April 29, 2018 - The Danish Girl – the movie

This is a fictionalized biography of Gerda and Einar Wegener. The movie is set in Copenhagen 1926. Both Gerda and Einar are painters. Gerda is a portrait artist and Einar paints landscapes from memories of his childhood.

What begins as an experiment for Gerda to paint Einar as a woman sets in motion the transformation of Einar to Lili Elbe his female persona and one of the first people to attempt reassignment surgery. Lili seeks the help of many Doctors who all want to fix what is wrong with her even going to such extremes as radiation treatment. Lili recognises herself for who she is and demands to be recognized by those who care for her the most. Through Lili’s bravery she becomes a forerunner for the transgender rights movement.

Although I felt the movie did not adequately portray Lili’s soul it helped me to imagine the extent of pain, suffering and loneliness endured because of the lack of understanding and misunderstanding of the medical profession at that time. The movie did however help in my understanding of the immense struggles for transgendered people.

Linda Boldt