl (1990) Docudrama about a bright young German model who uncovers the Nazi collaboration of her fellow townspeople and faces their wrath.

Never Cry Wolf (1983) A biologist becomes attached to the Artic wolves he has been sent to study.

Newsies (1992) Musical about the 1899 New York strike by newsboys against the publisher Joseph Pulitzer.

Nine to Five (1980) Three office secretaries kidnap the boss and start running things on their own.

Norma Rae (1979) A poor, uneducated textile worker joins forces with a New York labor organizer to unionize the reluctant workers at a Southern mill.

North Dallas Forty (1979) Focuses on labor abuses in pro football.

Not in This Town (1997) The story of the successful struggle of the citizens of Billings, Montana to fight hate groups.

Once Were Warriors (1994) The story of a struggling Maori family who have left their rural roots to live in the city.

Personal Best (1982) Lesbian lovers compete while training for the 1990 Olympics.



Philadelphia (1993) A successful corporate attorney is fired because he has AIDS and then fights a legal battle for justice.

Places in the Heart (1984) A young widow determines to make the best of a bad situation on a small farm in Depression-era Texas.

Portrait of Teresa (1979) Cuban housewife has to balance motherhood, textile job and cultural group activities without the cooperation of her husband. (Spanish with subtitles)

Powwow Highway (1989) A look at life on the reservation as two Cheyenne young men travel to New Mexico.

Quarterback Princess (1985) Docudrama about a girl who goes out for football and becomes homecoming queen.

Question of Silence (1983) Three women, strangers, stand trial for murdering a man. (Dutch with subtitles)

A Raisin in the Sun (1961) or (1989) A black family trying to make a better life for themselves in an all-white neighborhood in Chicago.

Rodeo Girl (1980) Docudrama about a housewife who joins the rodeo.

Roger and Me (1989) A humorous and poignant account of a journalist trying to confront the president of General Motors about the effects of plant closings in Flint, Michigan.

Romeo and Juliet (1996) Shakespeare classic revisited in a contemporary urban setting.

Rosa Luxemburg (1986) The story of Jewish activist Rosa Luxemburg who was imprisoned and later murdered for her political work in Germany.

Rosewood (1997) The tragic story of a prosperous Black community in Florida destroyed by attacks by neighboring whites.

Schindler's List (1993) The recounting of how Oscar Schindler, a German businessman was able to save Jews during the Holocaust.

School Ties (1992) A story about what happens when private school classmates find out that the football star on campus is Jewish.

A Separate Peace (1973) Two young men deal with war and personal tragedy at a prep school during World War II.



Silent Victory: The Kitty O'Neil Story (1979) Docudrama about a deaf woman who became a stop stunt woman in Hollywood and holder of the land speed record for women.

Silkwood (1983) Story of a nuclear plant worker and activist who was killed while investigating shoddy practices at the plant.

Spices (1986) Poor woman revolts against the sexist mores of rural colonial India in the 1940s. (Hindi with subtitles)

Sorceress (1988) A woman healer in the 13th century encounters a friar sent by the pope to seek out heretics.

Souder (1972) The father of a Black sharecropping family is jailed for stealing to feed his family in rural Louisiana.

Steel Magnolias (1989) A young woman stricken with severe diabetes chooses to live her life to the fullest with the support of several adult women.

Strangers in Good Company (1991) A bus-load of older women lost in the Canadian wilderness.

Testament (1983) The residents of a small California town try to survive after a nuclear attack.

Thelma and Louise (1991) A housewife and a waitress rebel against the constraints of their lives and hit the road.

This Boy's Life (1993) A young man tries to choose between prep school and hanging with his friends when he and his mother move to a town near Seattle.

A Thousand Acres (1997) Story of a Midwestern family in which the father has molested two of the three daughters.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945) Young Irish woman growing up in turn-of-the-century Brooklyn tries to rise above her tenement existence.

The Turning Point (1977) A woman who gave up ballet for motherhood must come to terms as her daughter launches a ballet career.

Turtle Diary (1986) Two Londoners free the giant turtles from the Aquarium.

The Unforgiven (1992) A former desperado, now a farmer, goes out on a bounty hunt and finds that his past is still with him.



An Unmarried Woman (1978) Suddenly divorced after 17 years, a woman deals with change.

Waiting to Exhale (1995) Four African American women looking to settle down with the right man.

The Waterdance (1991) An autobiographical story of a man paralyzed in a hiking accident who has to deal with all facets of rehabilitation.

The Wedding Banquet (1993) Naturalized Chinese-American lives with his gay lover but agrees to marry a woman to appease his parents and get her a green card.

What's Love Got to Do With It? (1993) Drama of Tina Turner's rise from an abusive partnership to solo stardom.

Wildrose (1985) A woman must assert herself among her all-male co-workers at a Minnesota strip mine.

Wing Chun (1994) Chinese woman fights horse stealing bandits and develops her strength and independence. (Chinese with subtitles)

A Woman Called Golda (1982) Political drama following the life and career of Golda Meir, former prime minister of Israel.

A Woman Called Moses (1978) Recounts the story of Harriet Tubman who bought her freedom, started the underground railroad and freed hundreds of slaves.

A Woman Rebels (1936) A young woman challenges Victorian society by fighting for women's rights.

Women of Brewster Place (1989) Seven African American women in a tenement support each other in building safe and meaningful lives.

Zoot Suit (1981) A Mexican-American is falsely accused of a murder in the 1940s during a time of intense racial conflict.

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