



Moore, Bening team up in lesbian family comedy

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BERLIN (Reuters) - Julianne Moore and Annette Bening team up in "The Kids Are All Right" in which they play a long-term lesbian couple whose lives are turned upside down when their two teenage children contact their biological father.

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The family comedy, screening at the Berlin film festival out of competition, had the audience laughing and applauding on Wednesday with a sharp script and increasingly complicated love triangle that forces the characters to rethink their lives.

Moore, 49, said she had wanted to work with director Lisa Cholodenko since her 1998 feature "High Art," which also involves a lesbian relationship.

Cholodenko took nearly five years to complete the script, although with gay marriage such a hot topic in the United States, her timing turned out to be good.

"I don't see myself as an overtly political person," the director told reporters in Berlin after a press screening.

"What I do feel good about is that there's so much activity in the States right now about gay marriage. I think the timing of this film is quite interesting (although) it's not calculated.

"I feel like, as an artist, I've contributed politically."

Jules (Moore) and Nic (Bening) are trying to be good parents. The wealthy couple are proud of their daughter Joni's academic achievements and struggle to keep an open mind when they think their son Laser may be gay.

When they inadvertently discover Laser has contacted his biological father, the women feel threatened, but gradually warm to the handsome, laid-back epitome of California cool variously referred to as "the donor" and "the spermster."

Things turn sour, however, when Jules starts to fall for Paul (Mark Ruffalo) and control freak Nic

begins to suspect.

The characters both despise and embody social mores of modern California, be it health drinks, organic food, composting or a liberated attitude to sex.

Moore said the movie appealed to her because it was an examination of family, not of the hot topic of gay marriage.

"For me the portrait is very much the portrait of a marriage and a family and about what it's like to be married for a long time and to have children.

"I don't think it matters what your sexuality is. For Annette and I, we've both been married, we both have children, we know what it's like to parent, we know what it's like to be in a long-term relationship."

She also welcomed the chance to play a character who was lost within the structure of a family.

"I feel like I've seen that a lot in life, but you don't get to see that very often in the movies.

Generally people have a very clear idea where they're going in the movies.

(Editing by Steve Addison)

