

Making It Colorful

Editor's Pick



The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Music Box Films):

Every so often you come across a film that is so gripping and thought-provoking you can't help but share it with everyone you know. *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is one of those movies. Dark, gritty, violent and often shocking, it's based on the first book in the best-selling *Millennium* trilogy by late Swedish author Stieg Larsson. The film has been a massive hit globally, and there is little doubt why. Its lead, Lisbeth, played by the striking Noomi Rapace—is a queer goth computer hacker who is drawn into the search for a woman who has been missing 40 years. *Girl* is a satisfying thriller packed with plot twists and shockingly malicious villains. However, Lisbeth herself proves to be the film's most compelling mystery. Emotionally scarred, brilliant and capable of great violence when provoked, she is both the heart and the vicious arm of justice of the film. Despite its 152-minute running time, I was left wanting more. Luckily, with its sequels *The Girl Who Played with Fire* out on DVD and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest* coming soon, there are more opportunities to immerse yourself in Lisbeth's world. (musicboxfilms.com)

[Rachel Shatto]

Two films celebrate everyday pride. **By Candace Moore**



Take a ride in the fagbug

Two new film releases bring us the stuff of rainbow flags—pride in heaps, doled out through queer animation, and the true tale of one Volkswagen Beetle's road trip to battle homophobia.

AniGAYmated! (Frameline): Frameline's latest animation collection gathers the funniest, most yarn-filled, rainbow-strewn, polka-dot-bikinied, snarky, savvy, moody and cute short films it could find. A mix of stop-motion and line animation brings us the kissing and sex play of various zany objects and queer characters: orgiastic hot dogs, dyke-dramatic numerals, Petra von Kantian lesbian dolls, porn-minded unicorns and the leather daddies that love them and more.

Francoise Doherty's *The Girl Bunnies* stars adorable lesbian bunnies that play ice hockey, type on vintage Smith Coronas and adopt chicken eggs that become babies to the tune of emo, electronica and their own little voices. Paula Durette queers relationships between numbers as their polyamorous soap operas accumulate, explaining the numerology behind the phrase "big ol' dyke." The compilation also features trans and genderqueer toons who recall childhood games of doctor, dance in their bikinis and sing opera, while Genet- and Tom of Finland-inspired fantasies play out around them. Maria Trenor's atmospheric, literary and dirty *With What Shall I Wash It?*

shines as one of the more polished pieces, as does Nicole Brending's *Operated by Invisible Hands*, which sees the simple pleasure in making dolls "do it." As Frameline warns: These are "not your average Saturday morning cartoons." (frameline.org)

Fagbug (Garden Thieves Pictures): When Albany, N.Y., resident Erin Davies walked out to see the words "U R GAY" and "FAG" spray-painted on her VW Beetle, her reaction was anything but expected. Realizing that those graffiti-happy jerks had targeted her because of her rainbow flag sticker, she decides to turn the tables on the haters and drive cross-country with the word "fagbug" proudly emblazoned in red for all to see. She uses her road trip to call attention to hate crimes, while documenting car trouble, people who try to scrape the letters off her window and LGBT events. Directed by Davies, this video diary captures a passion project and a personal adventure. While Davies is traveling, her girlfriend in Albany dumps her, yet she finds love and support from strangers along the way. Various folks contribute to the cost of her trip and weigh in on the courage and gumption behind the little *Fagbug* that could. You'll find it inspiring to see how Davies transforms a hurtful event into a positive, life-changing experience and an opportunity for activism. (gardenthieves.com) ■