

Culture in film is shown through the male gaze.

The film industry is extremely male-dominated. According to *Women Make Movies*, as of 2013, only 6 percent of filmmakers are female.

Filmmaking has been a boys' club ever since sound came in to play, said Anne Slatton, lecturer in the department of mass communication.

"A bunch of literal men's clubs opened up in Hollywood and women were not allowed," Slatton said, "and that was where you would make contacts and move up the ladder, so I would say the transition from silent to talkies pretty much annihilated women."

Hollywood is all about connections and a majority of the higher-ups are men. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, only 16 percent of directors, executive producers, producers, writers, cinematographers, and editors are women.

Lori Horvitz, director of the women, gender and sexuality studies program said that filmmaking is a boys' club from the very start of film school.

"If most of the people who have the money and are financing younger filmmakers are men," Horvitz said, "usually they're gonna find people they can connect to and have this brotherly or fatherly connection with."

This attitude makes it harder for women to get anywhere in the directing world. Both Slatton and Horvitz describe the female filmmakers' predicament as a catch-22 situation.

"You have to have a job to get a job," Slatton said, "but how are you gonna get a job? I think that's kind of the rut that women have fallen into."

Aside from the career-oriented issues that come from underrepresentation of females in filmmaking, cultural and societal problems arise as well, Horvitz said. People go to movies for entertainment and escape, but they escape to the sexist, white, heterosexual world that just propagates the status quo.

Austin Whyatt, freshman literature major from Grand Blanc, Michigan said when all the characters in almost every film are written by men, we are looking at those characters from a male point of view, and that is not how society should always see things.

It is hard for women to break in because they are not taken seriously. Horvitz said aspiring female directors are often encouraged not to try because they may fail.

Slatton said change is slow, but the field is starting to open up. Getting more women into executive jobs, having more

female producers, and taking chances on first-time female directors are the next steps.

“I’m not saying that men are horrible,” Horvitz said, “I think men are all part of the system, we’re all part of the system that kind of perpetuates this sexism and racism, and people just need to be more conscious of it. Just be conscious of it and talk about it and spread the ideas.”

Service Journalism

The F-Word Film Festival:

- Screening “Feminist: Stories From Women’s Liberation”
- 7 p.m. March 17
- In the Laurel Forum of Karpen Hall
- Filmmaker Jennifer Lee will give a talk prior to the screening of her film.
- The event is sponsored by the UNCA women, gender and sexuality studies program.
- The event is free and open to the public.

Source: The F-Word Film Festival flier

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Sources:

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Research:

http://www.wmm.com/resources/film_facts.shtml

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/women-still-underrepresented-film-tv-681485>

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