

Daniela Peckova Watanabe

The Danish Girl

What is the overall point/purpose/perspective/lesson of the film?

The overall point of the movie is to reveal the gender identity struggles and tell the story of the first gender transition surgery attempt. The Danish Girl depicts the lack of medical knowledge at the time, the cruel treatments the transgender would go through to cure their identity, including radiation and the prognosis of schizophrenia. Einar Wegener struggled to understand why he was different until he realized by finding information in a book that this was not happening only to him but throughout history.

What are all of the ways that it is relevant to the study of gender and society?

The Danish Girl is a biography, the main character Einar Wegener's experience is still a reference in the transgender community. The movie is important to portray the feelings of the transitioner and the ones surrounding it and to normalize the subject.

What are the three most important things that you learned while watching the film?

I learned that a person is willing to go through any sort of experiment to liberate the self.

I learned that there is so much pain on the way for a person to find out why he/she feels different than what society imposed.

I learned that love is selfless, Gerda's love was unbelievable. He was a lucky one.

What kind of impact/influence do you think this film has on its viewers? (Include the impact it had on you).

How many people had to suffer because of pre-conceived ideas about gender? How many fake lives had to be lived? I was angry and it was hard to watch this movie. I felt so sorry for Gerda and for Lily as well but I couldn't help feeling bad for Gerda. Because Lily was on her path of

owning her identity, she felt liberated, even though so much physical pain. Gerda was crushed, she felt somehow responsible, she wanted her husband back. I could relate to the feeling of betrayal as if she lived a lie but her love was unconditional.

To what extent do you agree/disagree with the perspective/content/message? Explain your reasoning.

I agree with the perspective. I found it to be very realistic, a portrayal of the transitioning from men to a woman. I personally know a similar case and I can only imagine the struggles and in regards to fertility too, I could relate as I personally have my struggles towards fertility. It feels unnatural and almost like an aberration not being able to reproduce. The two characters had that dream and associate that with the natural path of life.

I also as a woman already dressed up as a drag queen for fun with my friends to go to The Box in NY, which included dressing a few guys like women too. The experience is very different in each case, we can't say all men who enjoy dressing as women are transgender, some are crossdressers or some just want to experiment. You can't unleash something that isn't already in there, there is no danger.