

100 of the Sexiest Female Musicians on the Planet

# CURVE

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Speaks Out



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Toshi Reagon, Boyskout, the Shondes  
Lez Zeppelin, Girl in a Coma, God-des & She  
Lesbians on Ecstasy ... and dozens more!





## EDITOR'S PICKS

Two new queer comedy DVDs are musts for anyone who likes to laugh at all things lesbian. **Outlaugh!** (wolfevideo.com) goes inside the first-ever all-queer comedy festival (which took place in 2005) with performances from several very funny girls (Jen Slusser, Sabrina Matthews and Lea Delaria among them) as well as gay male comics and some hilarious skits. If you haven't seen the Nellie Olesons tackle Ann Coulter, that's worth the price of the DVD alone. **Laughing Matters...More** (villagelighthouse.com), Andrea Meyerson's hilarious sequel, goes (wo)mano-a-mano with four very funny broads: Elvira Kurt, Sabrina Matthews, Vickie Shaw and René Hicks. Each woman is funnier than the next, particularly Kurt, who wrote for Ellen Degeneres, and Matthews, a regular on Comedy Central. This doc goes beyond the stage, offering glimpses of the women's lives. Funny, biting and very witty, **Laughing Matters...More** is a must-see. — DAM

## Simply Seeking Sweet Revenge

Three great new films on fighting back. | By Candace Moore

**The Page Turner** (Tartan Films)

A gently brutal film that will stick with you, Denis Dercourt's French thriller works its pawns forward through soft glances, red herrings and sudden jarring swipes, like those of the butcher carving cutlets during its credits. Mélanie Prouvost first appears as a pale and uptight little girl thrown off her notes at a recital by piano star Ariane (played by the new Deneuve, Catherine Frot) signing autographs. A decade later, Mélanie's plain-yogurt looks have blossomed; all grown and rosier, she's a subtle yet stunning woman (Déborah François) who equally dims and lightens each room she enters in that understated, dewy-eyed French servant way. Unrecognizable as the kid who flubbed notes years ago, Mélanie becomes a nanny to Ariane's son and moves into the family's mansion for a season. The new babysitter enchants

her mistress through "intent" looks and musical literacy, turning Ariane's pages just in time with her music. While Ariane's desire for her piano protégé becomes transparent, Mélanie flirts without her resentment brimming much; we begin to think she honestly adores and craves her musical mentor. In Dercourt's film, pent-up love and pent-up anger don't always sync, but they definitely duet. ([www.tartanfilmsusa.com](http://www.tartanfilmsusa.com))

**Itty Bitty Titty Committee** (POWER UP Films)

Got a grudge? These new indie flicks are about women who get angry, then get even. A girl gang ridicules hetero-patriarchy, one woman invests herself in another woman's life (and heart) in order to exact revenge and a documentary provides a necessary voice for a victim who cannot speak.

Jamie Babbit's latest lesbian feminist feature brings the raw "rah rah" enthusiasm of her first indie hit, *But I'm a Cheerleader*, but the pompoms have been switched out for spray paint, the Bubble Yum replaced by the riot grrl. Hopped up on pedal-to-the-metal post-punk endorphins, loose Super 8 shots, Bikini Kill drums and wail and hot queer girls taking back the night, *Itty Bitty* will make you want to grab some friends with cool hairstyles, rock out and speak up in protest of, well, something.

Anna (Melonie Diaz), a naïve dyke who works the reception desk at a plastic-surgery clinic, is flung into the madcap adventures of a radical feminist group, the Clits in Action, after she nearly dials 911 on its suave ringleader, Sadie (Nicole Vicious), for defacing public property. Who knew that, once sharpened, Anna's quiet edge would lend itself so well to organizing revolt, guerrilla art and romance with the relationship-challenged? While free-flung, fun and wild-eyed, this film also feels intelligently intergenerational, layered with sarcasm, hard-won knowledge and a glance back as well as forward. It's simultaneously a spoof and a rousing call. The feminist waves lap together here, and the mix of urgency, collectivity and sex positivism looks good in boots, as do the film's "committee" of stars, including Daniela Sea, Jenny Shimizu and Guinevere Turner. ([power-up.net](http://power-up.net))

**Trained in the Ways of Men** (Reel Freedom Films)

A somewhat-disorganized documentary, *Trained* explores difficult terrain and serves as an elegy to a teen who lost her life too soon. Gwen Araujo was 17 when, upon discovery of her male genitalia, she was beaten severely and strangled to death by a group of men she had considered her friends. While this film's amateurish style is initially distracting, its thorough handling of tragic content is transfixing. Statements from the defense attorneys, who argued a "panic defense," are interspersed with interviews with Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, who reshaped her pain to become an activist for transgender teens. The equal camera time given to both sides of this case—the first trial for which resulted in a hung jury—is an admirable aim at objectivity. It also allows the defense attorneys to hang themselves, figuratively; these men present on film as asses with backward excuses for transphobic murderers, and the filmmaker's comprehensive approach becomes the rope handed to them. In effect, the lawyers, who did not literally wield the weapons, are delivered as part of the larger societal outlook and the faulty "training" that led to such a tragedy. In this sense, the documentary exacts, for Araujo and her family, a form of post-trial revenge. ([reelfreedom.com](http://reelfreedom.com)) ■