

# A fashion film for the #MeToo generation, "Be a lady," they said

 By [Jessica Tennant](#)

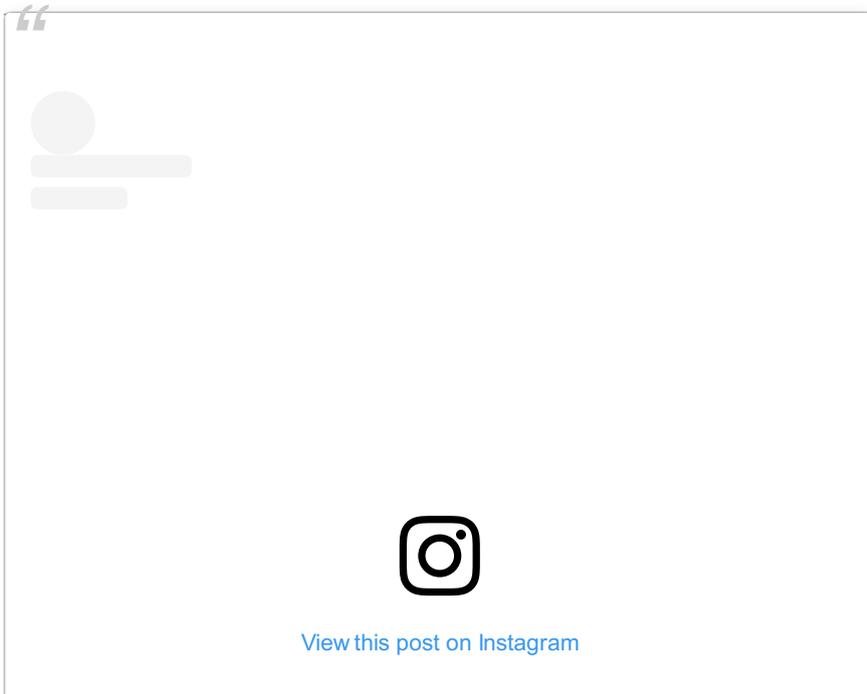
9 Mar 2020

[Girls. Girls. Girls.](#) magazine recently released a video titled 'Be a lady they said', words by Camille Rainville as published on her [Writings of a Furious Woman](#) blog in 2017 and narrated by Cynthia Nixon, best known for her role on *Sex and the City*.



Within six days of being posted on Vimeo and Instagram, the video went viral. The poem, a powerful piece on the dichotomies of women as [Women's Health](#) calls it, is about the impossible standards imposed upon women (and men in some cases, although the focus is on women) and depicts the pressures and conflicting messages they're bombarded with on a daily basis.

The magazine put it out there like this:





We are just going to leave this right here and see what happens..... Words by #CamilleRainville Narrated by @cynthiaenixon Directed by @paul.mclean1 Produced by @clairerosthstein Post by @mini\_content Music by @louissouyavemusic @opm.london Thank you to everyone who took part in this amazing project, too many of you to mention ❤️👉 Special thanks to @alicialombardini @luke\_glover\_dp @mini\_content @portiswasp1 @olip21 @jena\_beck ❤️👉 #bringingbackthewoman #girlsgirlsgirlsmag #bealady

A post shared by [Girls. Girls. Girls. Magazine \(@girls.girls.girls.magazine\)](#) on Feb 22, 2020 at 3:59pm PST



[The Guardian](#) reported that the fashion film had amassed 20M views and been shared by Cara Delevingne, Dua Lipa and Madonna.

This also goes to show the power of video, as the original post dates back to December 2017. Not only does this poignant message still hold relevant today, but the video format and, of course, the magazine’s reach has proven effective to get it across.



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Producer Claire Rothstein told *The Guardian* that her and director, Paul McLean are feminists. “We’re not huge activists... But the message for us is always about female empowerment, however you want that to be.”



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Her work is very much political. The second issue of *Girls. Girls. Girls.* featuring actress Rachel McAdams wearing Versace, diamonds and a breast pump – another piece of Rothstein’s – also went viral in 2018, and she shot actress Rose McGowan for the same issue, then in the midst of the Harvey Weinstein rape case. “It’s meant to be ironic,” she told *The Guardian*. “But that’s lost on some people.”

“ I don’t understand why sexy has become a negative thing. I take those classic stereotypes that are considered negative when seen through the male gaze and flip them on their head. It’s hyper-real, it’s fantasy, but I don’t see that as diluting the message in any way. ”

It’s this aesthetic that lends itself to getting the message heard. “If the video wasn’t as stylised as it is, it wouldn’t have made the impression it has.”



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Rainville, the copywriter, is a 22-year-old undergraduate student at the University of Vermont. She says of her blog that it was created to spotlight this piece of writing. After sharing with close friends on her personal Facebook page, the post began to travel through many circles of social media anonymously. The creation of this blog was to make space for this personal piece of writing to exist in a format that is highly amateur, far too unedited and quite emotionally raw.

## ABOUT JESSICA TENNANT

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