



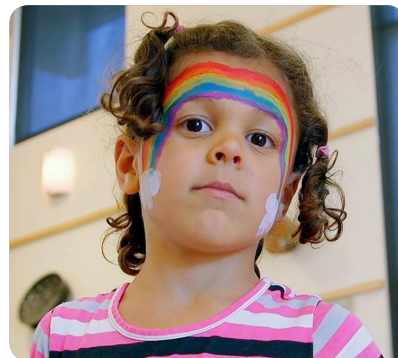
Rainbow Day Camp

Thousands of young people are pushing the boundaries of gender. In 2015, a summer camp was created in the San Francisco Bay Area to provide youth a safe and fun place to express their identity. This short documentary gives a view of the camp as a unique yet simple universe of these kids, their parents, and allies, while exploring their individual stories of gender identity.

Recommended for ages 10+

Themes: identity; bullying; diversity; tolerance; non-conformity; stereotypes; social justice; family

Director(s): Horatio Marquinez | **30 min** | **Documentary Short** | **2016** | **Country:** USA | **Language:** English



SET THE STAGE | THOUGHT-STARTERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Rainbow Day Camp was founded in 2015 by Sandra Collins, after her six-year-old transgender daughter, who had socially transitioned from identifying as male to female, was bullied by one her friends for being biologically male. Rainbow Day Camp became the first summer camp in the nation specifically catering to transgender and non-binary youth. There are now camps across the US with similar missions. Camp Aranú'tiq is an overnight camp with locations in New Hampshire and Connecticut as well as California aimed at providing a safe space for transgender teens. Similarly, Camp Born this Way, located in Arizona, is a family-oriented camp fostering a community for campers and their families.

Gender identity is a complex issue. Two of the biggest misconceptions are that gender identity and biological male and female identity are the same, and that gender is binary, meaning it can only be one of two things. In reality, gender identity is very fluid and many times people do not identify their gender with their sex.

WORDS TO KNOW

- **Transgender:** A person whose gender identity differs from the sex (male or female) which they were identified as having or assigned when they were born.
- **Non-Binary:** A catch-all category for gender identities that are not exclusively masculine or feminine.
- **Ally:** A person or organization that cooperates with or helps another group in a particular activity.
- **Vérité Footage:** Documentary footage of characters going about their everyday lives as if the camera isn't there.
- **Identity:** The fact of being who or what a person or thing is.

For more film terms, refer to the PCFF Film Glossary (pcffri.org/FilmHub).

TALK ABOUT IT | DISCUSSION

- Bullying is not a black-and-white issue; you can choose whether or not to be a passive bystander or an active ally. Understanding the experiences of others is an important part of moving from being a passive observer to an active participant. Think about the ways you can help stop a bully at your school; what activities could you do in the classroom to raise awareness about this issue?
- While the film shows many of the children who participate at the Rainbow Day Camp, several are profiled more closely. What are the similarities and differences among their stories?
- Many of the stories about these children and their transition to discover their true identity are told from the parents' perspective rather than the children's. How might these stories have been told differently from the child's perspective?
- The Bay Area, where the camp is located, is a very open-minded and creative area of California. How does the setting play a role in the film's narrative arc? Do you think the film would be different if it just profiled transgender children from California? Why or why not? How is the camp itself a character in the film?
- After watching this film, what remaining questions do you have? What do you wish you knew more about?



Clues and Cues

Pay attention while watching

- Think about the different types of communities shown in the film and how they relate to one another.
- Think about how identity and the concept of individuality is presented throughout the stories and camp activities.

GET CREATIVE | EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



For Activity Reel details, downloadable storyboard template and more, visit the the Film Hub website: www.pcffri.org/FilmHub

• Writing Prompt: Who Am I?

Materials Needed: Paper, pencils, pens

Discovering one's true identity is a process discussed in depth over the course of the film. Gender based stereotypes play a role in how others may perceive these children's chosen identities. Think about your own identity; how would you describe yourself to others? Are there any stereotypes that others might associate with your identity? Then, think about how you would describe each of the children profiled in the film. How are their distinct identities portrayed in the film?

• From Bystander to Ally

In groups, come up with your own definition of the word "ally." What does it mean to be an ally to someone? What actions are associated with being allies? Using that definition, discuss how you would respond to a series of scenarios involving bullying. What actions would you take? What challenges might you face in moving from bystander to ally? Then, think about a time where you were placed in a similar situation. What was the experience like? Do you wish you did anything differently? Why or why not?

BEYOND THE FILM | ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Select from the following resources to complement the film and inspire further discussion or programming.

BOOKS

• Beautiful Music for Ugly Children

by Kirstin Cronn-Mills

A coming of age story of Liz who is born female but identifies as male. Through her radio show "Beautiful Music for Ugly Children" she begins to transform into the male identity of Gabe.

• Luna

by Julie Anne Peters

Although Regan desperately wants to support her older sibling who is transitioning from male to female, it isn't always easy to help.

• Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens

Speak Out

by Susan Kuklin

A photograph-and-text book about the lives of transgender teens that addresses important aspects of their lives and different male-to-female and female-to-male transitions.

• Golden Boy

by Abigail Tarttelin

A coming-of-age book about an intersex youth who self-identifies as a boy, this tale is told from different perspectives about biological sex, gender identity, gender expression and gender stereotypes and their social constructions.

FILMS

• The Year We Thought About Love (2015)

What happens when a diverse group of LGBTQ youth dares to be "out" on stage to reveal their lives and their loves? This film goes behind the scenes of one of the oldest queer youth theaters in America.

• Louder Than a Bomb (2010)

Four high school spoken-word teams in Chicago prepare and compete in a city-wide poetry slam competition. The documentary captures how language becomes a powerful release and source of community for these students.

• My Life is Pink (1997)

The story of Ludovic, a child who is seen by family and community as a boy, but consistently communicates being a girl. The rest of the family humor him as best they can, rationalizing that Ludovic is only trying to find his identity and will be over it soon.

• Tomboy (2011)

When 10-year-old Laure moves with her family to a new neighborhood, she passes herself off as a boy, Michaël. Hanging out with a predominantly male group, he embraces his new identity.

• Indicates PCFF festival selection

RELATED INTERNET LINKS

• **Gender Spectrum: National group that provides help for creating gender inclusive spaces.**

www.genderspectrum.com

• **National Geographic "How Science is Helping Us Understand Gender:" Article on the science behind gender identity.**

Includes mention of Rainbow Day Camp
www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/01/how-science-helps-us-understand-gender-identity/

• **Welcoming Schools: National organization offering tools, lessons, and resources on embracing family diversity, avoiding gender stereotyping, and ending bullying and name-calling in elementary schools.**

www.welcomingschools.org/resources

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

• **Youth Pride Rhode Island:** An affirming space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning young people to build community, develop connections and be themselves. www.youthprideri.org

• **Rhode Island Pride:** An organization creating opportunities for integrating and promoting visibility for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. www.prideri.com