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THE (WO)MEN IN CHARGE OF FILM

Posted on **November 21, 2012** (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/2012/11/21/the-women-in-charge-of-film/>) by **Laura** (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/author/c-and-a/>)

In the film *The Peacemaker* Nicole Kidman's character responds curtly to a Russian military man when asked to speak to the man in charge that "I am the man in charge". With two film festivals centred women's role in the film industry happening in the space of two weeks, it seems apt to remind you female indie hopefuls that though the film industry can often seem like a man's world, there are growing opportunities and chances to illustrate and shout out your often ignored perspective on things.

Don't feel that women are relevant or prevalent in film? Think again. There may be less of them but as even this brief slideshow demonstrates, they are still proving themselves to be the movers and shakers in an industry that can no longer afford to ignore them.



Director - Lone Scherfig

Best known for her 2009 film *An Education*, the Danish director (who is part of the Dogme 95 movement founded by Lars von Trier) first attracted attention in the U.S. with her 2002 film *Italian for Beginners*. Metacritic cited her average box office gross as \$6.5 million, no doubt partly due to *An Education* which earned her a nomination for Best Picture at the 2010's Oscars.

Femme Festivals

Underwire Festival (<http://www.underwirefestival.com/>) started this week at the **Ritzy cinema** ([http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Ritzy Picturehouse/](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Ritzy%20Picturehouse/)) in Brixton. It was launched by Gabriella Apicella and Gemma Mitchell in 2010 with the belief that women working in the UK film industry needed more encouragement and a bigger platform for their work. The festival focuses on shorts by or largely featuring women.

There's also some great thought and creativity shown in the panel sessions and events, from the blunt but necessary debate "**Why Can't Women Make Feature Films?**" (http://www.underwirefestival.com/ai1ec_event/why-cant-women-make-feature-films/?instance_id=121) to the jovially titled "**Musical Chairs Networking Event**" (http://www.underwirefestival.com/ai1ec_event/musical-chairs-networking-drinks/?instance_id=132). Perhaps most excitingly from this tender blogger's perspective is this year's collaboration with Sight and Sound to create a **Film Journalist competition** for budding female Mark Kermodes (Marketta Kermode?). The reveal of the competition is happening **tonight at 6:30pm** at The Ritzy so get yourself down there as well as for the rest of the festival, which concludes this Saturday with, naturally, a "celebration boogie".

The other massive festival in response to the under-representation of women in film coming up soon is **The London Feminist Film Festival** (<http://londonfeministfilmfestival.com/>). LFFF (as it is affectionately known) kicks off on 29th November with the UK Premiere of **Lesbiana - A Parallel Revolution** (<http://londonfeministfilmfestival.com/programme/lesbiana-a-parallel-revolution/>), an exploration of the key elements that came together to create the lesbian movement and lesbian culture as it is known today.

Whilst many of the films shown at LFFF concern themselves with classic films that illustrate key points in women in the film industry's history, for example the controversial **A Question of Silence** (<http://londonfeministfilmfestival.com/programme/a-question-of-silence/>), where a group of women who have never met spontaneously murder a male shopkeeper, there is something still amazingly fresh and contemporary about the themes running through all of the festival's output that make them startlingly relevant today. But don't just take our word for it - go to the **Hackney Picturehouse** ([http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Hackney Picturehouse/Whats On/](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Hackney%20Picturehouse/Whats%20On/)) between 29th November and 2nd December and find out for yourself!

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HOT OFF THE PRESS

Coming Up: Cinethesia, Hackney Picturehouse, 11th February (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/2015/02/09/coming-soon-cinethesia-hackney-picturehouse-11th-february/>)

Interview: London Producers The Flight Nominated For Game Award 2014 (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/2014/12/05/interview-london-producers-the-flight/>)

Greenhorn Film Festival: Official Selection (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/2014/11/19/greenhorn-film-festival-official-selection/>)

Gig review: Tom Bright, The Finsbury, 11/11/2014 (<http://www.cultureandanarchy.com/2014/11/12/gig-review-tom-bright-the-finsbury-11112014/>)

PARTY TIME



We've only touched the very tip of the iceberg with women's contribution to film – who is your favourite female in the film industry? Or do you feel it's true that "Women Can't Make Feature Films"? **Let us know your thoughts in the comment box below!**

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