

Discussion Questions:

- 1) The ocean is a distinct thematic element in *XXY*; Alex's father is a marine biologist who studies sea turtles, the family's home stands next to the sea, and the introductory sequence features an abstract and sensual underwater world. Why might Lucía Puenzo have chosen the ocean as a theme for *XXY*? How does each manifestation of this theme work in the overall story?
- 2) What does 'coming of age' mean? To what degree is *XXY* a universal 'coming-of-age' story?
- 3) Describe the relationships between children and parents in *XXY*. How do these relationships affect the main characters and the decisions they make?
- 4) *XXY* features a washed out blue and gray color palette. How does this affect the tone of the film? What other visual choices shape the film's mood and feel?
- 5) Compare the three scenes where Alex encounters different strands of sexuality: with Alvaro in the attic, with her young friend in the shower, and finally with the group of boys on the beach. How does each scene change the story? How does Alex emerge at the close of each of these scenes? What narrative devices does the director use to give each scene a distinct feel?
- 6) There are several scenes in *XXY* where characters (willingly or unwillingly) act as voyeurs. Identify one such scene and discuss the role of the unseen spectator and the implications of his or her secret knowledge. Is there any parallel in this scene between the spying character and the movie audience? Why or why not?