



I made my statement, and I got where he was coming from. It's not a movie about reality. It's about a girl sliding around on the roof of a car while a guy chases [her and her friends]. It's not supposed to make you think about rape and reality and all that; that's not the movie he wanted to make. So I made that movie.

Can you tell me a little about the Lower Eastside Girls Club of New York and how you became involved?

Well, when I was growing up in a squat in that neighborhood, there were two boys' clubs but no girls' clubs. And when the boys' club was asked to integrate with a girls' club, they declined. So about 10 years ago, a group of mothers started a club for girls in a neighborhood basement. I've been involved for the past four years or so, trying to raise money and awareness for them. They have a bakery and café, which employs some of the girls and their mothers. They also have a gallery and a photography program and sewing and dance classes, and they're affiliated with a group of girls in Chiapas, Mexico, where they go twice a year.

I got involved because my aunt works on the Lower East Side, and I'd meet some of these girls, and they'd say, "Oh, you're so lucky, you have this incredible life, I'll never have what you have." And what can I say? "Sit on your stoop and wait for someone to discover you?" I want them to have every opportunity they can and every good influence—I got them tickets to see [Broadway performer] Sarah Jones. I'm getting [stuntwoman] Zoë Bell to come talk to them—because the dropout rates in that neighborhood are really high and so are the teen-pregnancy rates. My mom got pregnant with me when she was 16, and she wanted me to have as many choices as I could in life, and that's what I want for these girls.

I don't lend my name to a lot of things; I don't sell makeup. If you see me in the press, it's because I'm promoting a movie. But I want to use my name to promote these girls. We all need a champion, and I want to be theirs. The women who started this have been doing it for so long for no money, and the girls make such great art—their gallery shows and their writing is so inspiring. I'm grateful to be affiliated with them.



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