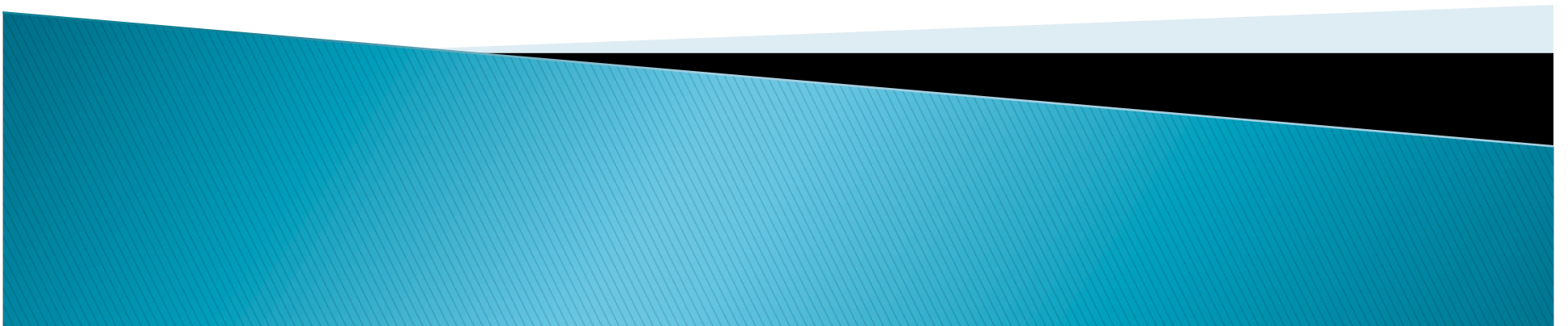


# Introducing Kimberly Peirce



# Biography



Image source: [MovieMaker Magazine](#)

- ▶ Born 1967
- ▶ B.A. in English and Japanese Literature from University of Chicago
- ▶ Photographer, model and English teacher in Japan and Southeast Asia
- ▶ M.F.A. [Columbia Film School](#)

# Genesis of *Boys Don't Cry*

- ▶ Originated as Columbia thesis project
  - Peirce switched from original story of female Civil War spy masquerading as man
  - Traveled to Falls City with transsexual group and attended murder trials
  - Made short film at Columbia in 1995
- ▶ Developed into feature with producer [Christine Vachon](#)
- ▶ Project workshopped at [Sundance Filmmakers, Writers and Producers Lab](#) in 1997



Image source: [Auburn Moon Agency](#)

# Socially Aware Filmmaking



Still from *Boys Don't Cry* (1999).  
Image source: [Bright Lights Film Journal](#).

## Peirce on *Boys Don't Cry*:

“The last thing I wanted was to duplicate the violence without understanding it. I had to make the violence personal. Once I started understanding the folklore of the society as it was being told to me by the cops and the kids of Falls City, I could get the audience to empathize.”

# Filmography

- ▶ *The Last Good Breath* (1994; experimental short)
- ▶ *Boys Don't Cry* (1999)
- ▶ *Stop-Loss* (2008)
  - Associated Sound-Off website features films made by soldiers with cameras Peirce's team distributed



Still from *Boys Don't Cry* (1999). Image source: [SBS](#)