



The 'August Blues' are a real thing



The Angels have landed: Victoria's Secret street...



9 daily habits of stylish women



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# 5 GIRL-POWER FILMS TO WATCH RIGHT NOW

*If 'Wonder Woman' left you wanting more...*



Rex Features



By Yasmin Omar 25 August 2017



Despite the Academy's recent efforts to diversify its largely homogenous membership, women remain severely underrepresented in cinema. In 2016's highest-grossing films – only half of which passed the sexism-measuring Bechdel test – they comprised a meagre 29 per cent of protagonists. Given that women account for 52 per cent of moviegoers, this simply is not good enough. But there is hope. This year, the smash hit *Wonder Woman* became the most profitable female-directed film of all time; Sofia Coppola's Best Director win at Cannes disrupted 56 years of male dominance; and actresses' co-stars are accepting lower salaries to fight the **gender pay gap**. To quote *Cate*

**Blanchett:** "Films with women at the centre are not niche experiences. Audiences want to see them and, in fact, they earn money." As London's Feminist Film Festival draws to a close, we round up five of our favourite girl-power movies.

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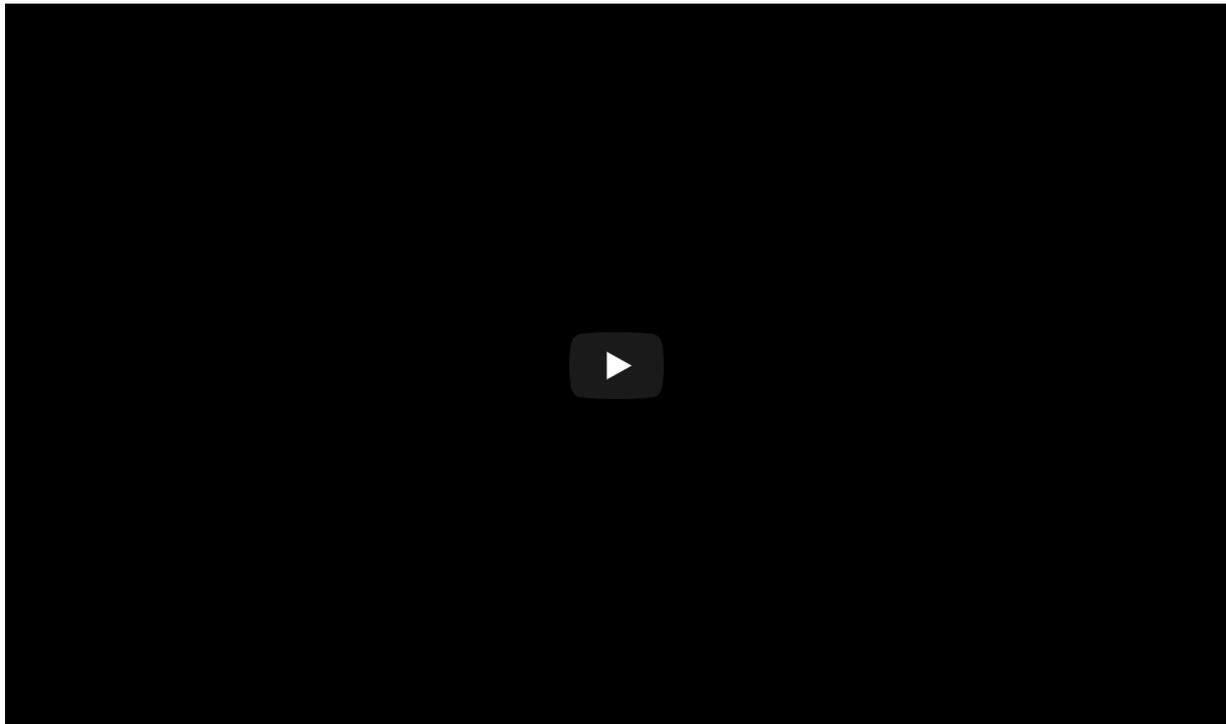
## 1. *Rough Night* (2017)

Carefree boozing takes a sinister turn in *Rough Night*, wherein Jess (Scarlett Johansson's) hen party is derailed after she and her girlfriends accidentally kill a stripper. Featuring an impressive all-female ensemble peopled with *Broad City* and *Saturday Night Live* alumni, the film is subversive in that, unlike many wedding-based comedies (*27 Dresses*, *My Best Friend's Wedding*, *Leap Year*...), it forgoes a romance plot in favour of typically male-connoted pastimes such as foul-mouthed banter and mile-a-minute slapstick. Another wonderfully agenda-resetting characteristic of this movie is that it is the *man* who is objectified, rebalancing the bias illustrating that women on screen are statistically more likely to be partially naked than their male counterparts (26.2 and 9.4 per cent respectively).

### Watch for...

A woman's alternative to *The Hangover*.

*'Rough Night'* is in cinemas now.

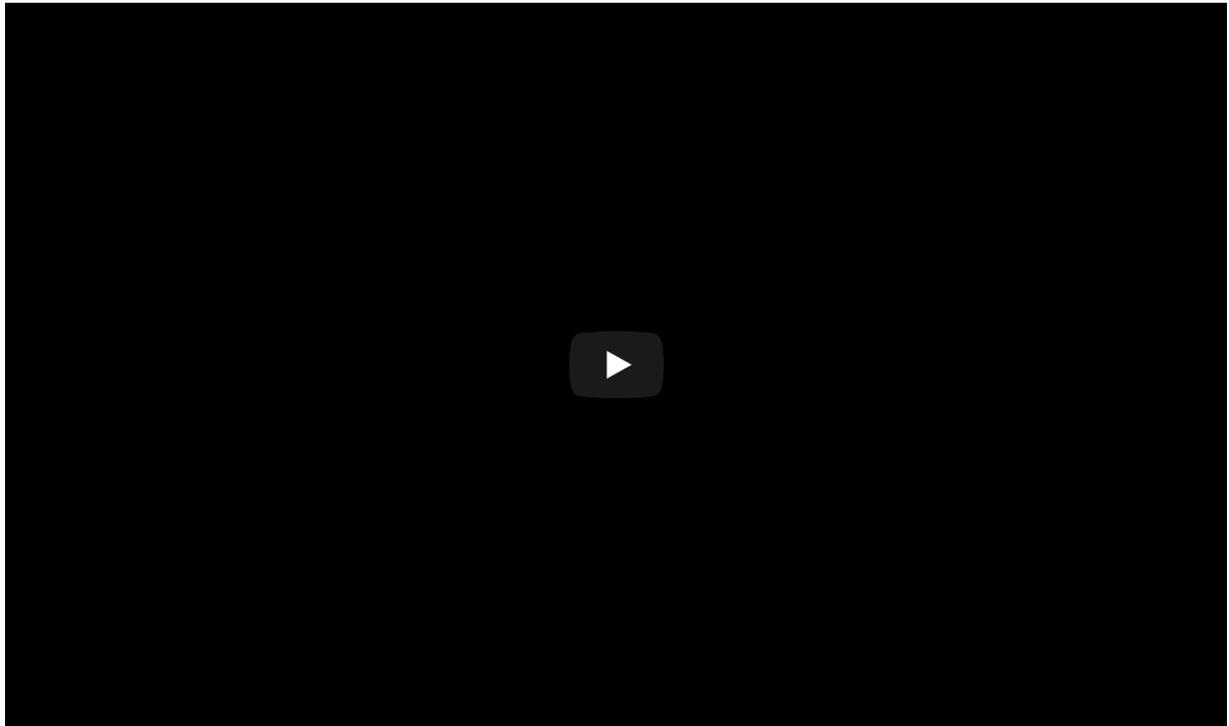


## 2. *Bridesmaids* (2011)

Would a list like this really be complete without *Bridesmaids*? The record-breaking romp earned critical acclaim (two Oscar nominations – almost unheard-of for a comedy) and commercial success (with a stint as the number-one-grossing female-driven comedy of all time) thanks to its overturning of the prevailing, specious narrative screaming that women aren't funny. With laugh-out-loud displays of pettiness, pride and passive-aggression, the movie incisively examines the delicate dynamics of a female friendship group, infusing the predominantly male-stoner buddy movie with a distinctly feminine flavour. *Bridesmaids* is a meaningful platonic love story between women, underpinned by a strong comic vein.

### Watch for...

Quotable sound bites and gif-able clips.

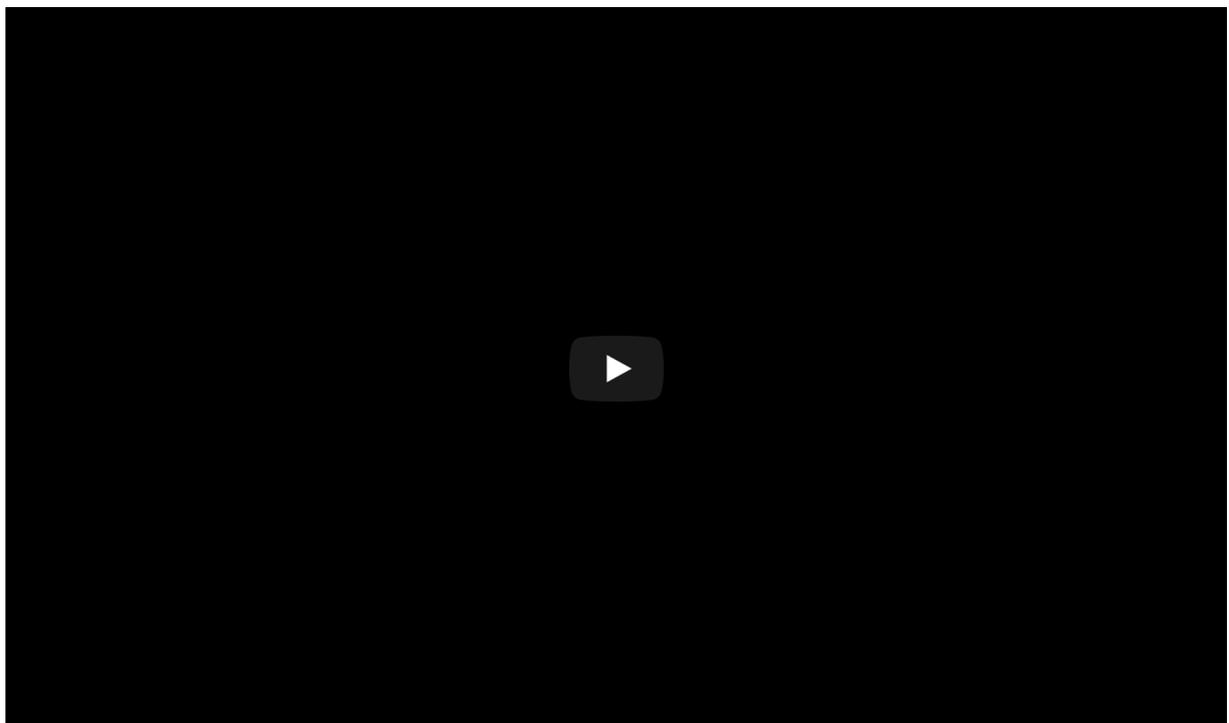


### 3. Whip It (2009)

A heartwarming coming-of-age tale of female friendship, *Whip It* marks Drew Barrymore's first foray into directing. The indie cool girl Ellen Page plays Bliss, a disaffected teenager stifled by the ennui of small-town life in Texas until she enrolls in a roller-derby team. Alongside a boisterous sisterhood of single mothers (Kristen Wiig) and squad leaders (Juliette Lewis), Bliss smashes stereotypes – and her opponents – with ever-increasing confidence. Her newfound pastime, and burgeoning relationships with her fellow athletes, helps her develop into a self-assured woman both on and off the track.

### Watch for...

When you've binged *GLOW* too quickly and are in desperate need of more Lycra and miniskirts.



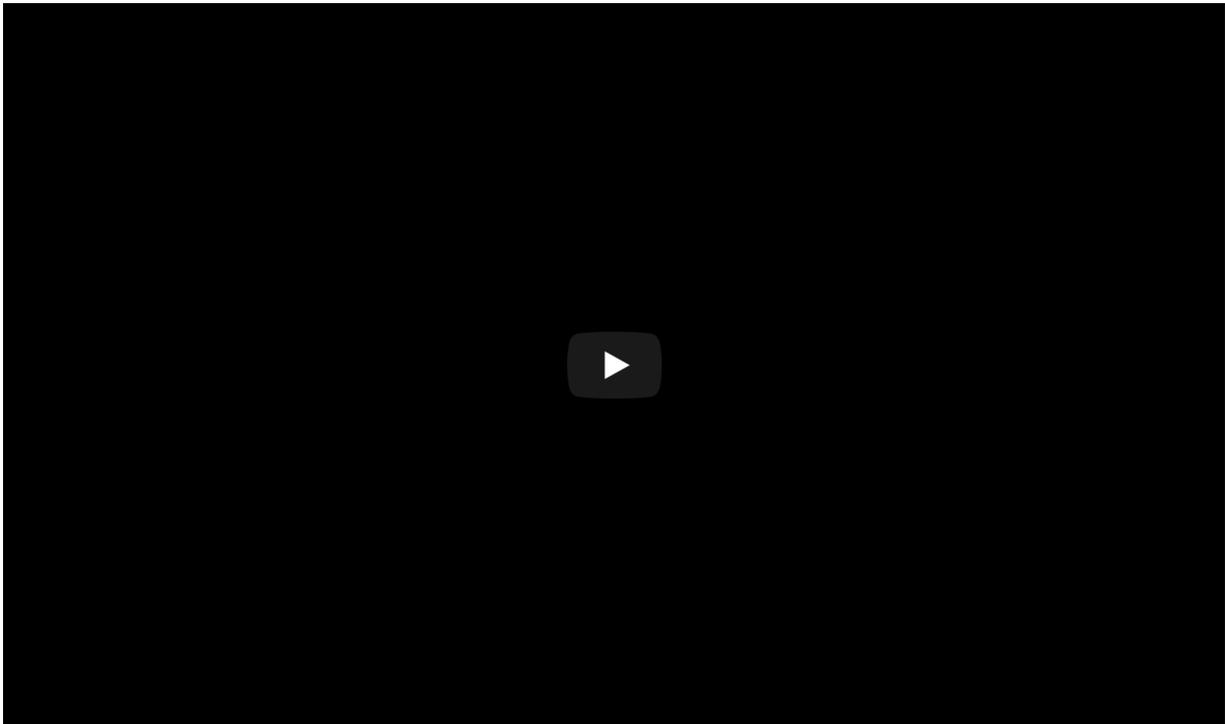
#### 4. Girls Trip (2017)

This rollicking new addition to the girls-gone-wild genre has, much to the delight of women everywhere, surpassed expectations by raking in more than \$100 million (about £80 million) at the US box office, while also becoming the first movie with African-American leads to pull such figures. When the Flossy Posse – a quartet of long-lost friends comprising Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith and Tiffany Haddish – descend upon a music festival in New Orleans, a rowdy reunion weekend of debauchery ensues. Expect start-to-finish hilarity, of both a sexual and scatological nature, spliced with endearing moments as the girls come to terms with personal and professional struggles – always guided by each other's support.

##### Watch for...

An unforgettable scene starring a grapefruit and a banana...

*'Girls Trip' is in cinemas now.*



#### 5. Step (2017)

Winner of Sundance's Special Jury Prize, this uplifting documentary follows the lives of a high-school step-dance team, all struggling to fit this extra-curricular commitment with the demands of their academic schedules, as they vie to become the first ones in their families to attend university. Step provides these inspiring women with a vessel through which they can release pent-up tensions and free themselves from the everyday pressures of inner-city Baltimore. Amid unapologetically loud bouts of raucous clapping, stomping and shouting, the team lift each other up (in all senses of the word), showing themselves as role models for young girls everywhere.

##### Watch for...

A feel-good jolt of musical magic as you await the release of *Pitch Perfect 3*.

*'Step' is in cinemas now.*

