



Delphine Zentout plays a confused, trapped 14-year-old in *36 Fillette* this weekend at the Princess.

## 36 Fillette disturbingly real

**36 Fillette**  
Princess Theatre  
October 18, 20-24

review by Chris Helmers

If you imagined that this would probably be an erotic movie, you are right. If you gathered that it is a movie that primarily focuses on a sexual relationship between a 14 year old girl and a 35 to 45 year old man, that is also true. If you think that you know what this movie is about, you are probably very wrong.

Lili (our aforementioned 14 year old) is vacationing with her parents and older brother at a beach resort campsite. We all know the story. She is a self-centered, rebellious child who hates her parents, despises her brother and is looking for trouble. She pulls the expected 'fast one' on her parents by talking her brother into getting the parents to let her go with him to a disco. They hitch a ride with Maurice, a successful entrepreneur, thus beginning the relationship through which director Catherine Breillat will explore her theme.

Yes, we fully expect Lili to get into serious trouble. All the signs are there. But then, we

also expect this to be a 'coming of age movie' too. Well, it's not. This is a movie about being trapped ...trapped by our confusion and ignorance as to who we are and what we want from life. Further, this common human condition makes it virtually impossible for us to communicate with one another, thus alienating us even more.

Breillat's use of a confused, emotion-filled teenage girl is the perfect lens through which to study this theme. Lili is a real person for whom the feeling of being trapped is reaching critical proportions. She is trapped in a middle-class family within which she feels completely misunderstood. She is trapped in a voluptuous body past which neither boys nor men can see to the person that is inside, and which causes her to feel a universe of things that she doesn't understand. Lili is ambivalence incarnate. She is attracted to Maurice and must risk getting in trouble with her parents in order to see him, yet she is repulsed by him and their relationship to the point where she cannot respond to the call of her body to have intercourse with him. Breillat demonstrates how the other characters are trapped in their own bubbles of reality. She plays Lili off them in an attempt to communicate with them — while they are only able to respond to her according to their own fetishes and phobias.

Breillat is a master at creating palpable realism in this film. The erotic scenes generate so much sexual tension that the theatre falls into a thick, anticipatory hush at each one. In a scene where Lili has arrived late after having been with Maurice, her father blows up and starts to beat her in their trailer. The scene is tremendously powerful, eliciting in the viewer all the emotions of the actors — fear, anger, hurt, frustration — and the dialogue between father and daughter throughout the beating is superb in its exposition of the true feelings of the characters. The acting of Delphine Zentout (Lili) contributes immensely to the film's realism. By all appearances, Zentout is close to 14 years old herself but her performance is, to say the least, accurate, brave and mature.

Will you come away from *36 Fillette* entertained? Not likely. In an interview, Breillat says of her artistic goals: "I believe that people can't stand watching their own 'illnesses' reflected on the screen ... and that's precisely what I like to show! ...At the movies, you like to see what goes right or wrong, but not often what makes you feel ill at ease." She is ultimately successful in *36 Fillette*.

### North Power Plant Questionnaire Grad Students' Association

In order to evaluate restaurant and bar services provided by Wrightmoore in the North Power Plant, the GSA has decided to distribute a questionnaire to clientele. Please take a few minutes to respond to these questions and return this form to the labelled box at the entrance of the Power Plant. Please note that this survey is divided into two parts: restaurant AND bar. Thank you for your input and co-operation.

1. How often do you visit the NORTH POWER PLANT RESTAURANT?

NEVER            1/TERM            1/MONTH            1/WEEK            OVER 1/WEEK

2. How would you rate MENU SELECTION?

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

3. How does the FOOD TASTE?

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

4. Please comment on the FOOD PRESENTATION.

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

5. Please comment on the TIME OF FOOD PREPARATION.

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

6. Please comment on the COURTESY and SERVICE of CAFETERIA STAFF.

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

7. How often do you visit the POWER PLANT BAR?

NEVER            1/TERM            1/MONTH            1/WEEK/            OVER 1/WEEK

8. How do you find the SELECTION of drinks at the POWER PLANT BAR?

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

9. Please comment on the COURTESY and SERVICE of BAR STAFF.

EXCELLENT        VERY GOOD        AVERAGE        FAIR            POOR

10. The POWER PLANT should provide LIVE ENTERTAINMENT every weekend.

STRONG AGREE    AGREE            INDIFFERENT    DISAGREE        STRONG DISAGREE

11. Please answer the following questions in order to provide some significance to our data:

\_\_\_ SEX        \_\_\_ YEARS \_\_\_ SINGLE        \_\_\_ MARRIED

\_\_\_ UNDERGRAD        \_\_\_ GRAD STUDENT        \_\_\_ ACADEMIC STAFF

\_\_\_ NON-ACADEMIC STAFF        \_\_\_ OTHER

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Okay, ha ha ha. Very funny, but I've had enough, thanks. C'mon, I'm starting to get claustrophobic. Hey! C'mon! Where is everybody? Hey! Somebody get me the hell OUT of here. Hey!

When instinct breaks down

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