

women to watch in film

THE TRANSFORMER: JULES ROSSKAM

OK, Jules Roskam isn't technically a lesbian ("Because of how I looked, people always assumed I was just another butch dyke," he says. "Finally, I had to actively reject that and claim trans as an identity"). The 24-year-old Jewish Roskam – whose previous films include the Ladyfest hit *My Heart Belongs to Daddy* – is part of the burgeoning trans cinema movement. Roskam explored the construction of sex and gender in the experimental documentary *Turning Something Into Nothing* and took on the aftermath of a lesbian affair in the

narrative *Positional Probability*. Now he's taking on fascinating territory in *Transparent* – a doc about how someone reconciles his feelings of maleness with being a biological "mother."

"The film explores what it means to be a 'man' and what it means to be a 'woman,' and in turn, what it means to be a mother or father," Roskam says. "I also really wanted to show how much diversity exists in the FTM community – that we are not all white, that we don't all

live in big cities, and that we didn't all come out of the lesbian community."

At work on the low-budget film for a year, Roskam is stumping for finishing funds but is already inundated with interest in the film – and in the sociopolitical trans movement. "I think in the next five years, we will see quite a few prominent trans filmmakers making their way onto the scene."



Jules Roskam