

Old Enough

US : 1984 : dir. Marisa Silver : Silverfilm / Orion : 91 min
 prod: Dina Silver : scr: Marisa Silver : dir.ph.: Michael Ballhaus
[Sarah Boyd](#); [Rainbow Harvest](#); [Alyssa Milano](#)
 Neill Barry; Danny Aiello; Susan Kingsley; Roxanne Hart; Fran Brill; Anne Pitoniak;
 Gerry Bamman

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Well the obvious question would have to be – old enough for **what?** But don't expect any answers from the reviews below. It's an adolescent buddy movie – perhaps quasi-autobiographical in the style of Diane Kurys.

Source: 26th L.F.F.

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996 review:

“Two adolescent girls from wildly different socioeconomic backgrounds forge a tenuous friendship, then try to keep it going through thick and thin. Boyd (the rich one) has infinitely more screen appeal than counterpart Harvest, which further undercuts an already too-mild comedy. Funny subplot about a sexy hairdresser who lives in Harvest's building. Written by first-time director Silva, produced by her sister Dina. ****1/2**”

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

“A pleasant, innocuous film about two teenage girlfriends from opposite sides of the social scale. Unfortunately, some scenes appear forced, and the adult characters are stereotyped. ******”

The Time Out Film Guide review:

“An exceptional delight, this first feature from Joan Micklin Silver's daughter brings together two girls during a hot New York summer: Lonnie (Boyd) twelve, well-behaved, a little innocent [*sic*], from a wealthy, sophisticated family; and Karen (Harvest) fourteen, seemingly more mature, sassy in the knowledge of the streets handed down from working class parents and elder brother. Little happens: but with its precise, perceptive observation and performances, and wry, gently ironic humour, the whole thing rings remarkably true.”

Variety Movie Guide 1993 review:

“The tale of friendship between two young girls of widely different social backgrounds, **"OLD ENOUGH"** has just the right balance of humour and insight to connect with audiences. Produced and directed by sisters Dina and Marisa Silver, the project evolved from Utah's Sundance Institute for Independent Filmmakers. Nonetheless, the simple story and modest budgeted effort need make no excuses for the finished product. Story centres on 12-year old Lonnie Sloan (Sarah Boyd) from an upper-class New York City family and slightly older Karen Bruckner (Rainbow Harvest) from blue-collar background. Both are at important emotional turning points when they meet on the street of the widely divergent economic neighbourhood. It is an easily understandable attraction of opposites. The mix of fresh faces and a few seasoned pros in cast all register indelibly. Both Boyd and Harvest have burden of carrying the film, which they accomplish with ease.”

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

“A prepubescent "coming-of-age" movie. Rated "PG". **Turkey**”¹

¹ *Someone should tell the author quietly that girls in America begin menstruation now as early as 8 or 9, so the ages 12 and 14 could in no sense be called "prepubescent"...*

26th London Film Festival – 1984 – programme review:

“ **"OLD ENOUGH"** is written and directed by Marisa Silver and produced by Dina, her sister. They are the daughters of Joan Micklin Silver, who made **"HESTER STREET"** and **"BETWEEN THE LINES"**, and of producer-director Raphael Silver. And this highly sympathetic story of two young girls, aged 12 and 14, growing up in New York City – one from a wealthy family, the other from poor immigrant stock – was developed at Robert Redford's Sundance Institute for aspiring young film-makers².

It wouldn't be quite fair to say that the Silvers are very much their mother's daughters, but the film shows the same sympathy for its characters, and a similar determination to avoid Hollywood cliché. Fine performances from Sarah Boyd and Rainbow Harvest as the girls from different sides of the track, learning how to live in a highly dangerous city, add further distinction. As does the cinematography of Michael Balhaus, who shot many of Fassbinder's best films, including **"THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN"**. It was one of the most applauded at the Directors' Fortnight at Cannes this year, and deservedly so.”

– Derek Malcolm

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

² ...who already have **both** parents in the industry ?

No further information currently available. Exhibited at the 1984 Cannes, Edinburgh and Deauville film festivals, as well as London. Rainbow Harvest is the sister of one River Phoenix, not to mention Leaf Phoenix, now calling himself Joachin. Whether it is she or Sarah Boyd illustrated overleaf I'm uncertain. Adolescent female buddy pics are not so common, even today, as the male variety, and as diverse as "**LITTLE DARLINGS**" (80 – Tatum O'Neal and Kristy McNichol competing at summer camp to shed their virginity), "**A FRIENDSHIP IN VIENNA**" (88 – Jewish girl aided by Christian friend to escape pre-war Vienna), and "**HEAVENLY CREATURES**" (NZ 94 – an intense friendship finds expression in a conspiracy to murder the mother of one of the girls), although this seems to have at least as much in common with "**RICH KIDS**" (79 – NY divorcee veteran Jeremy Levy navigates Trini Alvarado through the maelstrom of her own parents' marital collapse). The definitive gender-swapped "**STAND BY ME**" would probably be "**NOW AND THEN**" (95, with Christina Ricci), though it failed to make a similar impact. Nothing else is known of Sarah Boyd

No subject index categories suggest themselves, which is some indication of how vague these reviews are. What was the meaning of the title again?