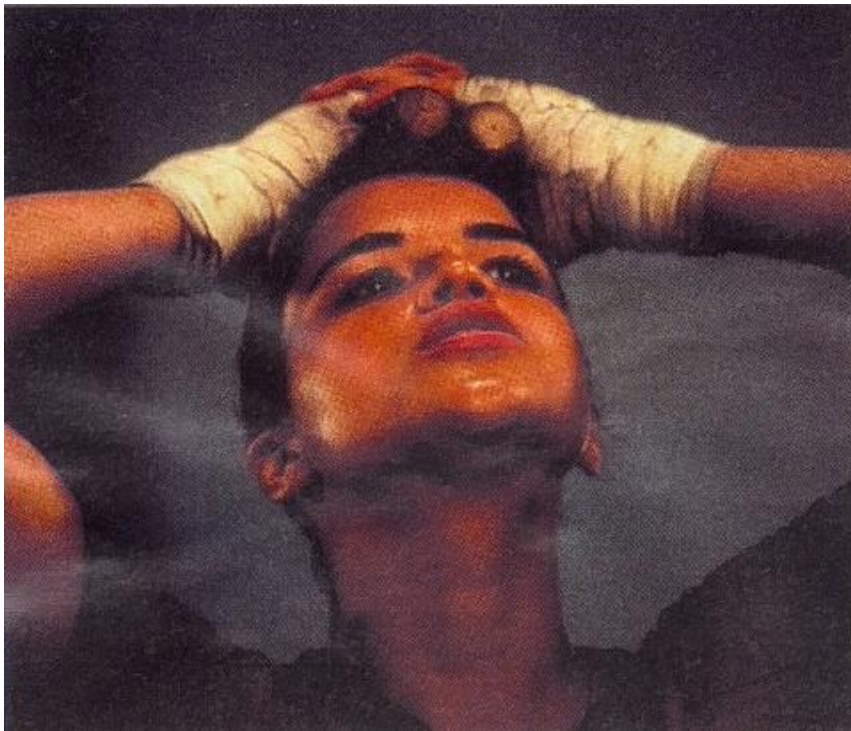


# Girlfight

US : 2000 : dir. Karyn Kusama : : 113 min  
prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:  
.....

Michelle Rodriguez

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | 8 | ∞ | M | ⊗ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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*"A tender coming-of-age drama"*

Source: Barbican Screen Guide

**Barbican Screen Guide** review:

"Diana, a high school pupil with a hot temper and a reputation for trouble, lives with her brother and single dad in a Brooklyn housing estate. When her brother begins boxing lessons, Diana decides that she would also like to step into the ring, and unexpectedly becomes the gym's first female champion. With a wonderful performance by Michelle Rodriguez, **"GIRLFIGHT"** is a tender coming-of-age drama about a strong and spirited woman who successfully immerses herself in a traditionally male world."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie & Video Guide 2001"]

No further information currently available. Probably of very marginal interest to this archive. If Rodriguez is "a strong and spirited woman" then the film has no relevance here whatsoever - high school pupils are not "women". As for being "a tender coming-of-age drama" – about junior female boxing – if that's not a contradiction in terms I don't know what would be. "Brain Damage For Beginners" would perhaps be a more suitable title.

Clearly, this is a female counterpart to Britain's "**BILLY ELLIOT**", released the same year, but whereas boys making inroads to traditionally "feminine" territory (in this case ballet) are still a comparative rarity in the cinema, girls have been stampeding across traditional "masculine" preserves for decades, and in many hundreds of film titles – everything from "**THE BAD NEWS BEARS**" (76), "**PRIVATE BENJAMIN**" (80) and "**BREAKDANCE**" (83 – where the lead was a female welder) to more serious analyses of gender stereotyping. Junior boxing is such a dubious activity – not least because it clearly tends to attract kids "with a hot temper and a reputation for trouble" – that it's open to question if girls should even be trying to penetrate that activity. Is there any prospect of "all-boy mud wrestling"? I think not. Sexism continues to flourish, cheek by jowl with emancipation.

See subject index under **MARTIAL ARTS / BOXING**.