



## Seattle International Film Festival

### Real life on the big screen

*Carrie Gorringer* reports that documentaries, docudramas and tales of bittersweet love have been the order of the day so far at SIFF.

On the documentary front, Greta Schiller's **Paris Was a Woman** is an exquisite account of the circle of talented expat women that formed around the household of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas in Paris, and their love and business affairs during the 1920s. It's the type of beautifully-constructed and researched documentary that could simply run for three hours. Some legitimate quibbles might be raised over the film's almost-exclusive emphasis upon lesbian artists (Lee Miller, one of the token heteros, is represented only in a single photograph), but this has to be one of the best documentary films of the year, as it concentrates its energies upon a subset of the distaff side of expat life, one that has been inexcusably neglected.



*the story itself  
is risqué and atypical,*