

THE REAL THING

DIR Brandon Kelly, 2017.



Synopsis:

A soldier returns home to meet his daughter, who transitioned while he was on tour. Will he be accepting?

Run Time:

6:20

Suggested Grades:

5+

The Takeaway/ Learning Objectives:

- A feel-good film about transness, allyship, and the value of being accepted.
- A good opportunity to discuss assumptions we may have had and where those assumptions stem from.

Content Flags:

Military, deadnaming (the use of a trans person given name rather than chosen name)

Key Words:

Trans, Trans Girl, Gender Identity, Family

Pre-viewing Questions:

- What are some challenges trans people might face in school?
 - Bathrooms, bullying, dead naming (name given at birth that is no longer in use) etc.

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- What are some challenges trans people might face in their families?
 - Not being believed that they are trans; not being supported to transition; not having support to get new clothes or redecorate a bedroom; not being called the right name

Post-Viewing Questions:

- What were the only two words spoken in this film?
 - Robert; Allie
- How were those two words significant?
 - All people tend to appreciate it when others get our names right, whether when pronouncing it, spelling it, or remembering it. Some of us take it for granted that others will know how to say or spell our name, or will remember it.
 - The name people use when talking to trans people can either be affirming (the name a person has chosen, in this case Allie), or invalidating (a person's 'dead name', in this case, Robert) of their identities.
- What point did you feel the filmmaker was trying to make in the scene with Allie and her classmate?
 - They were trying to showcase acceptance and allyship.
- Who was surprised by the father's reaction? What did you expect to have happened?
 - Expectations may have included the dad being mad or unaccepting.
- Where does that assumption come from?
 - There is often a stereotype that fathers/ men/ masculine people are less accepting or nurturing.
 - Many people also associate the military with not accepting trans people, especially trans women

Common Questions:

- Why did the teacher call her "Robert?"
 - The teacher "dead named" her. Allie is transgender, and the name he used was probably her old name. This is confirmed later in the film when we see the name Robert on Allie's test
 - It is very rude to use a trans person's old name, as it can out them to others who may not know, or indicate we do not support the name they use now.
 - The teacher was wrong to do that!
- What if it was a mistake?
 - That's okay, mistakes happen! It's important to apologize and try really hard to not make the same mistake twice.
 - If someone is constantly making the same mistakes, it may feel like they are not trying.