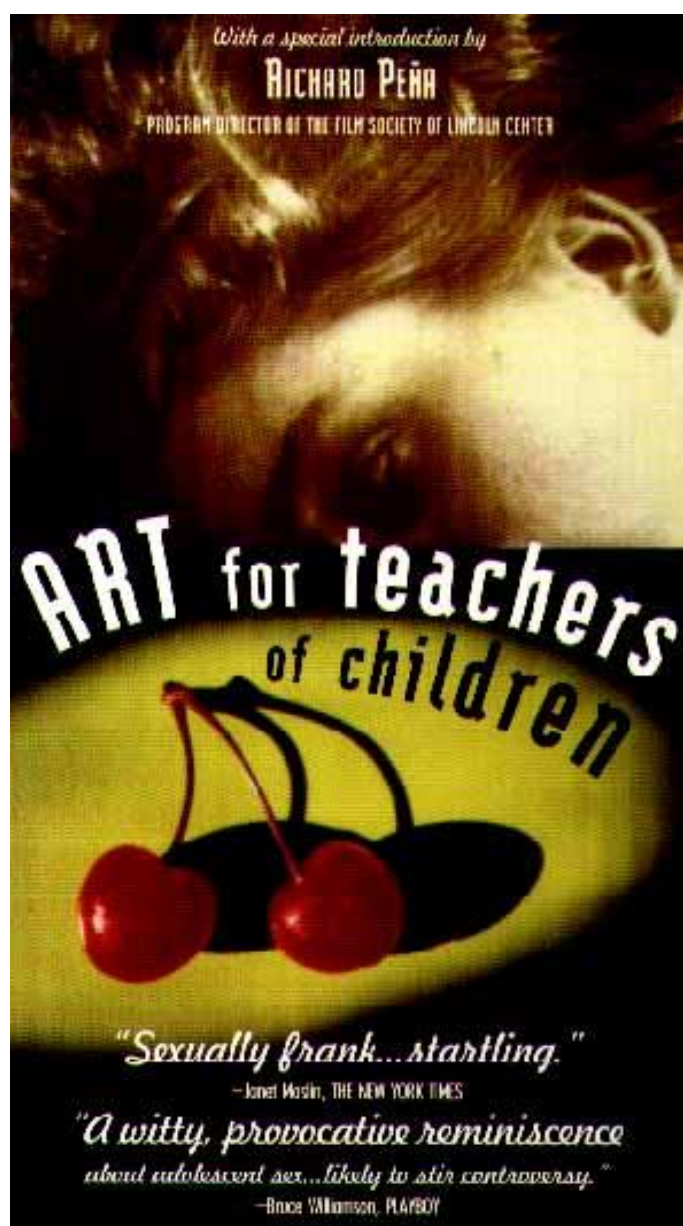


Art for Teachers of Children

US ? : 1995 : dir. Jennifer Montgomery : : 82 min
 prod: : scr: Jennifer Montgomery : dir.ph.: Jennifer Montgomery

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 Caitlin Grace McDonnell; Coles Burroughs; Lisa Anomaiprasert; Craig Peterson;
 Jennifer Williams; Eve Hellier; Duncan Hannah; Brian Keane

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	ⓧ	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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"About adolescent sex... likely to stir controversy" opines Bruce Morrison of Playboy with astonishing insight.

Source: CVMC website

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"During her freshman year at a girls' boarding school, fourteen year old Jennifer (Caitlin Grace McDonnell) develops a "crush" on the dorm counsellor, soon finds herself involved with the man as well as posing nude for a series of photographs. The relationship manages to overcome the gender-gap, "concerned" parents and rumours on campus, yet can it survive mere years?

A non-judgemental independent flick that is perhaps flawed by some mediocre acting but which certainly manages to compensate via an intelligent tackling of a controversial issue. All the more interesting is the fact that the story is true,

happens to be based on writer/director/cinematographer/editor/narrator Jennifer Montgomery's own teenhood experiences [sic].

Rated NR: adult themes; profanity; moderate nudity; frequent sexual themes; brief sexual scenes

Categories: Biography, Boarding School & Camp, Coming-of-Age, Drama, First Love, Girl Films, Adolescent ."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001" or "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995"]

No further information currently available. **"Gender gap"? "Teenhood"?** What has the man been smoking?

Any American film in 1995 tacitly endorsing what people please to call "under-age" sex is not merely courting controversy, but violating one of the core shibboleths of contemporary culture, a brave expression of dissent given the damage this may wreak upon a person's career or private life. Any individual who claims to have been "sexually abused" as a child is welcome to recount their testimony in gruelling detail on prime-time American television, but any individual claiming the contrary – that his or her sexual relationships below the age of consent were enriching, liberating, and actively sought on their part – will be rounded upon as the worst kind of heretic. Or else dismissed as the brainwashed dupe of a "predatory" adult. The language itself, as we see, has become so intensely judgmental and prejudiced that rational discussion of the subject is all but impossible now. It's astonishing that a film such as this one, Raphael Sbarge's **"ABUSE"**, or **"MONTREAL MAIN"** ever surface at all, even on the US independent circuit. Heresy is no more tolerated in the USA today than it was in the time of Torquemada.

That the story is autobiographical also spares us the liberties which are taken by scripts "based on" actual events, and deflects any criticism that the relationship may have been "sanitised" for public viewing. The film, whatever its faults on the technical level, should be seen as a rare counterbalancing testimony from the horse's mouth. In European cinema, on the other hand, man/girl affairs that would attract the label "paedophile" today have always been viewed with greater tolerance and interest than man/boy ones, while woman/boy affairs have usually been portrayed as a spot of good luck for the boy, and no conceivable harm done. For just a few examples of man/girl affairs, see **"L'ADOLESCENTE"** (France), **"HET DEBUUT"** (Netherlands), **"LA DROLESSE"** (France) and **"EL NIDO"** (Spain). It is not that these films were "apologias" for paedophilia – I doubt that any of them were – but that they were able to scan the relationship and its consequences without the blinkers of hate. But goodness me, why should anybody want to do that?

See subject index under [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES](#), [BOARDING SCHOOL](#) and [SEX & SEXUALITY](#).