



# Women Directors and Producers in Hollywood

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## INTRODUCTION

The male-dominated film industry has not just negatively affected the lives of many female film directors, writers, producers, cinematographers, and actresses; it may have affected the lives of Hollywood's extensive audience. This is because the messages perpetuated on screen can influence the way a person's mind develops, especially the minds of teens (Guida, 2015). An action-based research study that investigates the lack of equal opportunity for female directors and producers could help uncover where the problems lie, and ways to fix them.



Figure 2. This graphic visualizes the industry disparity.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

My research investigates methods to decrease the power inequality in the film industry at the director and producer level. Given that directors and producers are some of the most powerful and important roles in the industry, increasing the number of women in those jobs will help decrease the sexism that takes place in the industry.

I conducted phenomenological based research, which consisted of interviews of women in the Hollywood film industry. The interviews were presented in a 10-minute documentary film to 24 people, who took a survey before and after they watched the film. The survey was used to collect data on the film effect on the viewer.

The data collection tools that I used were interviews, surveys and coding. The interviews were an appropriate method to understand lived experiences in a phenomenological research, because they allowed the participants to recall specific events that took place in their lives.

## DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

There were 24 individuals who took the survey before and after watching my documentary film on women in the film industry, and the findings are substantial.

Before watching the film, the median level of knowledge that people thought they had on women in the film industry was 3/10, but after watching the film, the median was 5/10. Before watching the film, the median number of people wanted to know more about women in the film industry was 3/10, but after the median amount was a 8/10.

Before watching the film, 62.5% of people thought that women faced unequal opportunity in the film industry at director and producer roles, but after the film, 91.7% of people thought that. Before watching the film, 29.2% of people knew the percentage of women producers on the top 250 grossing films, but afterward, 87.5% did. Before watching the film, 16.7% of people knew the percentage of women who directed a top 250 grossing film, but afterward, 75% knew. Before watching the film, only 8.3% percent of people knew what an inclusion rider was, but afterward, 79.2% did.

The women directors and producers who were interviewed all believed that the #MeToo movement, #TimesUp movement, and inclusion riders are all beneficial methods for creating more women directors and producers.

## DATA AND FINDINGS

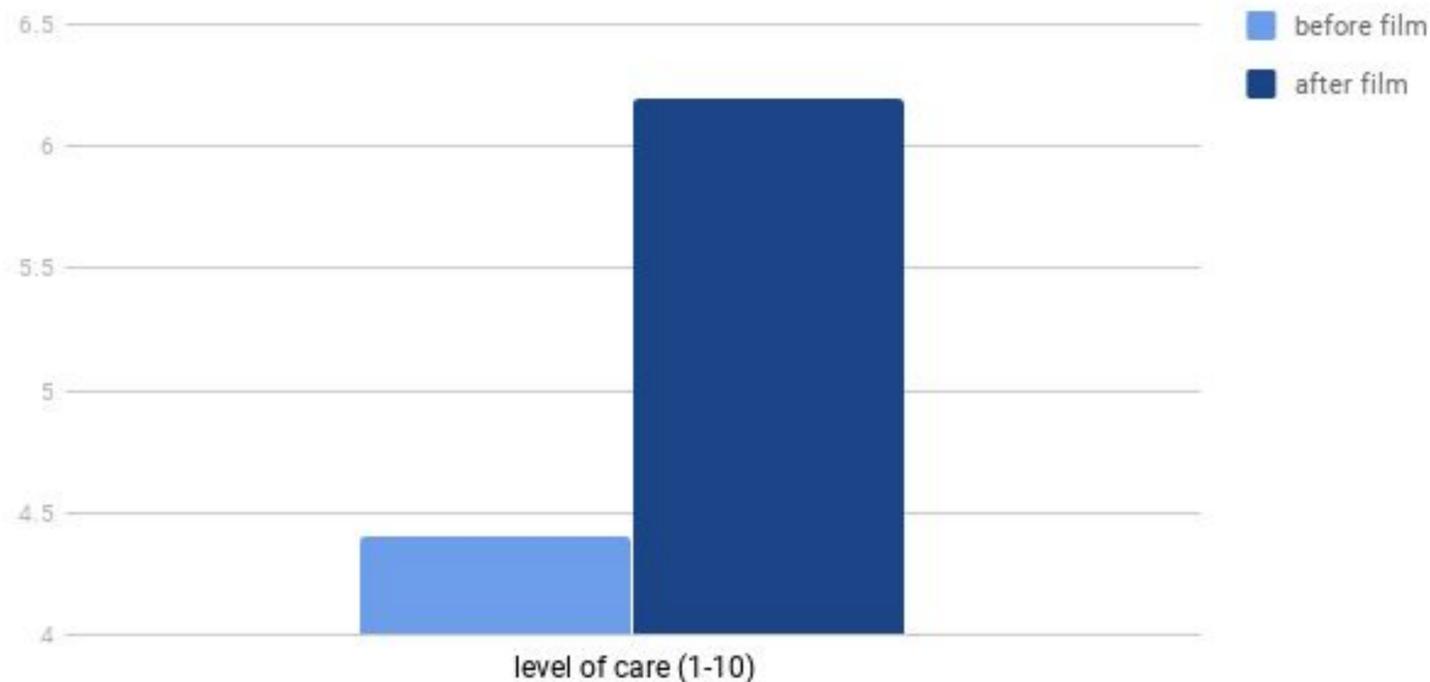


Figure 1. This is a graph of the change in level of care that the viewer had before vs. after watching the documentary on women in film.

## CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS, AND NEXT STEPS

My research suggests that women in the film industry think that current methods--such as #MeToo, #TimesUp, and inclusion rider--create a more equal playing field for women producers and directors in Hollywood.

My research also suggests that a documentary film that gives voice to women filmmakers is a beneficial method for learning about women in the film industry and the level of concern an individual has for women in the film industry.

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Although this research showed clear conclusions, I think another study should be completed on a larger scale. Only 4 female filmmakers were interviewed in my phenomenological study, and only 24 people participated in the film survey study. If this research were to be administered again, it should be done a much larger scale. This means, interviewing thousands of female filmmakers, interviewing male filmmakers on their view of the situation, and screening a documentary to thousands of people all over the US. This would allow the research to be a more accurate portrayal of both the industry, and the documentary's effect on the viewer.