

**A NOTE ON GENDER
FROM THE DIRECTORS OF *BY HOOK OR BY CROOK*:**

“If it’s true that there are seven genders, *By Hook or By Crook* embodies at least four of these as far as I can tell.” —Michelle Tea, novelist

“On the questionnaires like at the doctors’ office or wherever, in the ‘sex’ box I always look at the choices and end up writing in, “NONE OF THE ABOVE.” —Kriss De Jong, sound design & audio post on BHOB

“One of our experiments was to make a movie where the characters in the story could be played interchangeably by a man or woman, gay or straight. We wanted to make a piece that would be dealt with on it’s own artistic and emotional terms.” —Harry Dodge

This is a movie about a budding friendship between two people. The fact that they happen to be queer is purposefully off the point. If you call them something, other than sad, rambling, spirited, gentle, sharp or funny...you might call them ‘*butches*’.

We don’t have a better word for it. In the old days they were called bulldaggers, daggers, tomboys. Those words are also excellent. **We see butch as a third gender, not exactly female and not exactly male.**

In the film, *By Hook or By Crook*, our press materials and interviews, the characters are referred to and refer to themselves using the pronoun “he”. So do their girlfriends, and unwitting strangers. The cops, the nurses, the rest of the world refer to them as “she.” Such as it is. Our intention is that the film’s depiction of gender fluidity or gender non-conformity plays with the viewer by manipulating male/female stereotypes for fresh non-stereotyped results.

Ma Vie En Rose, Paris Is Burning, Boyz In The Hood and *Boys don’t Cry*. Made from an insider’s perspective, these films lend an incredible amount of dignity to typically marginalized people allowing audiences to identify with the characters. In the tradition of these daring films, *By Hook Or By Crook* portrays gender-fluidity juxtaposing a sly sense of humor with keen observations on the frailty of human nature.