



**They
have
a name
for girls
like me.**

by Julie Perini

Introduction by Julie Perini

I started *They have a name for girls like me*. when I was living in Buffalo, NY in 2006. I had long loved the film *Valley Girl* and wanted to see if I could make my own piece with it, since the main character was named Julie—like me. Another film I loved at the time, Chantal Akerman's *Je Tu Il Elle*, also starred a Julie. Some quick research brought to my attention the 1956 film *Julie*, starring Doris Day, and the 1975 Bollywood film *Julie*. I worked with these few films, thinking I might make a new video weaving all of these stories about Julie together, or make a new video intercut with my own performances. At one point I cut the films down to just the parts where someone utters the word “Julie” and I enjoyed seeing what this element of chance brought to the project. I could now edit the videos rhythmically, slowing down and speeding up the pace of the Julie utterances, paying attention to the vocalizations and other gestures. For the next decade, whenever the video screened at a festival or gallery, I cut and added another Julie film to *They have a name for girls like me*. The video was slowly growing and by the time the piece exhibited in the *Self(ie) Portraits* exhibition at Upfor in 2014, it contained ten films. In 2016, I decided to find as many films as I could find that had Julie as a main character, cut them up and add them to *They have a name for girls like me*. The result is this most recent 2017 edit, containing thirty-five films total from around the world and throughout cinema history. It's been an emotional journey: some films light up my fury against hetero-patriarchy and white supremacy, while other make me fall in love with the movies all over again. It's been a joy both to destroy certain films and a joy to spend time with others that teach me about humanity and imagination.

Descriptions of Films

The descriptions of each film that follows are from my Instagram feed where I have been posting screenshots for the past several months as I watched the Julie films.

Liliom (1934, France)



Starring Madeleine Ozeray as Julie
Directed by Fritz Lang

Julie is a "working girl" with a "nice position in a house." Julie gets knocked up by a carousel barker. Other things happen involving domestic violence, suicide, angels and God's Police. This film is based on a 1909 Hungarian play. The 1946 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel* is based on this too, as is the 1956 film *Carousel*.

Special Agent (1935, USA)



Starring Bette Davis as Julie
Directed by William Keighley

Bette Davis is Julie, an innocent book-keeper for a mob boss who is bad news. Julie testifies against her boss in front of a grand jury, nearly losing her life in the process. The gangster ends up at Alcatraz. Includes scenes of Julie being kidnapped in an elevator and later tied to a chair.

Twin Beds (1942, USA)



Starring Joan Bennett as Julie
Directed by Tim Whelan

Joan Bennett is Julie. Comedy. Julie is caught up in various heterosexual marital dramas and jealousies.

The Fallen Idol (1948, UK)



Starring Michèle Morgan as Julie
Directed by Carol Reed

Michèle Morgan is Julie. Julie is the love interest of a married butler working in an embassy in London. The butler's wife falls to her death after a quarrel, and there is a resulting investigation. This is actually mainly about the young boy of the house, Philippe, who witnessed the fatal fall.

A Song for Miss Julie (1945, USA)



Starring Jane Farrar as Julie
Directed by William Rowland

Jane Farrar is Julie in this film about a Southern family trying to keep old family secrets hidden from a few Broadway types snooping around in search of a good story for a musical. Out of love for one of the Broadway guys, Julie hands over her grandfather's diary and with it some juicy gossip.

Money Madness (1948, USA)



Starring Frances Rafferty as Julie
Directed by Sam Newfield

Frances Rafferty plays Julie, a sweet girl who gets enmeshed in a murder and bank robbery plot when she falls for the wrong guy in this film noir mystery directed by B movie giant Sam Newfield.

The Set-Up (1949, USA)



Starring Audrey Totter as Julie
Directed by Robert Wise

Julie's husband is Stoker Thompson, a thirty-five-year-old boxer whose crooked manager, Tiny, cuts a deal with a mobster, Little Boy, who is betting on Stoker losing his next match to the much younger Tiger Nelson. Tiny neglects to inform Stoker of the set-up and Stoker beats the odds and wins the fight. Julie is concerned that this fight might be her husband's last, since he is getting on in years and boxing is a dangerous sport, so she spends most of this real time film pacing around their room at the Hotel Cozy and around the city. When the mobsters beat up Stoker so bad it looks like his career is over, Julie declares: "We both won tonight." Upsetting my expectations, *The Set-Up* won me over for so many reasons: extremely gorgeous shot compositions and lighting, the whole real time thing (the seventy-two minute duration of the film is the same amount of story time), clever visual storytelling strategies, all of the music we hear derives from the world of the film (there is no non-diegetic sound, for the film geeks out there who like to use those terms), sensitive and realistic performances...bring Robert Wise & his team back!

Miss Julie (1951, Sweden)



Starring Anita Björk as Julie
Directed by Alf Sjöberg

Anita Börk is Julie. Julie has a hot night with a servant on her estate. Unable to bear the shame of her transgression, she kills herself with the servant's shaving knife. Despite being rich, Julie's had a tough life: her mom tried to kill her by burning down the mansion, she witnessed her dad's failed attempt at suicide, and when she was young her family dressed her in boy's clothes and made her do boy's work.

Show Boat (1951, USA)



Starring Ava Gardner as Julie
Directed by George Sidney

Ava Gardner stars as Julie LaVerne, leading lady on the Cotton Blossom, a show boat cruising down the Mississippi in the 1880s. Julie's cover is blown one night when the boat's engineer outs Julie for being biracial at a time when black people were not allowed onstage with whites. Julie and her husband Steve sneak away in the middle of the night and end up in Chicago. Julie becomes an alcoholic signer at a nightclub and eventually Steve leaves her. Eye-popping color, over-the-top costumes, and flashy musical numbers can't mask what a bummer of a story this is for Julie.

Three for the Show (1955, USA)



Starring Bette Grable as Julie
Directed by H.C. Potter

Betty Grable is a platinum blonde Julie in this technicolor remake of the musical *Too Many Husbands*. Julie is a boy crazy and indecisive actress. A mix-up in military communications leads Julie to believe her husband Marty (Jack Lemmon) is MIA in Korea, so she remarries Marty's best friend Vernon. Marty shows up at the theater one day, all in one piece. Singing. Dancing. Back stage. Front stage. Hijinks. An orientalist fantasy sequence where Julie imagines having a harem full of dozens of husbands. Which husband will Julie choose?!



Starring Shirley Jones as Julie
Directed by Henry King

Carousel (1956, USA)

The culture industry likes to repeat this story, though I wish it would stop. *Carousel* is the film adaptation of the Rodgers and Hammerstein stage musical of the same name, which is based on a 1909 Hungarian stage play, *Liliom*, that was made into a film by Fritz Lang in France in 1934. In all of these stories, Julie is a nice girl who falls for a macho carousel barker. Julie gets slapped and pushed around by him, but she still loves him and eventually bears his child. The barker kills himself and at the gates of heaven, he is given the chance to revisit Earth to make things right. Somehow fifteen years pass and when he lands back on earth, he finds his teenage daughter, but he ends up slapping her too. The mother and daughter bond over this experience, marvelling at how sometimes “it’s possible for someone to hit you, and it not hurt at all.” And trust me, these gals aren’t talking some highly intentional consent-based BDSM play. These *Liliom* and *Carousel* stories totally let the abuser off the hook and make my blood boil. I did enjoy some of the highly acrobatic musical numbers, particularly one where several sailors take their shirts off.

John & Julie (1956, UK)



Starring Leslie Dudley as Julie
Directed by William Fairchild.

Julie is a little girl who runs away from home because she is so excited to witness the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

Julie (1956, USA)



Starring Doris Day as Julie
Directed by Andrew L. Stone

Doris Day is Julie, a flight attendant. Julie's possessive, piano-playing husband kills the pilot and wounds the co-pilot, so Julie must fly the plane.

The Gift of Love (1958, USA)



Starring Lauren Bacall as Julie
Directed by Jean Negulesco

Lauren Bacall is Julie. Julie finds out she does not have long to live. She adopts an imaginative child so her scientist husband (Robert Stack) will never be lonely.

Daisies (1966, Czechoslovakia)



Starring Ivana Karbanová as Julie
Directed by Vera Chytilová

Daisies is one of the best films of all time and will continue to reign supreme in perpetuity throughout the universe. It is not actually a film about a Julie; it's about two young women named Marie. However in one scene Marie II ends up in the apartment of a butterfly collector, and he calls her Julie several times.

Celine and Julie Go Boating (1974, France)



Starring Dominique Labourier as Julie
Directed by Jacques Rivette

Dominique Labourier is Julie in this Jacques Rivette film. Celine and Julie suck on candies that allow them to enter an alternate reality where they are maids in a big fancy house where they witness a drama involving two sisters vying for the affections of a widower. They suck candies several times, each time learning more and more about the drama unfolding in the house. Celine and Julie figure out how to transport themselves back to present day Paris, absconding with the widower's daughter. At this point, after more than three hours of this delightful trippiness, Celine and Julie finally go boating.

Je, Tu, Il, Elle (1974, France)



Starring Chantal Akerman as Julie
Directed by Chantal Akerman

The great Belgian filmmaker Chantal Akerman directs and stars in her debut feature film about Julie, a young woman grieving the end of a relationship. Through long, slow shots we watch her write and rewrite letters to her lover, move the furniture around the room, methodically eat sugar with a spoon out of a paper bag, hitch hike with a truck driver and give him a hand job, and end up at her lover's apartment. The two women make energetic love onscreen for many minutes. We never hear the word "Julie" in this one, but the end credits reveal that Chantal Akerman's character was named Julie all along.

Julie (1975, India)



Starring Lakshmi as Julie
Directed by K.S. Sethumadhavan

Lakshmi is Julie in this Bollywood film about an inter-caste and inter-faith love affair that leaves Julie pregnant. Ashamed and unwilling to abort the child, Julie leaves town to have her baby in secret. After some big emotions expressed on-screen by family members and other invested parties, things turn out okay for Julie and her baby. This is a remake of an earlier film, *Chattakari*.

Julie Darling (1983)

Isabelle Mejias is a Julie in her early teens. She really, really, really, really likes her dad (yes, in that way), and orchestrates an elaborate scheme to off her stepmom with the help of a hitman.



Starring Isabelle Mejias as Julie
Directed by Paul Nicholas

Valley Girl (1983, USA)

Deborah Foreman is Julie, a high school Valley girl with feathered hair. Julie is torn between a socially sanctioned relationship with Tommy, a Valley dude, and a more authentic love she feels for Randy, a Hollywood punk (Nicholas Cage). Julie works at her dad's health food store and he advises her to follow her heart. In the end, Randy wins Julie over after he beats up Tommy just as Tommy and Julie were about to be crowned prom king and queen (with live music playing by Josie Cotton). Julie and Randy hop in a rental limo and ride off into the sunset while we hear Modern English's "I Melt with You." This is the first woman-directed Julie film, directed by Martha Coolidge.



Starring Deborah Foreman as Julie
Directed by Martha Coolidge

THIS IS THE FILM that started my entire Julie movie project. I never returned the VHS tape to the video store in the early 90s, then in 2006 I started working with *Valley Girl* to see if I could make a new piece with it because it was about a character named Julie. And now here we are, ten years and dozens of Julie films later.

The Next Karate Kid (1984, USA)

Hilary Swank is Julie in this final film in the Karate Kid series. Julie hones her karate skills under Mr. Miyagi's tutelage and eventually fends off aggressive high school frat boys.



Starring Hilary Swank as Julie
Directed by Christopher Cain

Educating Julie (1984, UK)

Gail Hardman is Julie. Julie is assigned a summer college research project: learn about "naturism," also known as nudism. At first skeptical, through this inquiry Julie becomes intrigued by naturism and eventually becomes a nudist herself.



Starring Gail Ward as Julie
Directed by Gail Hardman

Tamas es Juli (1997, Hungary)



Starring Márta Angyal as Julie
Directed by Ildikó Enyedi

Marta Angyal is Juli. Juli, a kindergarten teacher, is the love interest of a miner. Both perish in a tragic Y2K mine collapse.

Jawbreaker (1999, USA)



Starring Rebecca Gayheart as Julie
Directed by Darren Stein

Rebecca Gayheart is Julie. Julie is one of a clique of popular girls at a Los Angeles high school. Julie and her pals accidentally kill one of their friends when they gag her with a jawbreaker candy during what should have been a harmless prank. Julie is ostracized for refusing to participate in the cover-up. A prom scene wraps it all up. Also, Marilyn Manson makes an appearance.



Starring Saffron Burrows as Julie
Directed by Mike Figgis

Miss Julie (1999, USA/UK)

Saffron Burrows is a fiery Julie in this Mike Figgis adaptation of Strindberg's play. Set during an all-night Midsummer celebration in northern Sweden in 1894, it tells the tale of a forbidden tryst between the daughter of a count and a servant on the estate. This version of the film is worth watching for Julie's sexy Victorian outfits and boots (which are getting kissed here! I would totally wear those!), and a lot of raunchy lines like "my womb desired your seed" and "kitchen slut."

The Mod Squad (1999, USA)



Starring Claire Danes as Julie
Directed by Scott Silver

Claire Danes is Julie, a juvenile delinquent hired by the police to work undercover and gather intelligence about a potential crime ring. This is a remake of a successful late 1960s/early 1970s television show.

Julie Johnson (2001, USA)



Starring Lili Taylor as Julie
Directed by Bob Gosse

Lili Taylor is Julie, a New Jersey housewife and secret science geek. She takes a computer class, discovers she is a whiz, and leaves her unsupportive aggro husband. This bold move inspires her BFF, Claire (played by Courtney Love), to do the same. The two friends become lovers, although in the end Claire decides Julie's nerd crowd is not her scene and she returns to her old life. Score by Angelo Badalamenti (*Twin Peaks*) and music by Liz Phair.

The Swimming Pool (2002, France)



Starring Ludivine Sagnier as Julie
Directed by François Ozon

Julie is a sexy young thing hanging around a villa in Southern France having one-night stands and other sensual escapes by the pool. She's interrupting the solitude sought by Sarah, a British novelist who came to the villa to write. This erotic thriller is filled with loud sex, dips in the pool, competitive vibes between the two women, and serious childhood regressions.

Punch (2002, Canada)



Starring Meredith McGeachie as Julie
Directed by Guy Bennet

Meredith McGeachie is Julie, a boxer who makes a living fighting other topless women as a spectacle at a bar. This film is actually not mainly about Julie, it's about Ariel, a teen with anger management issues and an Electra complex for her widowed doctor dad, Sam. When Sam starts dating a nice lady named Mary, Ariel punches her. Mary's sister, topless boxer Julie, steps in to the situation and pummels the angry teen in the garage. This beating seems to solve most problems in the story. This is actually a very interesting movie. I have limited the scope of my Julie movie project to films with main characters named Julie, however this Julie was so fascinating I had to include her.

Julie & Jack (2003, USA)



Starring Jenn Gotzon as Julie
Directed by James Nguyen

Jenn Gordon is Julie in this terrible low-budget movie about Jack, a computer chip salesman, who falls in love with Julie, a woman he meets online and hangs out with in virtual reality spaces. Turns out Julie is no longer actually alive, but was a brilliant computer programmer who figured out how to download her consciousness to a "neural-computer" prototype that won't last forever. I did get a little sad.

Julie (2004, India)



Starring Neha Dhupia as Julie
Directed by Deepak S. Shivdasani

This Indian film is actually not a remake of the 1975 Bollywood film, *Julie*, but an entirely new story. This Julie is a beautiful high-end prostitute in Mumbai who catches the eye of a an eligible and rich bachelor unaware of her profession. Many, many minutes of the film's soundtrack are occupied with a song where the word "Julie" is melodically repeated over and over.

Red Doors (2005, USA)



Starring Elaine Kao as Julie
Directed by Georgia Lee

Elaine Kao is Julie Wong in this independent film directed by Georgia Lee. Julie is the middle daughter in this Chinese American family drama. Julie is a medical student who begins a romance with a famous actress who is hanging around the hospital researching a role. Other things happen with the other family members. It's gentle and funny while exploring serious emotional material. And hallelujah, it is directed by a woman, it passes the Bechdel Test, and it (along with Julie film *Julie Johnson*) helps me imagine a nearer future where more art depicts women as human beings.

Julie & Julia (USA, 2009)



Starring Amy Adams as Julie
Directed by Nora Ephron

Amy Adams is Julie. Directed by Nora Ephron. The year is 2002. Julie decides to cook every recipe in Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking in one year and blog about it. Julie's story is intercut with the story of Julia Child's time in Paris in the 1950s.

Warm Bodies (2013, USA)



Starring Teresa Palmer as Julie
Directed by Jonathan Levine

Teresa Palmer is Julie. Julie is the love interest of a young zombie.

Miss Julie

(2014, Norway/UK/Ireland/France)



Starring Jessica Chastain as Julie
Directed by Liv Ullman

Jessica Chastain is a boot-licking Julie in this Liv Ullmann adaptation of the Strindberg play. Again, Julie has a hot night with the valet of her father's estate, regrets doing the deed with someone from another class, and commits suicide. Colin Farrell is the most convincing of the tortured, passionate servants I've seen in a *Miss Julie* movie. He is also pretty easy on the eyes which I can't say is true for the other male leads in *Miss Julies*.

**Thank you for
your assistance
and support**

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