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the word on lesbian lifestyle

# girlfriends

The  
**MONEY**  
Issue  
05

Rich Girl,  
Poor Girl?

**6**  
LESBIANS  
on the  
MONEY

**POUNDS** and  
**SENSE**

**2** Doctors  
Debate the  
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**+** Marga Gomez • Gravy Train!!!! • Gay Money Quiz  
The L Word's New Butch • Queer Cuba

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Handbags  
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Lillian Faderman and  
Michelle Tea on  
**DYKES** and  
the **DOLLAR**



September 2005 www.girlfriends.com  
\$4.95 US \$7.95 Canada



# GIRL GUIDE

FILM AND DVD

## FILM

### Quickies

A fresh crop of short queer flicks are out and indie at the same time.

If you're an indie filmmaker, short films are increasingly the best way to break into mainstream Hollywood. But this trio of queer quickies are "indie" in all senses of the word, content with their outsider status.



#### NEW REPORT

Out lesbian artist Wynne Greenwood, the founding and, in fact, sole member of the band/performance "troupe" Tracy and the Plastics, teams up here with Kate "K8" Hardy to stage a mock news report on various topics, including anxiety, taking a bath, and bra-burning. Both "correspondents" are named Henry, wear black berets, and specialize in faked expressions of absorption. You won't be able to resist the high-volume absurdity and tongue-in-cheek humor of this twelve-minute film.

#### THE DRIVE NORTH

Tess Ernst's experimental video, about



two college-age dykes and best buds who leave their parents' homes for the big city, is funny and sweet. This is a simple road-trip tale, told through a voiceover and punctuated with sex stories, good tunes, and bickering. The story culminates with the skinny andro-girl going on her first shopping trip—she buys Count Chocula and soy milk. Ernst's thirteen-minute film is made beautiful as a comic book through the playful use of sped-up Super 8 footage, mixed with snapshot stills, photo booth pictures, and stunning hand-drawn animation.

#### DAMAGE



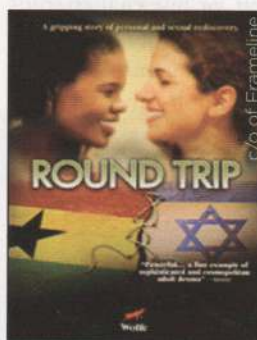
A high-school pariah eats lunch alone in her hoodie, fondling her fruit roll-up and a cheerful note from mom; inside her is a baby riot grrrl waiting to happen. Director Allie Sultan injects visual interest into the girl's daily torture in the halls with a new version of the eighties-era movie montage—instead of a single sequence, we watch multiple camera perspectives simultaneously. At the end of the nine-minute film, a jock who verbally abuses his pretty girlfriend, calls our

heroine a dyke and she decks him, thereby winning said girl. Too cute for school. —Candace Moore

## DVD

### ROUND TRIP

Shahar Rozen  
(Wolfe, \$24.95)



Director Shahar Rozen's sad and lovely Israeli romance is a serious depiction of a woman's internal struggles, visions, and experiences of the passage of

time. When Nurit, a middle-aged bus driver, leaves her husband and moves with her two kids to Tel Aviv, she's not looking to fall in love. But she slowly and sweetly does—with her live-in nanny Mushidi, an illegal Nigerian immigrant—over beer, ocean trips, and conversations in English and Hebrew fragments. Children's drawings act as endearing titles for inner thoughts, and the film is punctuated with the exciting bustle of Tel Aviv. Rozen's shots of repetitive daily life activities and impatient waiting summon evocative realism rather than boredom. A- —Candace Moore

**THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW: THE COMPLETE SECOND SEASON**  
(Fox Home Entertainment, \$29.98)

Who can resist grinning at plucky Mary in her starched tennis whites, gripping a wooden racket and practicing her stance on the shag carpet of her bachelorette apartment? This DVD set serves up more





news associate producer was revolutionary representation. Moore's Mary Richards mixed adorable verve with self-sufficiency and work ethic with liberal politics. A bonus documentary features other favorite

than early seventies burnt bra nostalgia, it reminds the viewer of a time when a show about an independent single girl proudly making it on her own as a TV

characters from this irresistible comedy: brassy firecracker Rhoda and the ever-flamboyant Murray. A—*Candace Moore*

#### WEEKEND

Jean Luc Godard  
(New Yorker Video, \$29.95)

Jean Luc Godard's best Vietnam War-era indictment of capitalism, *Weekend*, is a reflexive road trip movie that jump-cuts its way through the campy and horrifying adventures of a bourgeois husband and wife hungry for their family's inheritance. Considering today's superficial culture, *Weekend's* release on DVD couldn't be more timely.



Wife Corrine languidly and vividly recounts the details of one of her steamy ménage a trois. Erotic as it is, Corrine's story lacks heart and conviction and is as shallow as

her love of Hermès handbags. With Godard's subversive style and politics, queerness pervades this remarkable French New Wave classic. A—*Alison*

#### DVD PROFILE

## "D" is for Dyke

Comedian Marga Gomez on her new *L Word* spoof.

by Candace Moore

Stand-up comic, actress, playwright, and all-around funny lady Marga Gomez came out B.E. (Before Ellen), as depicted in last year's award-winning documentary on early lesbian standup, *Laughing Matters*. The busy comic's new one-woman show, *Los Big Names*, ran July through August at San Francisco's Magic Theatre and she also stars in *The D Word*. The hilarious film is a New York-style spoof on those lascivious, lanky L.A. ladies of *The L Word*, and this summer LGBT film festival audiences around the country met Gomez's character Dot—the "alter-Bette."

### What was it like working on this parody?

I have to admit I hadn't actually seen *The L Word* before I showed up for the film-

ing. I watched the episodes recently all in a row and [now] I keep having dreams that they're all my friends. Then you wake up and you're broke and heavier. If I had seen the show before I was in this project I would've done Jennifer Beals's facial gestures—that upset box-like mouth that she makes.

### Strangely, you do make similar gestures to hers anyway.

I actually am very much like Bette, maybe more than Jennifer Beals is. I'm a big control freak, and my ass is super wound up like the eye of a needle.

### What do New Yorkers think about the L.A. "lesbian phenomenon"?



Marga Gomez (top) and Jessica Horstman take on New York and family planning.

*The L Word* has had this huge marketing campaign in New York. We have these bus shelters with giant ads of the cast. What most New Yorkers know about *The L Word* is that there are a bunch of naked women in L.A. Most people who take the bus cannot afford cable, so I'm not quite sure who they're pitching to. A lot of those actresses aren't really gay and look like they're trying to escape in that picture. But you have to wait for the bus a long time, so I...

### Stare?

Lick. I lick the glass.



## INSIDE GIRLFRIENDS



The brain behind *The L Word*, Ilene Chaiken (right), and I at *Pride*.

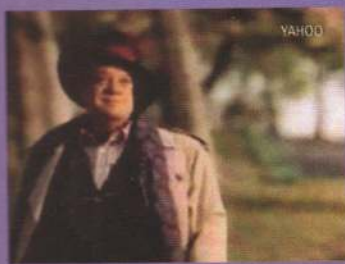
In an era of increased visibility and pride—a trend that the new *Girlfriends* reflects with its fresh emphasis on lifestyle, on living your life to its fullest as a lesbian—it's easier to say to yourself and to the world "I'm gay." That's not to say we've arrived; but we can be undeniably more open today about our sexual orientations than ever before.

Not so with money. With this, *Girlfriends*' first-ever special issue devoted to money, the editors ran into the twenty-first century paradox whereby it's often easier to talk openly about our sexuality than about our money. Money remains something so private, so hard to get enough of, and so burdened with guilt, envy, and compulsion, that it's replaced homosexuality for many as the thing that dare not speak its name.

But our editors feared not. After hundreds of calls, emails, and Internet postings, we tracked down six gay women from all over the economic spectrum who were willing to talk to us about their relationship to money: how much they have, how they feel about it, what they do with it, what their wildest hopes and fears are about it. And talk eloquently they did; the resulting story "Rich Girl, Poor Girl?" is full of surprises.

Our interview with historian Lillian Faderman by Michelle Tea that explores how money and class have shaped lesbian identity over time is also a fascinating read.

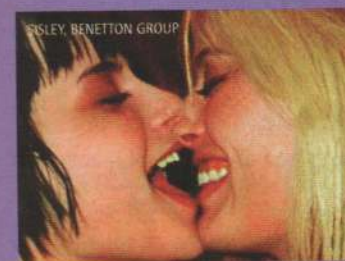
Finally, don't miss Shar Rednour's story on budgeting in a shared household. You've heard the statistic that most straight marriages that fail in the first few years do so because of fights about money. I'm sure many of us can relate, and Rednour offers some great tips for avoiding that fate. Enjoy.



Cliché.



Cliché.



Cliché.

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