

# Stereotypes in Miss Congeniality

All the characters in the movie demonstrate at least two different gender stereotypes. As we see them change and go through different ways of being male or female, we begin to understand them as representing real people, who have many different aspects to their characters. By the end of the movie, the characters have been able to balance their different "stereotypes" or personalities and become "real" complex individuals.

## The Stereotypes

- Grace (3) tomboy  
butch cop  
beauty queen  
=> confident female FBI agent
- Eric (3) jock/ hustler  
macho  
romantic hero  
=> caring, sensitive friend
- Victor (3) bitter old gay man  
effeminate gay man  
proud mentor  
=> competent, knowledgeable personal manager
- Cheryl (2) ditsy, dumb blonde  
silent perpetrator no one would ever suspect  
=> confident successful risk-taker

## Final Viewing

Watch for different ways of being a man or woman:

### Focus on:

- Grace Eric  
Cathy McDonald  
Beth Victor  
Cheryl the guys on the Operation Thong team

## Ways of "being a gender" include

- ◇ appearance/ grooming
- ◇ body language
- ◇ ways of speaking
- ◇ habits/manners
- ◇ attitudes towards other people
- ◇ interests