

## Secondary school films

A selection of films for young people who are thinking about sexual orientation and gender identity issues or think they might be lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans.

### FEATURE FILMS

#### FIT (2010)

Directed by Rikki Beadle Blair

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 12

Run Time:

This intelligent, powerful and entertaining film tackles the issue of homophobic bullying in a culture where everything from not liking sports to wearing the wrong trainers is "gay". Developed by Stonewall as part of the Education for All campaign it has been especially created for Key Stage 3 and 4 students and comes with a booklet and example lesson plans which can be downloaded from our website

#### The Imitation Game (2014)

Directed by Morten Tyldum

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 114 minutes

This war time drama starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley is based on an extraordinary true story. When unconventional mathematician Alan Turing is first employed by the newly created MI6, he is initially met with scepticism, and even anger. However when he manages to crack the previously thought impossible Enigma code, responsible for eventually ending the war and saving countless lives, he is rightly heralded a hero by his team. But this soon changes when his sexuality is revealed at a time where this could lead to prosecution.

## Pride (2014)

Directed by Matthew Warchus

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 120 minutes

Based on true events, this is a very funny and inspirational story with an all-star cast including Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton. Mark is a young and passionate gay rights activist living in London in 1984 who faces homophobia and aggression from the government and police. When he realises there are shared struggles facing both the LGBT community and the coal miners on strike, he leads a campaign in solidarity, which results in some unexpected friendships being formed in a small Welsh community.

## Philomena (2014)

Directed by Stephen Frears

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 12A

Run Time: 98 minutes

This film is based on the book by journalist Martin Sixsmith which tells the true story of Philomena's 50 year search for her son. The story follows Sixsmith, played by Steve Coogan, as he decides to investigate the story behind Philomena (Judi Dench) who was forced to give up her baby boy. Sixsmith and Philomena embark on a journey to the Irish Abbey where Philomena was sent to work when she fell pregnant at 17, then across to Washington DC in pursuit of her long lost son. She has no idea what to expect, but her search uncovers some surprises about her son. This is a heart-warming tale of family, identity, love and separation.

## The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012)

Directed by Stephen Chbosky

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12A

Run time: 103 minutes

Based on the book of the same name, this is the story of an introverted book-loving American teenager, Charlie (Logan Lerman), at high school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Charlie writes frequent letters to an unknown recipient, but despite him being a shy 'wallflower' he is befriended by high school seniors Patrick (Erza Miller) and his step sister Sam (Emma Watson). We witness his coming of age high school journey; which include his love for Sam, Patrick and closeted footballer Brad's relationship and Charlie dealing with his past traumatic experiences. "Even if we don't have the power to choose where we come from, we can still choose where we go from there" is the message to take from this story.

## Lilting (2014)

Directed by Hong Khaou

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run time: 91 minutes

Set in contemporary London, and starring Ben Winshaw, Lilting tells the story of a Chinese-Cambodian mother grieving the loss of her son, and the arrival of his male partner. Though they share no common language, with the help of an interpreter the two forge a relationship as they remember the man they both loved.

## Milk (2008)

Directed by Gus Van Sant

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 122 minutes

Milk is about gay rights activist and San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk. The film portrays Milk's political awakening, from closeted Brooklyn insurance executive to doyen of San Francisco's Castro district's gay Mecca in the 1970s. Milk is pitted in a bitter battle against fellow City Hall supervisor Dan White. The rest of the film sketches Milk's relationship with his political opponent and the 1978 fight against a statewide initiative to bar gays and their supporters from public school jobs.

## The Kids are All Right (2010)

Directed by Lisa Cholodenko

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 106 minutes

Nic and Jules are a couple with a daughter, Joni, on her way to college and a son, Laser, at 15 a good athlete but maybe hanging out with the wrong pal. Laser wants Joni, who is now 18, to find out who their sperm-donating biological father is. Without initially telling their moms, they meet him. He's Paul, a cool guy with a motorcycle, restaurant, and organic garden. Although Nic doesn't like the idea, the five of them get together a few times and the kids spend time with Paul. Nic decides to be a good sport and get to know Paul better. But can the family add a new member?

## Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Directed by Ang Lee

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 134 minutes

A moving story of two cowboys who unexpectedly fall in love while working together one summer in 1963. Their initial summer on Brokeback Mountain becomes their reference point for happiness during the rest of their lives. Seeing each other a few times a year at best, Ennis and Jack spend the rest of their time half-heartedly living up to society's expectations by marrying and having kids.

## Show me Love (1998)

Directed by Lukas Moodysson

Language: Swedish

Country: Sweden

Subtitles: English

Classification: 15

Run Time: 89 minutes

The film is set in a small town called Amal where nothing exciting ever happens. As far as popular 16-year old Elin is concerned, it has to be the dullest town in the world, and the spotty boys are even more mind-numbing. Elin's classmate, the achingly shy Agnes, hates Amal too. Slowly, against all odds, the two girls discover the connection emerging between them.

## Beautiful Thing (1996)

Directed by Hettie Macdonald

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 87 minutes

This film tells the story of how teenage loner Jamie falls for next-door neighbour Ste, one of the tough kids who bullies him at school. Jamie finds his feelings reciprocated, and the two progress to a tender affair, sidestepping conventional notions of working-class homophobia.

## Nina's Heavenly Delights (2006)

Directed by Pratibha Parmar

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: PG

Run Time: 91 minutes

Indo-Scotswoman Nina leaves home after having a row with her father. Peace is short-lived when she receives news that her father has died and that she must return home to run the family curry house. Nina finds herself in a heating romance with her father's former business partner.

## Fish and Elephant (2001)

Directed by Yu Li

Language: Mandarin

Country: China

Classification: TBC

Run Time: 106 minutes

Two women, Qun and Ling, have a peaceful and loving relationship. But Qun's mother arrives to pay a visit and, not knowing her daughter is a lesbian, tries to arrange boyfriends for her. And Junjun, Ling's former girlfriend, reappears, after having killed her father.

## A Single Man (2009)

Directed by Tom Ford

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12

Run Time: 99 minutes

It is November 30, 1962. Native Brit George Falconer, an English professor at a Los Angeles area college, is finding it difficult to cope with life. Jim, his partner of sixteen years, died in a car accident eight months earlier. This day, George has decided to get his affairs in order before he will commit suicide that evening. As he routinely and fastidiously prepares for the suicide and post suicide, George reminisces about his life with Jim. He spends this day with various people, who see a man sadder than usual and who affect his own thoughts about what he is going to do.

## The Hours (2002)

Directed by Stephen Daldry

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12

Run Time: 114 minutes

In 1951, Laura Brown, a pregnant housewife, is planning a party for her husband, but she cannot stop reading Virginia Woolf's 'Mrs. Dalloway'. Clarissa Vaughn, a modern woman living in present times is throwing a party for her friend Richard, a famous author dying of AIDS. These two stories are simultaneously linked to the work and life of Virginia Woolf, writing 'Mrs. Dalloway' in 1920's England.

## I Love you Phillip Morris (2009)

Directed by Glen Ficarra and John Requa

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 98 minutes

Steven Russell is happily married to Debbie, and a member of the local police force when a car accident provokes a dramatic reassessment of his life. Steven becomes open about his homosexuality and decides to live life to the fullest - even if it means breaking the law. Steven's new, extravagant lifestyle involves cons and fraud and, eventually, a stay in the State Penitentiary where he meets sensitive, soft-spoken Phillip Morris. His devotion to freeing Phillip from jail and building the perfect life together prompts Steven to attempt and often succeed at one impossible con after another.

## Itty Bitty Titty Committee (2007)

Directed by Jamie Babbit

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 87 minutes

Anna is a young lesbian high school graduate who still lives with her parents and works as a receptionist in a plastic surgeon's office. She embarks on a wild ride when she hooks up with a cadre of ultra-radical feminist lesbians who like to raise hell. But things get even more complicated when Anna falls in love with Sadie, the radical group's leader who is already involved with an older woman.

## Gods and Monsters (1998)

Directed by Bill Condon

Language: English

Country: UK|USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 105 minutes

The story of James Whale, the director of *Frankenstein* (1931) and *Bride of Frankenstein* (1935), in the time period following the Korean War. Whale is homosexual and develops a friendship with his gardener, an ex-Marine. A stroke triggers once buried flashes of memory of his life in Dudley, his film career, and, most influentially, the trenches during the Great War. Haunted and lonely, he recounts many of his experiences to his gardener. Despite the divide that exists between them, their friendship develops.

## Tru Loved (2008)

Directed by Stewart Wade

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: TBC

Run Time: 102 minutes

Recently relocated from San Francisco to conservative suburbia by her lesbian mothers, Tru struggles like all teens to fit in and find love, but her quest is complicated by sexual politics, closed minds, and closeted friends as she seeks to establish her school's first Gay-Straight Alliance.

## My Summer of Love (2004)

Directed by Pawel Pawlikowski

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 86 minutes

In the Yorkshire countryside, working-class tomboy Mona meets the exotic, pampered Tasmin. Complete opposites, each is wary of the other's differences when they first meet, but this coolness soon melts into mutual fascination, amusement and attraction. Adding volatility is Mona's older brother Phil, who has renounced his criminal past for religious fervor - which he tries to impose upon his sister. Mona, however, is experiencing her own rapture.



## Get Real (1998)

Directed by Simon Shore

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 106 minutes

Steven Carter is 16, lives in Basingstoke, and is gay. Although comfortable with his sexuality, he knows neither his parents nor schoolmates are ready for the news. Until, that is, he forms an unlikely relationship with John Dixon, star athlete and all-round school stud. Wary of damaging his image, John insists the romance remains secret but Steven finds this easier said than done.

## All Over Me (1997)

Directed by Alex Sichel

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 95 minutes

All Over Me is about the friendship and codependence of two 15-year old New York girls. One of them is gradually coming to terms with the fact that she is gay, while the other is getting sucked into a world of boys, violence and drugs. The violent, homophobic murder of the girls' new-found friend threatens to rip them apart.

## Maurice (1987)

Directed by James Ivory

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 134 minutes

The second of the Merchant/Ivory films, *Maurice* deals with the theme of a young man's struggle with his homosexuality. Set in pre-World War I England, two young men meet at Cambridge and fall in love. Maurice and Clive struggle with the desires of their hearts and a rigid society.

## Hannah Free (2009)

Directed by Wendy Jo Carlton

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 88 minutes

Hannah and Rachel grew up as little girls in the same small Midwest town, where traditional gender expectations eventually challenge their love. Hannah becomes an adventurous, unapologetic lesbian and Rachel a strong but quiet homemaker. The film reveals how the women maintain their love affair despite marriage, a world war, infidelities, and family denial.

## Patrik, Age 1.5 (2008)

Directed by Ella Lemhagen

Language: Swedish

Country: Sweden

Subtitles: English

Classification: TBC

Run Time: 98 minutes

A married pair of ex-urbanites relocate to a small village in hopes of starting a family. Unfortunately, the local villagers don't exactly extend a warm welcome to the optimistic couple. Unable to locate a suitable international baby, Sven and Goran agree to take in a local orphan. On paper, Patrik was listed as being age 1.5 but someone misplaced a decimal point. In reality, Patrik is a homophobic 15-year-old juvenile delinquent.

## D.E.B.S. (2004)

Directed by Angela Robinson

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12a

Run Time: 88 minutes

This film is about a group of female spies handpicked to work at an exclusive spy academy on the basis of their S.A.T. scores and their superior ability to lie, cheat, steal, and kill. D.E.B.S. (Discipline, Energy, Beauty, and Strength) prepare for their most important mission yet: capturing the deadly criminal mastermind Lucy Sky. A lesbian crush develops and the plot takes yet another twist.

## Touch of Pink (2004)

Directed by Ian Iqbal Rashid

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 12a

Run Time: 88 minutes

Alim is a young Indian movie photographer living in London after relocating there from Canada. He lives with his boyfriend Giles. This works out pretty well until his mother Nuru decides to come for a visit. She is a conservative Indian mother who is concerned at Alim's bachelorhood. Alim tries to keep his true identity from being discovered by his mother.

## But I'm A Cheerleader (1999)

Directed by Jamie Babbit

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12

Run Time: 98 minutes

Megan Williams is a good Christian cheerleader. She doesn't think it is strange that she thinks more about the other cheerleaders than her football player boyfriend. But her parents have noticed Megan's odd behavior and arrange an intervention. They send her off to New Directions, a sexual rehabilitation camp, where she is forced to come to terms with her lesbian tendencies.

## The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister (2010)

Directed by James Kent

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 91 minutes

A drama based on the real diaries of Anne Lister, a landowning woman who defied the conventions of her 19th century. Anne was a lesbian. Her affair with 'soul mate' Marianna Belcombe keeps society guessing, but when it is announced that Marianna is to be married to the older, corpulent and wealthy Charles Lawton, Anne is distraught.

## I Killed my Mother (2009)

Directed by Xavier Dolan

Language: French

Country: Canada

Classification: TBC

Run Time: 96 minutes

Written, directed, produced and starring 20-year-old wunderkind Xavier Dolan, this semiautobiographical drama chronicles the caustic relationship between gay teenager Hubert and his overburdened mother, Chantale. As the chasm between mother and son continues to expand, Hubert and Chantale grapple with the notion that although they can't seem to live together, they're not quite sure that they can live apart.

## Imagine Me & You (2005)

Directed by Ol Parker

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 12a

Run Time: 90 minutes

Rachel and Heck are a newly married couple. However, quickly after the ceremony, Rachel starts having some thoughts after eyeing Luce, the wedding florist. One of Heck's male friends, Cooper, has fallen for Luce, allowing her and Rachel to meet socially and to consider consummating their desire for one another.

## Brother to Brother (2004)

Directed by Rodney Evans

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 94 minutes

Perry is a black gay artist who is thrown out of his house after being discovered in an intimate sexual encounter with another young man. A chance encounter with a famous poet introduces Perry to a historical journey into the gay and lesbian subcultures of Harlem and he learns more about the past struggles experienced by those of a different colour and sexuality.

## Saving Face (2004)

Directed by Alice Wu

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 93 minutes

Wilhelmina is a doctor in a Manhattan hospital who returns to Chinatown every Friday night to participate in her extended family's weekly dance mixer. While her mother and the other women try to set her up with eligible

bachelors, Wil falls for Vivian, a beautiful young dancer who feels the attraction as well. The two women contemplate a possible relationship, but Wil keeps her sexuality a secret.

## My Beautiful Laundrette (1985)

Directed by Stephen Frears

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 97 minutes

A portrait of two boyhood friends struggling to survive in a racially tense Thatcher-era Britain. Omar is a homosexual Pakistani boy living in London with his alcoholic father. He lifts a chunk of drug money from another Pakistani and decides to renovate a grungy laundrette with his school chum Johnny.

## Aimée and Jaguar (1999)

Directed by Max Färberböck

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 125

Berlin 1943/44 ("The Battle of Berlin"). An unusual love story between Felice, an intelligent and courageous Jewish woman, and Lilly, a devoted mother of four, during WWII. The Gestapo is on Felice's trail. Her friends flee, she decides to sit out the war with Lilly. One hot day in August 1944, the Gestapo is waiting in Lilly's flat...

## Happy Together (1997)

Directed by Kar Wai Wong

Language: Mandarin

Country: Hong Kong

Classification: 15

Run Time: 96 minutes

Yiu-Fai and Po-Wing arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong and take to the road for a holiday. Something is wrong and their relationship goes adrift. A disillusioned Yiu-Fai starts working at a tango bar to save up for his trip home. When a beaten and bruised Po-Wing reappears, Yiu-Fai is empathetic but is unable to enter a more intimate relationship. Yiu-Fai now works in a Chinese restaurant and meets the youthful Chang from Taiwan. Yiu-Fai's life takes on a new spin, while Po-Wing's life shatters in contrast.

## Chasing Amy (1997)

Directed by Kevin Smith

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12

Run Time: 113 minutes

Holden and Banky are comic book artists. Everything's going well for them until they meet Alyssa, also a comic book artist. Holden falls for her, but his hopes are crushed when he finds out she's a lesbian.

## Edge of Seventeen (1998)

Directed by David Moreton

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 99 minutes

The tale of a high school student in the small town of Sandusky, Ohio circa 1984, who comes to terms with his homosexuality much to the astonishment of his long-time girlfriend.

## Before Night Falls (2000)

Directed by Julian Schnabel

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 133 minutes

An episodic look at the life of Cuban poet and novelist, Reinaldo Arenas (1943-1990). He joins Castro's rebels. By 1964, he is in Havana. Openly gay behavior is his way of spiting the government. His writing and homosexuality get him into trouble: he spends two years in prison, writing letters for other inmates and smuggling out a novel. He befriends Lázaro Gomes Garriles, with whom he lives stateless and in poverty in Manhattan after leaving Cuba in the Mariel boat-lift. When asked why he writes, he replies cheerfully, "Revenge."

## Undertow (2009)

Directed by Javier Fuentes-León

Language: Spanish

Country: Peru|Colombia

Classification: 15

Run Time: 100 minutes

A ghost story set on the Peruvian seaside. Miguel, a married fisherman, struggles to reconcile his devotion to his male lover within his town's rigid traditions. When his lover unexpectedly drowns at sea, his ghost returns to enlist Miguel's help in allowing him to pass over. Miguel must find the courage to tell his deeply religious community about his relationship, even if that means sacrificing all that he holds precious.

## Breakfast with Scot (2007)

Directed by Laurie Lynd

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 12

Run Time: 98 minutes

The relationship between two career-minded gay men is put to the test by the surprise arrival of a unique child. It turns out Scot is not your average child and he poses a very distinct challenge to the otherwise reserved household.



## Give Me Your Hand (2008)

Directed by Pascal-Alex Vincent

Language: French

Country: France

Subtitles: English

Classification: 15

Run Time: 80 minutes

Two twin brothers, Quentin and Antoine, hitchhike to Barcelona. Along the way they become embroiled in a variety of sexual encounters with local girls and boys. Their identities shifting and morphing, teenage insecurities and carnal lusts both bringing them together and tearing them apart.

## I Can't Think Straight (2008)

Directed by Shamim Sharif

Language: English

Country: UK

Classification: 12a

Run Time: 80 minutes

In the upper echelons of traditional Middle Eastern society, Reema and Omar prepare for the marriage of their daughter Tala. But back in London, Tala encounters Leyla, a young British Indian woman. As the women fall in love, Tala's own sense of duty and cultural restraint cause her to pull away from Leyla. Leyla is heartbroken but learns to break free of her own self-doubt, ditching her fiancé and being honest with her parents about her sexuality.

## Shelter (2007)

Directed by Jonah Markowitz

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 85 minutes

Shelter tells the story of a confused young artist torn between his family and his future. Fresh out of high school, Zach gives up a full scholarship in order to spirit his 5-year-old nephew away from their dysfunctional family. Zach is restless and isolated but everything changes when he finds himself drawn to thirty-something Shaun, a confident young writer. They fall into a secret relationship that may give Zach the courage he needs to follow his passions.

## The World Unseen (2008)

Directed by Shamim Sharif

Language: English

Country: South Africa|UK

Classification: 15

Run Time: 85 minutes

In 1950's South Africa, apartheid is just beginning.

Free-spirited Amina has broken all the rules of her own conventional Indian community in South Africa by running a café, a safe haven of laughter, music and home-cooked food. Miriam, on the other hand, is a doting mother to her children and a demure and subservient wife to her chauvinistic husband. When Miriam meets Amina, their unexpected attraction throws them both off balance. Although Miriam manages to subdue her fascination with unconventional Amina, she finds herself slowly inspired to confront familiar and familial constraints.

# DOCUMENTARIES

## Training Rules (2009)

Directed by Dee Mosbacher and Fawn Yacker

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: TBC

Run Time: 62 minutes

Training Rules examines how women's collegiate sports, caught in a web of homophobic practices, collude in the destruction of the lives and dreams of many of its most talented athletes.

## The Laramie Project (2001)

Directed by Moisés Kaufman

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 91 minutes

The Laramie Project was created from over 200 interviews conducted with Laramie residents before, during, and after the trials of the two boys who killed Matthew Shepard. The interviews create an amazing cross-section of American views on homosexuality, religion, class, privacy, and so much more.

## The Celluloid Closet (1995)

Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman

Language: English

Country: USA

Classification: 15

Run Time: 102 minutes

A documentary surveying the various Hollywood screen depictions of homosexuals and the attitudes behind them throughout the history of North American film.