

Press Release 'A Name of One's Own'

Film Director Patricia Niedzwiecki met Benoîte Groult in Paris in 1986. That's when they became friends for life, up until the death of the great French feminist on June 18, 2016; the same year in which the filmmaker also lost her own mother.

Ten years earlier, a first film on language and gender with the innovative title "Femilang" had already brought both women together on screen. Now, in 'A Name of One's Own', which was shot in Brittany, the French writer and novelist Benoîte Groult actually bequeaths her feminist credo to us, filmed in her beloved Breton home.

Benoîte Groult could not understand why it is that feminism and feminists still seem to arouse such suspicion and misunderstanding: "What?! You are still a feminist?" being asked by those attempting to ridicule what Benoîte defines as basic humanism.

Retracing Benoîte Groult's rich career, we revisit with her almost a century of social events that have more or less transformed women's lives. while crossing paths with celebrated authors whom she knew quite well, like Simone de Beauvoir, Simone Veil and Ségolène Royal.

In this film-testament, Benoîte Groult plays the part in her own life, which she evokes with the lucidity and compassion with which she studied contemporary feminists, as well as herself.

Strangely enough, her words not only echo women's predicament in 2020, but we also come to realize how biased society still can be.

Of course, women's condition has evolved and improved, if only because we can talk about these things.

We mustn't fool ourselves, however, because the same vigilance must continue at all times if we do not want to lose again our feminist achievements, which remain fragile in a society still dominated by male privilege.

The film accompanies 'The Gender Manual' as well as other titles by Patricia Niedzwiecki, all of which have a foreword by Benoîte Groult herself.

Out on 18 June, 2020 in Brussels Town Hall at noon.

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