

Women and the Big Picture: Behind-the-Scenes Employment on the Top 700 Films of 2014

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Women and the Big Picture is the first study to track women's behind-the-scenes employment on the top 700 theatrically released films (foreign films omitted) in a single year. This study was sponsored by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, San Diego State University, <http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu>, lauzen@mail.sdsu.edu.

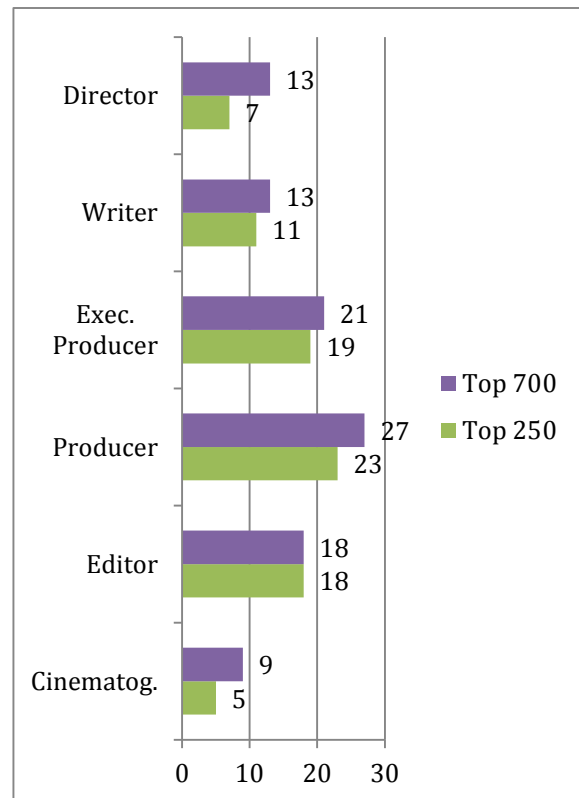
Women comprised 20% of those working in key behind-the-scenes roles on the top 700 theatrically released films in 2014. This figure is slightly higher than the 17% working on the top 250 films.

Last year, women accounted for 13% of directors on the top 700 films, almost twice the percentage working on the top 250 films.

Films with women directors employed substantially higher percentages of women in other key behind-the-scenes roles than films with exclusively male directors. For example, on films with female directors, women comprised 52% of writers. In contrast, on films with exclusively male directors, women accounted for just 8% of writers.

The findings in this report are divided into three major sections. The first section reports the percentages of women working as directors, writers, executive producers, producers, editors, and cinematographers on the top 700 domestic grossing films (foreign films omitted). The second section considers the relationships between the gender of directors and others in important behind-the-scenes roles. The third section reports the relationships between the gender of producers/executive producers and those working in key behind-the-scenes roles.

Figure 1.
Comparison of Behind-the-Scenes Employment of Women on Top 250 and Top 700 Films



Employment Figures/All Films

- This study analyzed the behind-the-scenes employment of over 5,800 individuals working on the films considered.
- Women comprised 20% of all directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors, and cinematographers working on theatrically released films in 2014.
- Overall, women fared best as producers (27%), followed by executive producers (21%), editors (18%), directors (13%), writers (13%), and cinematographers (9%) (see Figure 1).
- Women comprised 13% of directors working on the films considered, compared with 7% on the top 250 films. 85% of the films had no female directors (see Figure 2).
- Women accounted for 13% of writers working on the films considered, compared with 11% on the top 250 films. 80% of the films had no female writers.
- Women comprised 21% of executive producers working on the films considered, compared with 19% on the top 250 films. 57% of the films had no female executive producers.
- Women accounted for 27% of producers working on the films considered, compared with 23% on the top 250 films. 33% of the films had no female producers.
- Women comprised 18% of editors working on the films considered, compared with 18% on the top 250

films. 78% of the films had no female editors.

- Women accounted for 9% of cinematographers working on the films considered, compared with 5% on the top 250 films. 92% of the films had no female cinematographers.

Figure 2.

Percentages of Films with No Women in Roles Considered

For all 2014 films . . .

85% had no female directors

80% had no female writers

57% had no female executive producers

33% had no female producers

78% had no female editors

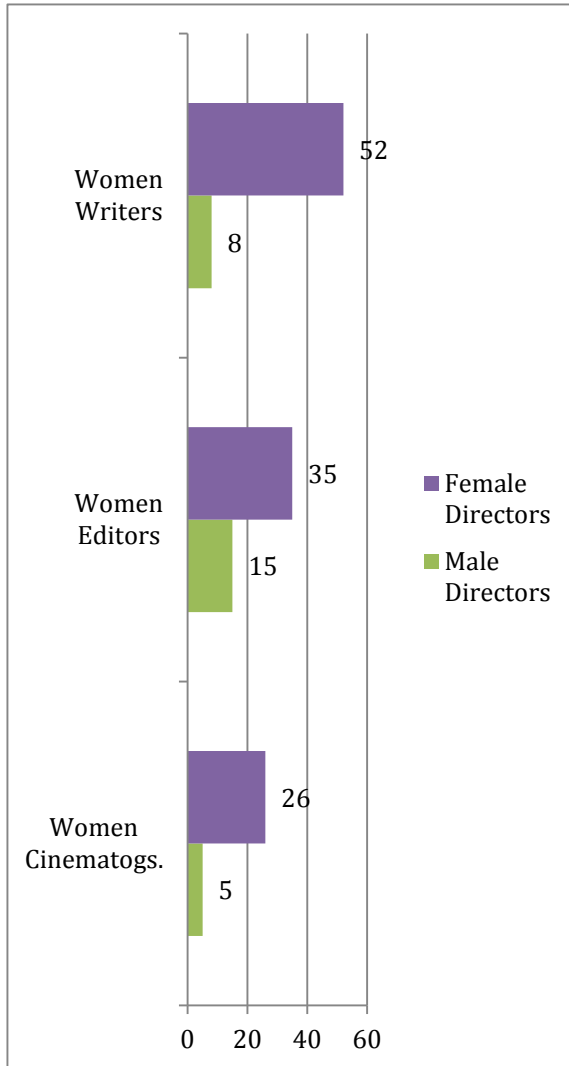
92% had no female cinematographers

Employment Figures/Films with Female Directors vs. Male Directors

- On films with female directors, women comprised 52% of writers. On films with exclusively male directors, women accounted for just 8% of writers (see Figure 3).
- On films with female directors, women comprised 35% of editors. On films with exclusively male directors, women accounted for 15% of editors.
- On films with female directors, women comprised 26% of cinematographers. On films with exclusively male

directors, women accounted for 5% of cinematographers.

*Figure 3.
Comparison of Behind-the-Scenes
Employment of Women in Films with
Female versus Male Directors*



Employment Figures/Films with At Least One-Third Female Producers/Executive Producers vs. Films with Less than One-Third Female Producers/Executive Producers

- This section compares women’s employment on films with one-third or more female producers/executive producers with films on which women comprise less than one-third of producers/executive producers.

- On films with at least one-third female producers/executive producers, women comprised 20% of directors. On films with less than one-third female producers/executive producers, women accounted for 7% of directors (see Figure 4).

- On films with at least one-third female producers/executive producers, women comprised 21% of writers. On films with less than one-third female producers/executive producers, women accounted for 8% of writers.

- On films with at least one-third female producers/executive producers, women comprised 23% of editors. On films with less than one-third producers/executive producers, women accounted for 13% of editors.

•On films with at least one-third female producers/executive producers, women comprised 13% of cinematographers. On films with less than one-third female producers/executive producers, women accounted for 5% of cinematographers.

*Figure 4.
Comparison of Behind-the-Scenes
Employment of Women in Films with At
Least One-Third Female
Producers/Executive Producers vs.
Films with Less than One-Third Female
Producers/Executive Producers*

