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BOYS DON'T CRY.



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

COSTUMES



2



1



4



3















A close-up photograph of a person's face, specifically their eyes and forehead, peering over a dark horizontal ledge. The person's eyes are wide open and looking directly at the camera. Below the ledge, there are several out-of-focus circular lights in shades of blue and white, creating a bokeh effect. The entire image is framed by a thin red border.

GAZE



TRANSGENDER GAZE

- 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



1



2



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.