

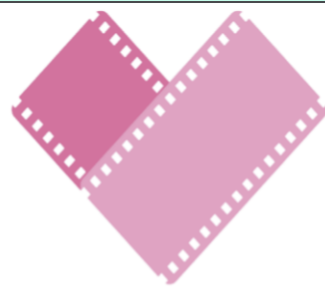
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## Resources Sheet

Film: Portrait of a Lady on Fire  
Director: Céline Sciamma



Céline Sciamma: *"There's resistance to radicalism [in French film], and also less youth in charge. 'A film can be feminist?' They don't know this concept. They don't read the books. They don't even know about the fact that 'male gaze' exists. You can tell it's a country where there's a lot of sexism, and a strong culture of patriarchy."*



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### Trivia / Fun Facts:

- *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* was shot in 8K resolution, which produced a more contemporary feel and more dynamic colours than would have been possible if it had been shot on 35mm.
- Sciamma describes her films and writings as focusing squarely on women, usually young women on the cusp of some major change—how they look at themselves and each other. Her first film, *Water Lilies*, about three teenage synchronized swimmers, screened at Cannes.
- Until recently, director Céline Sciamma and *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*'s star, Adèle Haenel (Héloïse), were in a relationship. Sciamma said she wanted this film “to be open, generous, and full of ideas, ideas about cinema. But it mostly tells about the present of our relationships, how we had this dialogue on this particular film and how we keep writing our relationship today.”
- *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* was not nominated for the Oscars, but a [photo](#) of Sciamma celebrating *Parasite*'s win on Oscar night with Bong Joon-Ho went viral.
- Not only did Sciamma win Best Screenplay at Cannes, the film won Cannes' Queer Palm—the first film directed by a woman to win the award.
- Among the many accolades this film received, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* had 10 nominations (!) at the 45<sup>th</sup> Césars Awards. Sciamma, and her leading ladies Adèle Haenel, Noémie Merlant, and Aïssa Maïga, walked out of the ceremony in protest after Roman Polanski won Best Director. Haenel yelled “La honte! (Shame!)” and “Bravo la pédophilie! (Bravo, paedophilia!)” as they stormed out.
- Artist Hélène Delmaire painted 16 hours every day during the course of filming, as she based her paintings and sketches on the blocking of the scenes. Her hands are featured in the film!



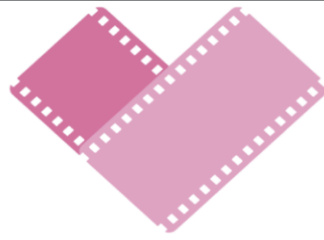
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## Select Accolades (see full list here):

Cannes Film Festival	Best Screenplay Queer Palm Palme d'Or Nominee
Women Film Critics Circle	Best Foreign Film By or About Women Best Screen Couple
César Awards	Best Cinematography – Claire Mathon Best Film (Nominee) Best Director (Nominee) Best Actress (Nominee) Most Promising Actress (Nominee) Best Original Screenplay (Nominee) Best Sound (Nominee) Best Costume Design (Nominee) Best Production Design (Nominee)
London Film Critics Circle	Foreign Language Film of the Year Film of the Year (Nominee)

## Interviews:

"The Women Behind Portrait of a Lady on Fire Believe Their Movie Can Save the World"	<u>Vulture</u>	<a href="https://www.vulture.com/2020/03/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-q-and-a-cline-sciamma-adle-haenel.html">https://www.vulture.com/2020/03/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-q-and-a-cline-sciamma-adle-haenel.html</a>
"Portrait of a Lady on Fire Cinematographer, Costume Designer on the 'Painterly' 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century Look"	<u>Variety</u>	<a href="https://variety.com/2020/artisans/production/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-costume-designer-cinematographer-1203508292/">https://variety.com/2020/artisans/production/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-costume-designer-cinematographer-1203508292/</a>
"Portrait of a Lady on Fire Star Noémie Merlant Discusses #MeToo and Playing a Woman Outside the Patriarchy"	<u>Exclaim!</u>	<a href="http://exclaim.ca/film/article/portrait_of_a_lady_on_fire_star_noemie_merlant_discusses_meteor_and_playing_a_woman_outside_the_patriarchy">http://exclaim.ca/film/article/portrait_of_a_lady_on_fire_star_noemie_merlant_discusses_meteor_and_playing_a_woman_outside_the_patriarchy</a>
"Céline Sciamma on deying convention with the all-female Portrait of a Lady on Fire"	<u>Financial Times</u>	<a href="https://archive.vn/20200215122043/https://www.ft.com/content/288ce7fa-4cc6-11ea-95a0-43d18ec715f5">https://archive.vn/20200215122043/https://www.ft.com/content/288ce7fa-4cc6-11ea-95a0-43d18ec715f5</a>



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## Reviews:

Portrait of a Lady on Fire Review: A Brush with Passion (A.O. Scott)	The New York Times	<a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/movies/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/05/movies/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review.html</a>
Portrait of a Lady on Fire Review: Mesmerised by the Female Gaze (Mark Kermode)	The Observer/The Guardian	<a href="https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/mar/01/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review-celine-sciamma">https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/mar/01/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review-celine-sciamma</a>
Portrait of a Lady on Fire Review (Peter Debruge)	Variety	<a href="https://variety.com/2019/film/reviews/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review-1203220399/">https://variety.com/2019/film/reviews/portrait-of-a-lady-on-fire-review-1203220399/</a>