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**“He Became Me, and I Became Him”:
Sexuality, Space and Place in Dom Rotheroe’s “My Brother Tom”**

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This paper discusses representations of sexual space in the British film “My Brother Tom” (Rotheroe, 2001). It analyses the depicted relationship between two protagonist’s experiences of sexual abuse (those of the ‘self’/’selves’) and the physical spaces these occupy; the private realm of the home, portrayed as a space of fear and sexual exploitation, is substituted for the public and physically exposed realm of the woods, depicted as a space of security and sexual exploration. I draw upon Mulvey’s (1992) essay “Pandora: Topographies of the Mask and Curiosity” which, expanding on themes explored in her landmark work “Visual Pleasures and Narrative Cinema” (1975), relates narrative space to femininity, to discuss the significance of the private realm, the ‘interior’, in representing character’s “psychic spaces of desire and anxiety”, defined in opposition to a concept of outside ‘masculine’ space of “cathartic action”. Although Mulvey’s work focuses on mainstream Hollywood cinema, I will discuss the value of her psychoanalytic film theories in relation to My Brother Tom’s exploration of the violated spaces of female (and male) sexuality. Like Mulvey, I will also consider the female body as a “sign” analysed in terms of “space”, its seductive exterior concealing an interior space of danger.

Louise is undertaking a PhD in the Department of Communication and Media at the University of Liverpool, the institution from which she received her BA in English and Communication Studies in 2006. Her research interests are primarily concerned with screen studies, popular culture and (post)feminist theory. Her PhD combines textual analysis and audience research to explore the representation of female sexuality and sexual behaviour in a variety of British films released in 2000-9. Louise teaches on a number of undergraduate modules, exploring issues such as the analysis of different types of communication, 1980s-1990s British cinema, and media depictions of gender.