

Girl on Girl Media presents
in association with New York Foundation for the Arts

Present

GIRL ON GIRL

A film by Jodi Savitz

111 minutes

Official Selection

2017 Newfest at The Center Presents – Official Selection
2017 Clexacon Film Festival, Las Vegas – Official Selection
2017 Fairy Tales Film Festival, Calgary, Canada – Official Selection
2017 Mardi Gras Queer Film Festival, Australia – Official Selection
2016 St. Louis International Film Festival – Official Selection – **World Premiere**
2016 MiFo Miami-Ft. Lauderdale LGBTQ Film Festival – Sneak Preview

www.girlongirlmovie.com

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PRESS RELEASE

[Brooklyn, New York—June 13, 2017]

Girl on Girl will be released worldwide on Thursday, June 22 to correspond with New York City Pride weekend. It will be available to rent or buy via the distribution platform, Vimeo On-Demand.

Watch the film at: www.girlongirlmovie.com/watch or <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/girlongirl>.

Watch the trailer: www.girlongirlmovie.com

Embed the trailer: `<iframe src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/220761336" width="640" height="360" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen"></iframe> <p>Girl on Girl from Jodi Savitz on Vimeo</p>`

Girl on Girl is a groundbreaking film in the LGBTQ and documentary film genres that highlights the emotional consequences of feminine lesbian invisibility— the phenomenon that, due to their feminine or “passing” appearance, countless LGBTQ women are rendered invisible and assumed to be straight by the outside world and to each other.

The film follows six women who challenge assumptions of what society imagines a lesbian to look like and offer fundamentally different narratives of how invisibility has impacted their lives. Each story intimately reveals that coming out on a daily basis is a repetitive act, not a one-time proclamation. The cast features ‘celesbian’ Lauren Bedford Russell (The Real L Word: Season 3) and women from around the country, including New York, Florida, Utah, and North Carolina.

Girl on Girl enjoyed a festival release worldwide, screening at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the St. Louis International Film Festival, Clexacon, NewFest at The Center Presents, Fairy Tales Film Festival in Calgary, and Sydney’s Mardi Gras Film Festival.

Girl on Girl is unique because of its overwhelming social media success. The Girl on Girl Facebook community is made up of nearly [470,000 fans, of which 86% are women, and its posts ORGANICALLY engage millions](#) of LGBTQ women and allies worldwide. Girl on Girl proves its worth to the LGBTQ community on a daily basis. Recognized by lesbians internationally, the documentary has generated buzz for nearly three years ahead of its release. Fans of the film actively engage with the Facebook page moderators and each other.

Girl on Girl will be released on additional streaming platforms in the coming months, including Distrify, iTunes, Amazon, Hulu and Netflix, dates TBA.

Girl on Girl is produced and directed by Brooklyn-based filmmaker, Jodi Savitz, and co-produced by Italian Golden Globe winner, Dahlia Heyman, and Lauren Savitz. It is sponsored by the prestigious non-profit, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), and therefore any donations made to NYFA on its behalf are tax-deductible.

For more information, sharable photos, and to download a press kit, visit www.girlongirlmovie.com/press-kit. Direct inquiries, interviews email jlsavitz@gmail.com or call at 954-415-1736. The official trailer is available on www.girlongirlmovie.com.

SYNOPSIS

Girl on Girl is a documentary portrait of six women struggling with feminine lesbian invisibility— the phenomena in which, indistinguishable from straight women, feminine lesbians are rendered invisible to the world and each other.

Lauren, an ex-reality star (*The Real L Word, Season 3*)

Karen, an aspiring designer and formerly homeless LGBTQ teen

Kris, the feminist activist turned spiritual leader

Ashleigh & Destini. & toddler, Saibra. a family hoping to get pregnant again

Lyndi, an Air Force veteran

Plagued by interrogation, their day-to-day is colored by society's insistence that feminine lesbians are 'not real lesbians.' Even in LGBTQ spaces, the phrases, "Are you sure?" "You haven't met the right man," "What a waste!" & "You're too pretty to be gay," are typical.

Over three years, we follow these women through interviews and home movie footage. From family tension and feminist politics, to homelessness, motherhood, racism and aging, **Girl on Girl** is a dynamic patchwork of stories that unifies the plight of all women to be taken seriously in their sexuality and femininity.

Short SYNOPSIS

Girl on Girl is a documentary portrait of six women struggling with feminine lesbian invisibility— the phenomena in which, indistinguishable from straight women, feminine lesbians are rendered invisible to the world and each other.

OR

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Jodi Savitz – Director, Producer, Editor, Cinematographer



JODI is an independent documentary filmmaker based out of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. She grew up in Plantation, Florida, and was lucky to feel safe and supported enough to be open about her lesbian identity as a teenager. She has been out to her family and friends since she was 14 years old, and has been extremely passionate about LGBTQ politics and activism ever since.

Jodi graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in Theatre and Gender Studies, and a passion for film. She produced her first film, *Yo Soy Asi*, in 2010, about the Argentine lesbian community, while attending school in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Jodi's work on *Girl on Girl* spanned nearly four years, and began in January 2013. Jodi currently works as a digital video producer for NBC OUT, in addition to working as an independent filmmaker. Her goal is to fill a void in LGBTQ programming, promote visibility, and create valuable resources for the LGBTQ community and beyond.

Dahlia Heyman – Producer

DAHLIA is Vice President of US Development and Production at World Film Group where she has worked for eight years. In that time she has developed multiple shows including the game show “No Limits.” Dahlia also co-wrote and executive produced *Someday This Pain Will be Useful to You*, a feature length film based on a novel of the same title (for which she received the Italian Golden globe [Globo D'oro] for best screenplay 2012). The film stars Ellen Burstyn, Marcia Gay Harden, Lucy Liu, Peter Gallagher, and Deborah Anne Woll. She most recently produced the documentary, *Shooting Serrano*, that began airing on Vice.com in October, 2013.

Lauren Savitz – Co-Producer

LAUREN is experienced in marketing and public relations, having worked at the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Public Library over a combined eight years.

María Pien – Composer

MARÍA is a composer living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since late 2008, Maria has been very active in the BA music scene. She released her debut album, *La Vuelta Manzana* in 2012, and her second album in 2013 through the independent record label *Elefante en la Habitación!*

INTERVIEW WITH JODI SAVITZ

Who is Jodi Savitz and what made her acknowledge the necessity to direct a documentary specifically about feminine lesbian issues?

Girl on Girl evolved out of my lived experiences and those of the women around me. Ever since I came out, my identity has been challenged. I am not "what a lesbian looks like," and fulfill few 'typical' lesbian stereotypes. I never understood the true scope of society's skepticism toward my orientation until college. Not only did frat boys discount me, but also my own gender studies peers belittled me for being 'too heteronormative looking' to be a *real lesbian*. The irony was enormous.

I am a South Florida native, and grew up going to public schools where owning your identity and appearing 'strong' kept me safe. I came out to my peers in 2003. I was 14, and nobody was talking about Rainbow Alliances in school. Gay marriage was a mythical idea I wrote about in a research paper. I didn't yet have a cell phone, and my Internet use was limited to "AOL Teen." Queer As Folk was the gayest thing I knew. I was lucky -- there were other out gay girls in my high school, and so I learned the ropes by sneaking out to gay bars with a fake id. I spent my weekends couch-hopping in Wilton Manors, a "gayborhood" in Ft. Lauderdale.

The lesbian community became my playground; I was totally feminine, and yet, I was a "baby dyke" (a term of endearment) navigating through a subcultural community that I never knew existed. I had a self-proclaimed 'lesbian mentor.' These same women would eventually serve on the board of the Aqua Foundation for Women, an LGBTQ non-profit that was instrumental in funding my college education.

Coincidentally, I saw my first "lesbian" movie at the Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival when I was 15 in the same theater that my film previewed in -- so it's truly come full circle. I can finally give back to the community that helped me find myself and supported me all along.

Can you describe what you mean by, "feminine lesbian invisibility?"

Feminine lesbians face systemic 'invisibility' -- the feeling of not being seen, recognized, or taken seriously for who we are. We are accused both within and outside of our community for not being *gay enough* because it is socially acceptable to believe that feminine women are "too pretty to be gay," or that feminine women are *wasted* if we do not marry men.

In short, society is uniquely skeptical of us and our credibility- feminine lesbian sexuality is discredited, internalized sexism is the norm and masculine privilege (regardless of anatomical sex) is reinforced both within and outside of the gay community.

Why now? What makes 2017 a perfect time to release your film?

Audiences are discontent with the status quo, so no longer will LGBTQ, people of color, and women's stories be relegated to the sidelines (so says the Academy)! Despite conservative backlash, it's more apparent than ever that by embracing the intersectionality of race, gender, and sexuality, films and their filmmakers, & television shows and their creators are being celebrated as social *ambassadors*, in and of themselves, who use media as a *platform for social change*. So it seems, this is the perfect time to release *Girl on Girl*.

How do you feel about the use of the term 'lipstick lesbian'?

I think that "lipstick lesbian" is fine if it is used by a woman to describe herself, and if the intentionality with which it is being used is as a positive, self-affirming label. I think the term, like many others, can be useful/fun/funny/ironic or degrading/insulting depending on the context and who is using it.

Do you think the devaluation of 'the feminine' is related to the specific discrimination feminine lesbians face?

This is a complex question that truly gets to the heart of what **Girl on Girl** is about, and so I've actually considered it many times -- whether and to what extent femininity, in and of itself, and as part of one's gender presentation, is ultimately what strips people of their agency, rather than their sexual minority status (i.e. gay/lesbian), anatomical sex (male/female).

When we consider the connotations of femininity and feminine versus masculinity and masculine, it is undeniably problematic that within the scope of the 'feminine,' there are little if any formal associations of femininity with strength, independence, power, and/or willpower. This is the opposite when one begins to associate concepts with the 'masculine.'

I believe that it is going to come down to semantic invention and re-imagination -- can we re-imagine words to singularly mean positive and powerful feminine derivatives of the masculine counterpart - for instance, can there be a word to mean, "strong, nurturing, and one embodying a traditionally feminine appearance" (like the powerful business woman, wearing a skirt suit, who is also a mom, who is also a badass, etc...) -- for now, at least in English, the strong, powerful business woman is most commonly degraded, and called a "bitch," rather than lauded for her leadership. When we develop words to signify feminine leadership and power, without demeaning the figure in question for their

apparent weakness (i.e. femininity), we will begin to overcome some of the inherent stigmatization that comes with presenting as feminine.

In turn, this translates to the treatment of feminine lesbians; once people and oneself can verbalize/describe an embodiment of femininity without (instinctually) connoting a marginalized or "less than" status, femininity will become understood as a force to be reckoned with!

I hope that makes sense! But my short answer is, yes.

The title of the documentary is clearly a mock of all the pornography misrepresenting feminine lesbians as ‘the average straight male fantasy.’ How much is pornography to blame for the misconceptions about feminine lesbians?

Historically, the film, television and media industries have portrayed feminine lesbian sexuality as merely foreplay to heterosexual sex, or branded ‘girl-on-girl action’ as titillating fantasy. The women involved in on-screen depictions of girl-on-girl sexuality are often posed as engaging in lesbian sex for the sole pleasure of the onlooker, rather than engaging in the encounter for their own pleasure. Very rarely is lesbian sexuality explicitly shown on television, and when it is depicted in the context of a narrative, it is often given less weight than other sexually explicit scenes.

In general, media depictions of lesbians privilege the ‘male gaze,’ and take on a voyeuristic quality less associated with lesbian identity and more commonly categorized as porn or exploitative imagery; these images ultimately reinforce societal associations between ‘femininity’ and frivolity’ and ‘masculinity and legitimacy’. Thus, it is within the context of fantasy that lesbian sexuality is the most trivialized.

Do you think that feminine lesbian couples are taken less seriously than femme/butch ones?

Yes; I do believe that femme/femme couples are taken less seriously because of the reasons I stated earlier. When femininity isn’t taken seriously, feminine lesbian couples are doubly-discounted. Additionally, it is easier for heterosexual people to envision a picture of gender roles within butch-femme couples, whereas, with femme-femme couples, there is always the question, “well, who is the *man*?” This is by far the silliest question. We are lesbians. There is no man. ☺

Apart from sexism and homophobia, what are some specific issues that feminine lesbians face within the LGBT community?

In general, the everyday micro-aggressions that feminine lesbians face are all but ignored by the LGBTQ community. One specific problem that I see a lot is that women who

present as feminine stifle and hide the emotional distress that arises from having to come out and defend their sexuality repeatedly.

LGBTQ people with more subversive gender presentations – gender queer, transgender, and queer people of color – are more often highlighted as being marginalized due to the overt abuses against them, i.e. bullying, hate crimes, etc. On the other hand, "passing" as heterosexual is lauded as a privilege, both within and outside of the queer community.

This means feminine lesbians are frequently misunderstood by counselors and less likely to seek out support from other lesbians for fear of being ‘called out’ on their "privileged" status. The concept of femme privilege tends to leave women feeling confused and alone, and without the *right* to feel distressed over the marginalization or discrimination they experience.

ABOUT THE CAST



Lauren Bedford Russell, best known for her appearance on Season 3 of "The Real L Word," and her jewelry line, Lyon Fine Jewelry, is back to talk about the challenges of not being taken seriously as a lesbian, even after achieving celebrity status.



Ashleigh, Destini, Saibra (3) and new baby, Blythe (born 11/3/14), follow this modern family through their encounters with both racism and homophobia, as they navigate raising a toddler and planning a second pregnancy in a not-quite-so-liberal American town



Lyndi, a former member of the United States Air Force, came out before the appeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and faced the possibility of being dishonorably discharged- until her femininity left others believing that *she couldn't possibly* be gay.



After **Karen** accidentally came out over a phone call with her mother, she faced isolation from her family, homelessness, and was forced to drop out of school. With a renewed sense of self, we meet Karen as she proves her resilience in the face of skepticism and negativity.



Kris is an activist and social worker. In the 1980s, she lived in an exclusively lesbian-feminist community, practicing the woman-identified-woman lifestyle which excluded men from all aspects of her life. She opens up a spiritual center with her partner in hopes of finding peace after years of discontentment.

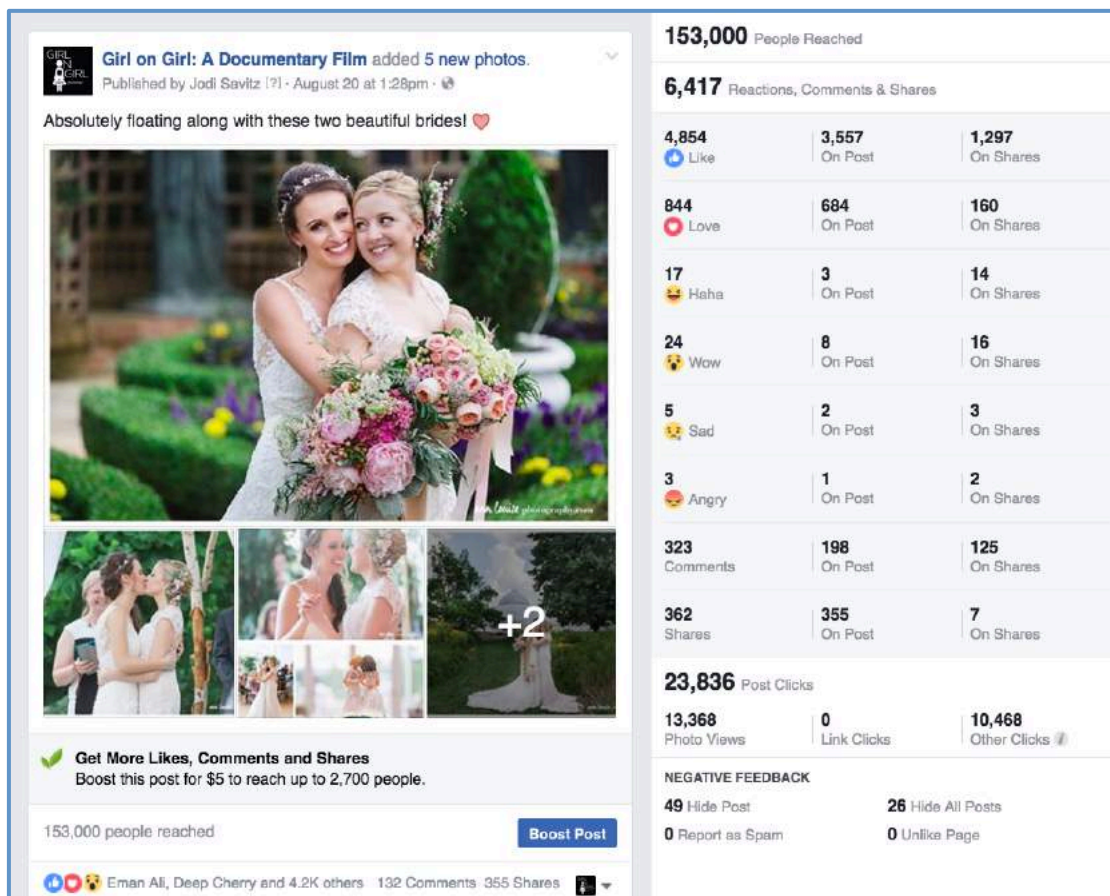
GIRL ON GIRL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

With OVER 470,000 fans on Facebook,

Girl on Girl proves its worth to the LGBTQ community on a daily basis. Recognized by lesbians internationally, the documentary has been generating buzz and proliferating its imagery nearly two years ahead of its release. Fans of the film actively engage with the Facebook page moderators and each other; their tenacity behind the **Girl on Girl** movement is based on the messaging, “I am the face of Girl on Girl action. Visibility is my Priority.”

Metric data illustrates that content released on the **Girl on Girl** platforms reaches as many as 10 million users every seven days, and regularly engages more people than content posted on LGBTQ pages such as HRC, GLAAD and The Advocate.

Example post with 100% ORGANIC insights:



Girl on Girl: A Documentary Film added 5 new photos.
Published by Jodi Savitz [?] · August 20 at 1:28pm · 🌐

Absolutely floating along with these two beautiful brides! ❤️

153,000 People Reached

6,417 Reactions, Comments & Shares

4,854 Like	3,557 On Post	1,297 On Shares
844 Love	684 On Post	160 On Shares
17 Haha	3 On Post	14 On Shares
24 Wow	8 On Post	16 On Shares
5 Sad	2 On Post	3 On Shares
3 Angry	1 On Post	2 On Shares
323 Comments	198 On Post	125 On Shares
362 Shares	355 On Post	7 On Shares

23,836 Post Clicks

13,368 Photo Views	0 Link Clicks	10,468 Other Clicks
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NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

49 Hide Post	26 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Get More Likes, Comments and Shares
Boost this post for \$5 to reach up to 2,700 people.

153,000 people reached [Boost Post](#)

👍👎👹 Eman Ali, Deep Cherry and 4.2K others · 132 Comments · 355 Shares

LETTERS TO GIRL ON GIRL FACEBOOK:
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH FROM THE FOLLOWING QUOTES

“... This is an issue I face EVERY day, and I'm actually about to click on and write my weekly HuffPost column about my femme invisibility. I'm seriously just so OVER explaining to everyone on a daily basis that I am a lesbian who they say ‘doesn't look like a lesbian.’ So frustrating!” -Jincey Lumpkin

“My name is K. I am a seventeen year-old girl living in Oklahoma. And I am gay. I must say, I thoroughly enjoyed watching the trailer to your documentary and I cannot wait until it's finished. See, I am a very feminine girl. And coming out to my parents was probably the hardest thing I've ever done. We don't talk about it anymore and I'm not allowed to see my girlfriend... My mom told me that even if it was true, she'd never accept it. I'm just very appreciative of your documentary of other feminine lesbians. Maybe if I can get my parents to watch it, they'll see that I'm not lying when I tell them I'm gay and still love the color pink.”

“... In all honesty, I never believed that this would be something I would worry about or even have to think about after coming out to my friends and family - yet it is something that is consistent in our daily lives... forcing those feelings of anxiety and sweaty palms associated with coming out in the first place. All in all, I could not be happier that you are taking a look at an issue that I feel like both the straight and lesbian community tend to avoid or not pay attention to...”

“I feel like I have quite a story to tell as a womyn of color who has recently shaved off all my hair, for one of many reasons including that I felt "too femme" & invisible. ... Many times when I had long hair I remember lesbians saying, 'You're the last girl I would think is gay,' which hurt to say the least.”

...As a femme that generally likes femmes, it has been difficult mentally and emotionally when I try to figure out how to attract other femmes as a self-identified femme myself. I've even started to ask myself if I have ever simply been a trophy to a girl. Thank you for bringing these topics about femme invisibility into the conversation! "

"I received your "Girl On Girl" flyer at NYC Pride yesterday and it was the most relevant thing I have ever read. I'm very feminine and I feel as though that causes people to take my sexuality less seriously...Reading your flyer gave me a lot of hope because I now know there are other feminine lesbians that are attracted to feminine women just like me."

"...Sometimes I find myself wishing I was very masculine just so my parents would confront me and ask if I was gay and I could say yes... Anyway, I basically just wanted to thank you for the movie you're making, as it means very much to me that I am not alone in what I am going through. I'm hopeful to know that there are other women who are just like me. What you are doing is very powerful and I respect and admire you."

"I am 23 years old, born and raised in Portland, Oregon. Being a young, feminine, lesbian in Portland, or in the Northwest for that matter, can be very challenging because of the identity I portray. After watching your trailer, I found myself nodding my head agreeing with all of the women and the portrayal of feminine lesbians. Portland is a very "butch" lesbian community and it is very difficult to meet other feminine lesbians. My image does not match up with the norm lesbian image I knew growing up.

When I go out at night with all my friends, I constantly get hit on by only men. I feel like I have to have something very obvious and visible in order for anyone to know that I am a lesbian. When I mention to men that I'm gay, most are shocked and in denial. Exactly how you described. Most are very surprised and then become more interested because I am an actual "feminine lesbian". I don't understand it, and that's why I am such a big fan of this project."

“The following is a list of my favorite comments upon finding out I identify as a lesbian:

*It is a great loss for the straight world.
Maybe you just haven't met the right guy.
I'm sure it's just a phase.
I know that you find me attractive, maybe you just need to give it a shot.*

And my favorite:

You look nothing like a lesbian.”

“My girlfriend is femme too. She is charismatic and a magnet of energy and beauty. We have been the catalyst opening the floodgates for questions, curiosity and at times fantasy.”

“My name is Chi and I am a 23 year old Lesbian. I grew up in a Christian household with Nigerian parents, so coming out was very difficult for me. I have always been very outspoken. I am constantly berated for being gay. Straight men often become hostile and want to talk to me about "what the Bible says" once they find out I am gay and not interested in them. I used to say I was bisexual...and I tried to be. I figured that if I was bi I could sort of fit in more. It was a waste of my time. I realized I was gay when I kept searching for "something more" while in bed with men...I always felt empty. I want to inspire and touch others to be comfortable in their own skin.”