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## A LOOK AT LOVE

Clarke's work implied a kind of Marshall McLuhan-esque praise for the video medium, but Jane Campion's narrative film *A Girl's Own Story* (1974) presents an extremely harsh indictment of all forms of popular culture. Her bleak portrait of three Catholic Australian girls argues that through a modern-day media-colonization of her country, people, especially children, have lost touch with the most basic human emotions. These three tough, yet bewildered, teenagers dream and sing of romance, while seeming oblivious to love. Their happiest moments occur when they are engulfed by the melodies of British or American rock and roll. One girl gives in to the sexual beckoning of a conniving boy only after he convinces her that she should "play like a cat": Girl: "What do we do?" Boy: "Have sex." Girl: "What do I do?" Boy: "I don't know, just lie there." So she abandons her body, her own terrain of pleasure, for role playing and apocryphal passion. "Romance," as she has learned to know it, only brings pain and an unwanted baby.



Jane Campion, still from *A Girl's Own Story*, screened at the San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco.