

ARGUMENT

- Kimberly Peirce uses "gender as a performance" to deconstruct traditional gender roles in *Boys Don't Cry*. She accomplishes this through the application of formal elements such as:
 - Narrative structure
 - Costume
 - Gaze

Defining Gender Through Narrative Forms In Boy's Don't Cry

 "A Narrative [is] a chain of events linked by cause and effect and occurring in time and space." - Bordwell & Thompson

The Scene

- Heterosexual Sex
- Foreshadowing in the Truck
- Lana Becomes The Narrator
- Events become Unclear and We no longer trust the Narration
- "Then we took off our clothes and went swimming." - Lana



I Challenge You to Fisticuffs!



Speed Racer



Urban Cowboy



Criminality is Distinctively Male



John Holds His "Little Dude"



The Depiction of Lesbian Sex Undermines the Deconstruction of Gender Roles

COSTUMES

PASI AIMIPA









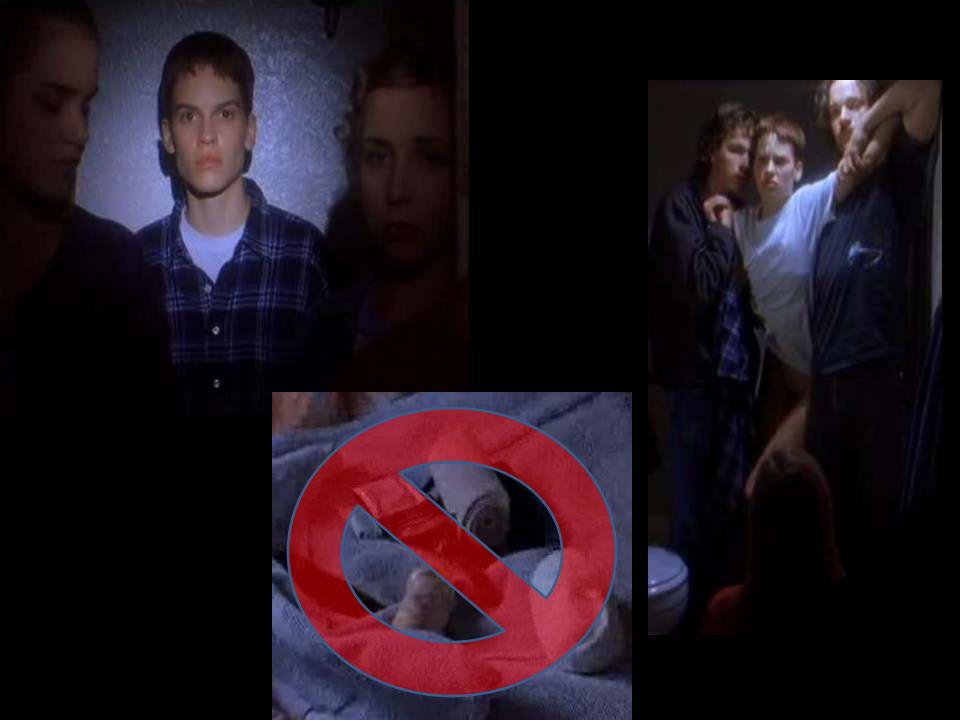
















- •Slow motion sequence is paired with gaze
- "out of body experience"
- •Vision has a direct link to identity—as Brandon is revealed, a Brandon fully clothed appears opposite him
- •Transgender subject is dependent upon the recognition of the woman
- •A switch from the typical gaze exchanged between Lana and Brandon



CONCLUSION

 Kimberly Peirce uses "gender as a performance" to deconstruct traditional gender roles in *Boys Don't Cry*. She accomplishes this through the application of formal elements. Gender is largely determined by the items visible on the surface.