

## The pressure to conform to the "correct" gender in 'Boys don't cry' and 'Brokeback Mountain'



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*(Bernardo Feeney Jr.)*

## THE PRESSURE TO CONFORM TO THE "CORRECT" GENDER IN 'BOYS DON'T CRY' AND 'BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN'



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GRIN Verlag Dez 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Culture and Applied Geography, printed single-sided, grade: 2,0, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: Cultural Studies: Gender Trouble in U.S.Films, 11 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Even nowadays people who do not fit in the commonly accepted sexual role models of our society still face severe problems and hostilities which frequently culminate in murder. This is illustrated in the movies Boys don t cry (1999) and Brokeback Mountain (2005). The two low-budged productions by the directors Kimberly Peirce and Ang Lee both tell love stories that are not blessed by society. The individuals suffer the pressure to conform to what is regarded as the correct gender in the respective societies. But what is meant by correct gender Gender , as García Landa defines it, is a matter of language, of signs and symbols . It is a social construct and refers to the cultural representation of sexual difference . In practice it can not be seen completely detached from biological sex as its definition is partly based on features as for example social behaviour and clothing commonly attributed to one certain sex. Also, sexual identity, which refers to the sexual orientation, is closely linked to gender because it is constructed on the basis of selfsame. The term correct gender refers to what society generally expects from a certain sex, in other words a person who biologically is a man should also conform to the male gender. As in all cultures individuals are socialized into a dominant heterosexual eroticism this includes having a heterosexual orientation. The aim of this paper is to analyze how...



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