

arts

FILM:
Believably Lesbian
Girl Talk



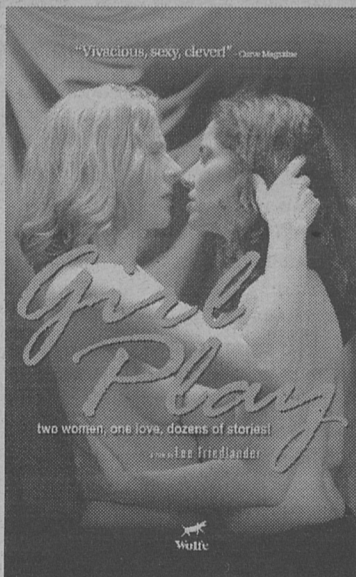
Lacie is single and plans to stay that way. Robin is in a six-year relationship and she is convinced that she is in a happy relationship. After all, as she says, "Everything was going great. I was in a six-year relationship. We had a townhouse, a cocker spaniel, a cat, a circle of friends, favorite restaurants within a five-mile radius, mutual funds, a CD collection, vacations, engagement rings — our whole future completely mapped out." We notice that there isn't a lot of connection between Robin and Audrey them but Robin doesn't seem to have a clue about what's missing.

In what was probably a wise choice for an independent film, the story moves back and forth between monologues by the actresses and flashbacks of their lives. This allows for high production values and for us to get

the backstory in an amusing way as well as the inner thoughts of each of the women as they become ever more deeply involved in the play and each other and try to sort out play and reality. (The DVD edition of *Girl Play* includes a 26-minute featurette: "From Stage to Life: At Play with *Girl Play*," a behind-the-scenes look at the film with director Lee Friedlander.)

Robin's coming out to her mother as played by Mink Stole is both funny and touching, as is much of the film. Lacie's adventures in bar pickups are also a revelation of lesbian life rarely screened. *Girl Play* was definitely a favorite for the Sapphic Cinema audience. Directed by Lee Friedlander and played by actresses Lacie Harmon and Robin Greenspan — who lived the story and wrote the screenplay with Friedlander — I found this one of the best independent lesbian films I've seen. If you're looking for a love story with a bit of a twist that you can still relate to — this is it.

Peggy Luhrs hosts Sapphic Cinema nights at the R.U.I.2? Queer Community Center in Burlington.



ing call for a play and a funny turn by Deluise as an oh-so-solicitous director with a young male assistant catering to his every whim. He tells the women that to make the play believable they must get to know each other. He continues to work this angle and the players seem only too happy to take the chance to spend time together and build a rapport, which of course eventually overtakes their plans.

BY PEGGY LUHRS

Girl Play
Directed by
Lee Friedlander
Starring Robin
Greenspan, Lacie
Harmon, Dom Deluise,
and Mink Stole
Wolfe Video, DVD
August 2005

This was one of my favorite films this year. It was believably lesbian, it was about adults, and it was well acted and well written. Mink Stole does a fabulous turn as Robin's mother. And Dom Deluise is quietly hysterical as the director of the play which is the vehicle for these women's meeting and subsequent love affair. The film is based on a true story and played by the women who lived it.

Leads Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon shared the Best Actress prize at the 2004 edition of Outfest for *Girl Play*, based on the play *Real Girls*.

The movie starts with the cast-

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