



The Highly  
Opinionated,  
Completely  
Subjective  
Guide to the  
Movies



# GIRLS ON FILM



**CLARE**  
bundy

**LISE**  
carrigg

**SIBYL**  
goldman

**ANDREA**  
pyros

*From the Creators of the Cult Phenom Girls on Film Web Site*

[www.girlson.com](http://www.girlson.com)



When Lise got home from work that day, I practically jumped on her. *"Why didn't you tell me about this movie you knew about this movie and you didn't tell me Jesus what kind of friend are you God it was great!"*

She was all casual about it. "Yeah, I liked it. You know who really loved it, though? Jason."

Her ex-boyfriend. Ah, the bitter irony!

Later that week, Jason walked up to me at a party, grinning expectantly. "Your job is making you boring and mean."

Sigh! He even quoted **Trust!** I wanted to leap into his lap, give him a big smooch, run away and get married! But no! It was not to be!

Ever since then, I have wandered the Earth, searching for that perfect movie mate. Someone who will love and understand **Trust**. Someone who will love and understand me. I test them again and again. They fall asleep on the couch. They say they don't know what the big deal is. They laugh it off.

But I am not laughing.

I pull out other test movies. Did Ron Fricke's spellbinding, gorgeous, wordless documentary, **Baraka** (1993), fill them with a numinous sense of wonder and awe, as it did me? Do they think **Hard Eight**, directed by twenty-seven-year-old prodigy Paul Thomas Anderson (**Boogie Nights**) and starring a brilliant Philip Baker Hall, a gritty Gwyneth Paltrow, and a hilariously sad John C. Reilly, is a work of tragicomic genius, as I do? Do they *really* understand the heartbreak and beauty of 1994's **Fresh**, about an inner-city boy (Sean Nelson) who uses the basic rules of chess taught to him by his absentee father (Samuel L. Jackson) as a way to get out of the 'hood? For God's sake, are they thunderstruck by the strong characters and circular narrative in the breathtakingly original Macedonian film **Before the Rain**?!

No? Then get out! Go away! I break with thee!

I am cursed to walk alone.





## *25 Indies to Rent!*

- 1 **THE APOSTLE** (dir. Robert Duvall, 1997) "Love my neck!" That means give me a hug in the words of Robert Duvall's fire-and-brimstone preacher. Duvall wrote, directed, and starred in this story of a tragically human man of God. The Apostle seeks redemption after a violent incident. Of course you can't run from your past, a lesson he learns. This movie runs long and slow, but Duvall's performance is divinely inspired, a reminder that he's one of our greatest living actors.
- 2 **BEFORE THE RAIN** (dir. Milcho Manchevski, 1994) An amazing political drama focusing on the strife-torn Republic of Macedonia. In three seemingly unrelated stories—a young Christian monk protecting a Muslim girl, a London-based photographer, and a photo-journalist returning to his Macedonian homeland—a portrait of religious hatred, personal struggle, and an attempt to do good when the world has turned bad forms. One of the weirdest, most interesting narrative structures we've ever seen. Brutal and fascinating.
- 3 **BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET** (dir. John Sayles, 1984) Joe Morton plays a sweetly befuddled alien who—aside from his clawlike feet—happens to look like a typical African-American male. On the run from alien bounty hunters, he arrives in Harlem and gets to sample good old American racism. Features some nice cameos from director Sayles, and from Fisher Stevens as a subway-riding card shark.
- 4 **DEATH AND THE MAIDEN** (dir. Roman Polanski, 1994) An intense and often unsettling psychological thriller set in an unnamed country in South America. Since it was based on a play, this film feels like a play and has only three characters. Sigourney Weaver plays Paulina Escobar, a woman who, by sheer coincidence, is reacquainted with a doctor (Ben Kingsley) by whom, she is convinced, she once was tortured and raped to the sounds of Schubert's "Death and the Maiden." She, uh, takes revenge.