Hide and Seek

Clever and pointed, Su Friedrich’s hour-long feature uses an unusual format—half documentary, half fiction—to discuss and explode myths of lesbian childhood. Interviews with a number of smart, confident women put to shame platitudes about the lonely tomboy with an anguished crush on her girlfriend.

Hide and Seek kicks off with a dimples Scottish woman reminiscing about girlhood Sapphic experiments in which she and her friend would pretend to be Davy Jones and one of his nameless TV girlfriends going away for a dirty weekend. It then segues into footage of lab chimps playing with little girls, while other women respond thoughtfully, dismissively, or enthusiastically to questions about the so-called gay gene and the idea of homosexuals as the lab monkeys of social science.

The women are all interesting, and no two experiences are alike. If one had a crush on a teacher, another never noticed other girls until her late teens; some were tomboys, while others, such as a saucy older woman with a European accent, were dyed-in-the-wool girly girls with dreams of both being a princess and rescuing one. Some confess to erotic reso-


---

At 8:30 p.m. at the American Film Institute Theater. Also screens Wednesday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the American Film Institute Theater. Director Su Friedrich will be at the screenings.