



The Department of
French and Francophone
Studies



Girlhood

A film by Céline Sciamma

Tuesday, September 15th
108 Chambers Building

Wednesday, September 16th
113 Carnegie Building

7:00 p.m. each night

Free Admission

QUINZAINÉ
DIRECTIONS FESTIVAL
CANNES 2014
OPENING FILM

WORLD OF FILMS AND LIBERAL ARTS PRESENT

A FILM BY CELINE SCIAMMA

GIRLHOOD



BY THE DIRECTOR OF 'TOMBOY' & 'WATER LILIES'

Set in the impoverished banlieues that ring Paris and are home to many of its French-African denizens, *Girlhood* focuses on Marieme (Karidja Touré), a sixteen-year-old who assumes responsibility for her two younger sisters while their mother works the night shift; the teenager must also frequently absorb the wrath of her tyrannical slightly older brother. School provides no haven from these hardships: having already repeated a grade twice, Marieme is told that vocational training is her only option. Rather than accept this indignity, she falls in with a triad of tough girls, abandoning her braids for straightened hair, her hoodie for a leather jacket—and learning the pleasures of raising hell at malls in Les Halles and impromptu dance-offs on the Métro. Led by the swaggering Lady (Assa Sylla), this crew—whose members are all played by charismatic first-time performers—boosts Marieme’s confidence. “You have to do what you want”, Lady exhorts her; patiently and astutely, *Girlhood* follows Marieme as she tries to put this mantra into practice while being repeatedly reminded of her severely limited options.

The series is sponsored by the College of the Liberal Arts, the Institute for the Arts & Humanities, the Jewish Studies Program, the Center for Language Acquisition, and the Alliance Française de State College et de University Park, Cengage Learning, and Vista Higher Learning. This publication is available in alternative media on request. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Penn State encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please consult the French and Francophone Studies Department at 865-1492 in advance of your participation or visit. U.Ed. LBA 16-54.