OUR SONG  This 2001 film directed by Jim McCay  This is a very leisurely-paced film that deals with a short period in the lives of three fifteen year old women in Brooklyn, New York. When the film begins, they are all in the real-life Jackie Robinson Steppers marching band. The film addresses in a kind of offbeat way a number of the issues we look at all semester: social class, ethnicity, race, male-female relations, education, family expectations and reality, the importance of friends, conformity vs. individualism, work and the work ethic. Also: mother-daughter relations [and, to a lesser, degree, the role of fathers]. It also touches on mixed feelings, for instance about school; and about being not quite a child and not quite an adult. It also suggests both the good and bad elements of life in the young women’s neighborhood. In watching the film, I found it was not easy to assign the characters to a particular social class. Consider also the way abortion and multi-ethnic relationships are addressed.

In terms of style, this seems to be an unusual type of film. Does it strike you as easy or difficult to complete a project like this? Why do we see such a small number of films like this? Are they more likely to be made in Canada or some other country?