



## MA VIE EN ROSE (MY LIFE IN PINK)

Directed by Alain Berliner

Cast: Georges Du Fresne, Michele Laroque, Jean-Philippe Ecoffey, Helene Vincent.

Belgium, 1997.  
In French with English subtitles.

88 mins. Color.

Rental: Apply.

**New Release**

An emotionally complex fairy tale of growing up “bent” in a straight world, Alain Berliner’s candy-colored first feature packs a sweetly devastating punch. The film opens with a festive garden party celebrating the Fabre family’s arrival in an enchanting upscale neighborhood of green lawns and gracious smiles. It seems almost too good to be true ...and it is. This suburban paradise is disrupted by the stunning entrance of the Fabres’ seven-year-old son Ludovic, wearing full makeup, wobbly high heels, and his sister’s pink frock. Declaring himself a “girlboy,” eagerly awaiting his first period, and more comfortable in skirts than in trousers, Ludovic threatens the boundaries of his orderly bourgeois universe. What might at first seem a simple lesson in tolerance deepens and darkens. Although the film’s sympathies are clearly with Ludovic’s struggle for self-definition, it never glosses over the difficulties involved; there are no simple solutions, no overnight conversions, no easy rebellious gestures. Teased at school, shunned by nervous neighbors, dragged to a psychiatrist, Ludovic escapes into an imaginary world presided over by a Barbie-like doll; however, this bright plastic fantasyland is not very different from the suburban prison in which he is trapped. The film’s soaring camera movements and storybook colors become increasingly ironic, its bittersweet tone more wrenchingly double-edged. *Ma Vie en Rose* never loses its buoyancy and charm, but its portrayal of the pressures of conformity and the arbitrariness of gender roles is anything but rose-colored.

**“Genially subversive...delightful...An inside report from the enchanted, irradiated island of childhood.”** – Richard Corliss, *Time*.