

**Whale Rider**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSuBMJpPBBo>

Girls aren't allowed to be Whangara chiefs. But that's not acceptable to Paikea (Keisha Castle-Hughes), the 11-year-old powerhouse who believes her destiny is to ride whales and lead her tribe. Courage, leadership and defiance—they're all at play in this Kiwi drama from Niki Caro.

**The Iron Lady**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX398kx-OCM>

The film tells the story of Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female prime minister, brilliantly portrayed by Meryl Streep. She talks to the imagined presence of her recently deceased husband as she struggles to come to terms with his death while scenes from her past life, from girlhood to British prime minister, intervene.

**Queen of Katwe**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4l3-yub5A>

Disney has a way of making us feel like pawns in a game of Let's See How Hard We Can Make Them Cry. But that's not the case with Mira Nair's feel-good drama about a Uganda girl's path to chess champ, adapted from an ESPN sports essay. Moms and dads, you want your daughters to grow up to be chess champions.

**Mona Lisa Smile**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqexVyd\\_ybl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqexVyd_ybl)

Katherine Watson is an art history at an all-female college. Passionate and enthusiastic, she fights for gender equality and has a big impact on her students. Teaching the girls to question their traditional social roles, Katherine herself is inspired to take a fresh look at her own life.

**Erin Brockovich**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCQGydfK\\_hM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCQGydfK_hM)

A self-proclaimed feminist, Sally Potter gives Virginia Woolf a go with this gender-defying period piece that sees Tilda Swinton play both a man and a woman. She begins as Orlando, a nobleman, and jumps from one century to the next, all while shattering gender norms and cultural restraints.