

*Landscape of the Body* by John Guare

**Margie** Can I talk with you? I don't want to go home yet, My mother's watching television. My father's kicking ass in the living room.

I went to the Waverly. My girlfriend held open the exit door. They had this movie there. A French picture. Reading the bottom lines in English while they're all above talking French. This picture was all about children. And a little French baby in the picture falls out of the nine-story window and lands nine stories on the ground and all the grownups scared shitless and the baby - God, I screamed - lands on a bush and jumps up and says Baby falls boom boom. The audience cheered. And later on this French growup says That's childhood. They're protected forever. In a magic circle. Bad things happen to grownups but children are magic. I think that's what it said. I had to read fast and I was crying. I don't ever want to grow up. I'm afraid of getting out of school. I hate what's happening to my body. It's like it's a sin. I keep going to confession and confessing that things are happening to my body and the priest says But that's growing up and I say I don't want to grow up. I mean, I want to grow up so I can leave home and get a job and make some money and get a record player and get married, but I want my body to stop doing what it's doing.