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Pink & Baby Blue

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Pink & Baby Blue

Abstract
This is a film review of *Pink & Baby Blue* (2013), directed by Catrin Hedström.

Author Notes
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Pink & Baby Blue

(2013)
Directed by Catrin Hedström
Narrative Shorts

Pink & Baby Blue is a short film about gender. A young transgender person is trying to decide which restroom to use. The transgender person is wearing a dress and lipstick and so gets cruel stares from those using the men's room. This leads the transgender person to select the ladies room. After using the facilities, the transgender person encounters a young woman who seems to be crying. Clearly something is causing her pain. The transgender person gives her a handkerchief to dry her eyes. It is a simple act of kindness. The young woman wipes her eyes with the handkerchief and then washes it out in the sink. She hands it back with a nod, to indicate that the transgender person's lipstick has smeared. In this very brief exchange we find the very kindness that many religions call upon their adherents to "feel in their hearts." We find that kindness here, against the background of the cruelty that we so frequently encounter in such circumstances. Whoever we are, whatever our gender identity, we can all do with a little more kindness.

I recently heard someone on the radio making fun of California's new law that allows transgender persons to use the restroom of their gender identity. I believe the law applies to high school students. The DJ said something like this: "So one day they'll use the men's room and the next day they'll use the ladies' room." That very cruel comment, intended to be funny, shows no understanding of what it must be like for transgender teens to have to choose which rest room

they will use. This movie shows us what it must be like and at the same time shows us how easy it is to be kind.

— William L. Blizek