



[The Kid with a Bike](#) at [Cornerhouse](#)

Reviewed by [Anne Ryan](#) March 2012

The films of Belgian brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne portray lonely vulnerable characters fighting to survive. Filmed in an almost documentary style, they portray the reality of the lives of the poor. In ***Rosetta***, the winner of the 1999 Palme d'Or, the child of an alcoholic lives in a trailer park and survives from pay day to pay day.

L'En

fant

tackled the story of a man who sells his newborn child to black marketeers. In their most recent film,

Lorna's Silence

they turned to a portrayal of Liege's criminal underworld.

The Kid With a Bike

returns to the industrial wastland of Seraing in Belgium and the world of the underclass.

Once again they observe a character drawing on their resources to survive poverty and neglect. Their hero is Cyril, played by a non-professional Thomas Doret, who is defined by his determination to escape from a care home and find his father. We first meet him biting the arm of a counsellor who is trying to keep him in the safety of the care in which he was placed after being abandoned by his father. Ostensibly a search for his bicycle which has been repeatedly stolen, it is really a search for his father and for love.

