

The film *Petits frères* could be used as an introduction to Film Studies (describing and analysing a film; social context, etc).

The following information about the film could be used as a backdrop to this introduction.

- *Petits frères* (1999), by Jacques Doillon tells the story of a group of young teenagers who live in the socially deprived suburbs of Paris and who are forced to grow up a bit too fast. We follow them through their daily adventures, discovering their relationships with each other, with older children and with the adult world.
- The film was shot in a documentary style and all the actors are non-professional. Jacques Doillon did a lot of preparatory work with the children, including lots of rehearsals, and he also got the children to speak in their own words as much as possible. So the film can be seen as a fiction firmly based in reality.
- Jacques Doillon has made many films with children and young people, usually employing this particular, personal style. For example, *Le jeune Werther* (1992) is also about a group of teenagers, but in a more affluent area of Paris.
- It is also possible to make a comparison with other French films set in the same kind of suburbs, like *Etats des lieux* (1995) by Jean-François Richet, *La Haine* (1995) by Matthieu Kassovitz, ou *L'Esquive* (2004) by Abdellatif Kechiche.