



# The Postfeminist Biopic: Narrating the Lives of Plath, Kahlo, Woolf and Austen

*Bronwyn Polaschek*

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*The Postfeminist Biopic* explores the influence of postfeminist culture on cinematic representations of female biographies. While earlier research has described the subgenres of the classical female biopic and the feminist biopic, Polaschek proposes a third subgenre, the postfeminist biopic, which has appeared as part of a broader trend of reviving and reconfiguring classical genre forms aimed at women. The book explores the conventions of the postfeminist biopic through a close analysis of four films that represent the lives of women who are established members of the second-wave feminist canon: *Sylvia* (Christine Jeffs, 2003), which depicts the life of the American poet Sylvia Plath; *Frida* (Julie Taymor, 2002), about the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo; *The Hours* (Stephen Daldry, 2002), which includes a biographical narrative about the English novelist and critic Virginia Woolf; and *Becoming Jane* (Julian Jarrold, 2006), a fictionalized interpretation of the coming of age of the English novelist Jane Austen.



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