



## Lesbian Images in Vietnamese LGBTQ Films

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### Abstract

Since 2010, Vietnam has witnessed the appearance and proliferation of a series of lesbian films on the national screen and social media. These films featured different aspects of female same-sex sexuality and relationships. The heroines in these films, despite their differences from one another, have touched the heart of the Vietnamese, earning their sympathy, creating a positive impact and contributing to the development of the LGBTQ culture. After long decades of invisibility, the portrait of the Vietnamese Lesbian community displayed in these films is a positive one, treated humanely and respectfully. Rich in colors, this fresh new culture has quickly imposed the identity and integrated in the national LGBTQ movement, acting as a motor which stimulates other cultural LGBTQ activities in strictly conventional and authoritarian Southeast Asian countries. The globalization of culture with its different facets together with the high-tech revolution of media have exerted a great influence on the Vietnamese lesbian cultural movement and driven important changes in Vietnamese social perspectives regarding the role and the lesbian status in the country. The paper examines the background in which the Vietnamese lesbian culture was born and developed; its challenges and difficulties as well as its own particularity. The paper also studies its identity, positive role and contribution to the progress of the right movement for the equality and happiness of the lesbians in Southeast Asia.

**Keywords:** Vietnam, lesbian, image, culture, films