



School of Life

Filmmuseum Potsdam 15.–19. Mai 2006

Pädagogisches Dossier

Ladies in Waiting

UK 2004

Director: Hope Dickson Leach, Producer: Lizzie King

Running Time: 11 Minutes 50 Seconds

SYNOPSIS

Nina and the other new 12 year old girls at her boarding school must visit the school doctor for a check-up. As they wait outside the doctor's office, wondering what will happen inside, allegiances are born, and broken.

INHALTSANGABE (Deutsch)

Die zwölfjährige Nina sitzt mit anderen Mädchen aus ihrem Internat im Wartezimmer und wartet darauf, vom Schuldoktor untersucht zu werden. Sie verkürzen sich die Wartezeit damit, Spekulationen über die BHs der jeweils anderen anzustellen, nach dem Motto „zeig mir deinen BH und ich sage dir, ob du frigide oder ob du eine Schlampe bist“.

Interessant an Ladies in Waiting (auf deutsch „Hofdame“) ist vor allem die Art und Weise, wie die Zuschauer in die Perspektive der Mädchen hineingezogen werden. Je nach ihrer Positionierung in der Gruppe werden sie entweder als erwachsene, souveräne Frau oder als junges, schutzloses Mädchen ins Bild gesetzt. Dadurch befinden sich sowohl das Selbstbildnis der einzelnen Mädchen, als auch ihre Beziehungen zueinander im ständigen Fluss.

CAST

Nina	Lalage Lumley
Adult Charlotte	Anna Ziman
Adult Polly	Vanessa Havell
Adult Bootle	Simone McIntyre
Young Charlotte	Ruth Ehrlich
Adult Nina	Georgie Weedon
Nurse	Cara Chase
Young Polly	Scarlet Billham
Young Bootle	Phylicia Dyer
Adult Grace	Loan Tran
Young Grace	Grace Wong
Young Phil	Sammy-Jo Altman
Young Pippa	Sarah Hale
Young Sarah	Gina Pratsis
Adult Sarah	Umi Pratsis

DIALOGUE LIST

CHARLOTTE

Are you wearing a sports bra or a regular bra? Mrs. Knowles said we should go straight to hockey from here, so I'm wearing a sports bra. But I know the doctor needs to feel them properly, so the sports bra might be too tight ...

NURSE

We are not goldfish, ladies, please close your mouths. I'm going to call your names and you will reply. When we are all accounted for, we will move into the waiting room, and from there you will come into the doctor's office one at a time, in the same order.

Understood?

Philippa Ang?

PHIL

Yes.

NURSE

Grace Ang?

GRACE

Yes.

NURSE

Olamide Bootle-Wilbraham?

BOOTLE

Yes.

NURSE

Philippa Geary?

PIPPA

Yes.

NURSE

Sarah Luton?

SARAH

Yes.

NURSE

Charlotte Leach?

CHARLOTTE

Yes.

NURSE

Polly Pent?

POLLY

Here.

NURSE

(to Nina)

And who are you? Why don't I have a file for you?

First time boarder?

Name?

NINA

Nina Bedford.

NURSE

Everyone's new here Miss Bedford - you'll soon find your friends. You'll see the doctor after Miss Ang please.

CHARLOTTE

Nina?

NINA

What?

CHARLOTTE

Normal or sports?

You're not wearing a bra?

NINA

Sorry...

POLLY

D'you mind? This is a private conversation.

CHARLOTTE

You're before me - so you can give it back after you've seen the doctor.

SARAH

So what's going to happen inside? Anybody have any ideas?

POLLY

My sister told me it's like a cavity search. You have to take off your knickers and he feels your pubes and then ... You know.

PHIL

Is he allowed?

POLLY

Of course he is - he's a doctor.

CHARLOTTE

He's a school doctor. Besides, my cousin Rebecca, said that he doesn't go down there at all, he just feels your ... you know ...

POLLY

Tits?

GRACE

Why does he feel in your vagina?

Nina looks next to her at Polly who gesticulates with her hockey stick.

POLLY

They say it's for cancer. He feels inside to see if you have any lumps. He wears gloves. Rubber ones - like rubber johnnies. But really, it's to see if you're frigid or a slapper.

NURSE

Miss Ang?

NURSE (CONT'D)

Have your periods begun yet Philippa?

CHARLOTTE

Why do you think they need to know that?

NINA

It's probably just so they know for the files...

CHARLOTTE

I've got mine - have you got yours?

PIPPA

Phil hasn't got hers yet. Her mummy sent her back with a big bag of STs.

SARAH

Pips!

PIPPA

Saz! It's okay! She didn't ask us to keep mum!

POLLY

What about her bra?

NINA

What?

POLLY

They're trying to suss you out, remember? Underwire bra: independent; training bra: boring; Sports bra: frigid; No bra: slut. Blah blah blah.

BOOTLE

Bra, bra, bra.

POLLY

My sister told me that there was this girl in her year who wasn't wearing a bra and needed one, and the doctor gave her this long lecture about being a slut and how your tits get saggy if you don't wear a bra. It all goes into the files.

CHARLOTTE

Do you want to go to the loo?

Let's go to the loo.

POLLY & BOOTLE

Nina and Charlotte, sitting in a tree, k-i-s-s-i-n-g, first comes love ...

BOOTLE

No, no! First comes Lav!

GRACE

What's 'lav'?

CHARLOTTE

Come on!

NINA

It's okay. I'll be fine.

CHARLOTTE

You're welcome, Nina.

SARAH

What's wrong with her?

GRACE

Maybe she's got Pee Em Tea.

POLLY

God, you're such a freak!

What kind of bra are you wearing Grace? You're up next, aren't you?

BOOTLE

Seriously, Grace, let's see your bra.

GRACE

It's just a bra.

POLLY

What kind of bra?

GRACE

I don't know.

BOOTLE

You don't know?

GRACE

No.

POLLY

You're not wearing one.

GRACE

It's pink...

POLLY

Prove it.

GRACE

It's pink.

POLLY

Pink!

Pink is good. Mine's pink too. We could be the pink ladies.

Who's next?

What about Bedford? What's going down in your file?

NINA

What do you think?

POLLY

What?

NINA

Guess.

SARAH

Definitely a sports bra.

PIPPA

But nylon - not cotton.

SARAH

Yes - maybe a hand-me-down from a sister?

PIPPA

Or cousin?

SARAH

Or cousin.

BOOTLE

Naaah - I think we could be talking underwire. Cotton - single fasteners.

Don't you think?

POLLY

I think she should show us.

CHARLOTTE

What?

GRACE

We're trying to guess Nina's bra.

CHARLOTTE

You're all so thick - just look - she's flat, she doesn't even have a bra!

POLLY

I knew Charlotte would know! You probably get dressed together, don't you? Since you're l-o-v-e-rs.

NINA

No we're not!

There.

POLLY

So you're frigid?

CHARLOTTE

That's my bra.

NINA

It's just for hockey.

CHARLOTTE

Give it back.

NINA

I don't have it.

CHARLOTTE

Give me my bra.

POLLY

It's Nina's.

CHARLOTTE

It's mine.

POLLY

Nina - isn't this your bra?

CHARLOTTE

Nina! You're lying!

NINA

Prove it.

CHARLOTTE

What?

NINA

Take off your shirt.

CHARLOTTE

Please Nina - give it back.

NINA

Just show them your tits!

Come on - let's see them. Do what you're told Charlotte!

CHARLOTTE

Nina - get off!

Don't! Stop it! Just ... Get off - I'll do it!

CHARLOTTE

What did she say?

POLLY

It's a private conversation actually.

NINA

(singing)

And I'm gonna make you see, there's nobody else here - noone like me - I'm special - so special - Gonna have some of your attention - give it to me!