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# The Feminist Hollywood

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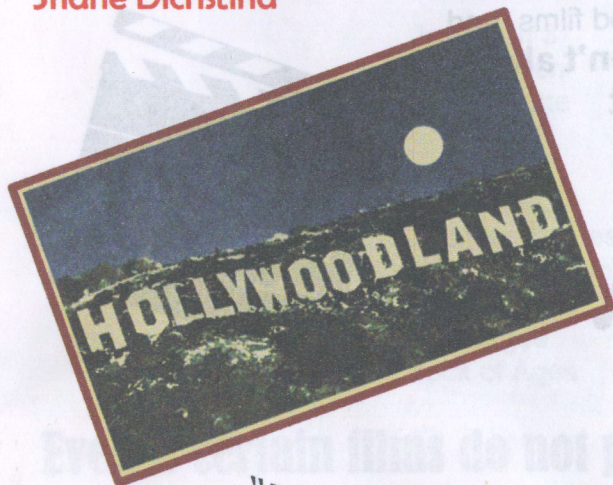
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# The Feminist Hollywood

Stephanie Fasi  
Guillaume Beaudoin  
Shane Dicristina



"To all the  
girls that  
think your  
fat because  
your not a  
size zero.  
You're the  
beautiful  
ones.

It's society  
who's ugly."

-Marilyn  
Monroe

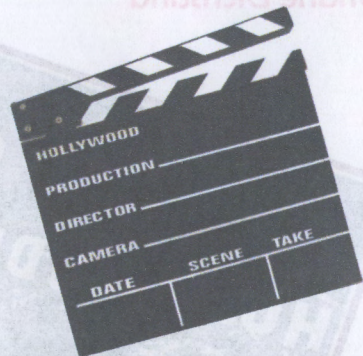




# The Movies!

Hollywood films constantly get a bad wrap about their anti-feminist, and pro patriarchal approach at displaying the real world, however...this Zine is here to prove that Hollywood films, and their characters, **aren't always all that bad!**

## Test It!



### The Bechdel Test

*Did you know that there is a test that basically identifies films that display gender biases? It's called the Bechdel Test....*

#### The Rules:

- 1. It has to have at least two [named] women in it**
- 2. Who talk to each other**
- 3. About something besides a man**

Surprisingly... many films do not pass the Bechdel test. But we're not here to point out the negative, instead the fact that there **are** films that **do** pass this test. We merely wanted to point out this issue.....so just ask yourself? Does the feminist film your watching pass the Bechdel test?

## Some films that do pass....

Iron Man 3  
Safe Haven  
Bachelorette  
Argo  
Brave  
Call Girl  
The Hunger Games  
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo  
Pitch Perfect  
Savages  
Rock of Ages

**Even if certain films do not pass the Bechdel test, it does NOT mean that they cannot display feminist values and represent feminist ideals.**

**Polysemy:** is the capacity for a sign (e.g., a word, phrase, object.) or signs to have multiple related meanings

In films, we have to view women and storylines through the eyes of a polysemy view. Instead of taking everything so literal, we must see the hidden meanings.

## Feminist Movies We LOVE!



# The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

From this movie I see a clear representation that gender is irrelevant. Individuals behave the way they do because of individual characters and personal histories. In Larsson's world, it's the psychopaths who split the world into different gender lines, and Lisbeth Salander is the perfect example of this.



# Kill Bill

Although Kill Bill is full of action and excitement, (*BLEEP*) embodies that of a true feminist. Bill representing that of patriarchy, and all of it's evils.



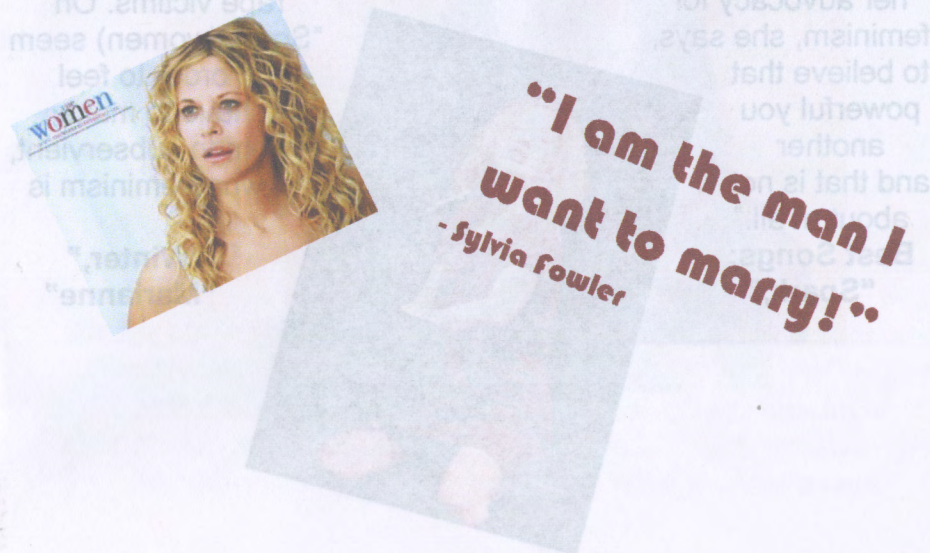
# The Hunger Games

A female who changes the totalitarian and oppressed world? This is something that The Hunger Games Katniss Everdeen dares to triumph. Strong in body and mind, Katniss symbolizes the limitless abilities of a woman.



# The Women

With an entire female cast, we learn a couple things about men, women in the workforce, and love. Although the movie is based off a marriage that ends due to an affair, it has some very important lessons that many feminist would agree with.... For instance the ongoing implication that a man and marriage is not what **defines a women.**





# FEMINIST MUSICIANS

We all know that the music industry, like all industries, is dominated by patriarchal forces. Fortunately, though, there are many singers that challenge these forces and carve their own

paths as feminist artists. Here are **three** of them.

## TORI AMOS

Renowned singer-songwriter Tori Amos has been active in the music industry for over two decades now. Known for her fervent fanbase and her energetic, intense performances, Amos interweaves her own personal experiences and abstract stories into strangely wonderful songs and albums. She identifies the theme of her second album, *Under the Pink*, as taking on the patriarchy, and many of her songs explore gender relations and injustices against (and between) women. She also cofounded RAINN, the Rape and Incest National Network, and is known for her advocacy for feminism, she says, to believe that powerful you another and that is not about at all."

**Best Songs:**  
"Spark,"



rape victims. On "Some (women) seem in order to feel have to make woman subservient, what feminism is

**"Winter,"**  
**"Marianne"**

## FIONA APPLE

The brilliant Fiona Apple has released four critically acclaimed albums in her 16-year career, her first at the young age of 19. Writing intensely personal, raw, emotionally gripping songs, Apple is one of the most emotionally intense and passionate performers to ever grace the stage. In addition to writing angry, empowering songs, Apple identifies positively with feminism, saying, "Feminism to me just means celebration and appreciation of femininity. Femininity is anything and everything I do, even if I grow a beard. I am a girl, so that is feminine."

**Best Songs:** "Never Is a Promise," "Left Alone," "I Know"





## REGINA SPEKTOR

The Russian-born Regina Spektor got her start in New York City's "anti-folk" scene in the early 2000s. Since then, she has had an expansive career, boasting six studio albums, and dozens of live-only songs. Her unique songs are not autobiographical. They are written from many different perspectives, and are rarely romance-based. Spektor has often expressed her frustration with the way people think about her, and what is expected of her as a female musician. She has said, "People expect accessible one-size-fits-all love songs (from women). What happens is, if you're not (doing that) they don't know what to do with you... That's why I end up having the word 'quirky' in every fucking article about me."

**Best Songs:** "Apres Moi," "Pavlov's Daughter,"  
"Carbon Monoxide"



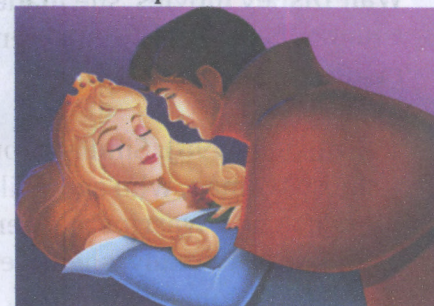
## *The evolution of Disney's princesses: a road to emancipation.*

Since we are children, everybody wants to live a Walt Disney adventure. Who has never dreamt to be a hero, or a princess? It is a dream of every young girl to become a princess, particularly after watching a Disney movie. Who don't know Cinderella or Pocahontas? But how are the princesses depicted in Disney movies? How do their stories relate to our patriarchal society? And how have they evolved since 1937 to 2012?

**"Snow White and the seven dwarves" (1937):** Snow White is a white beautiful girl. During the entire movie, she did nothing, except cooking, cleaning a room, and eating a poisonous apple putting her in an eternal sleep. And without any surprise, the only way to wake up her is a kiss by a beautiful white prince

**"Cinderella" (1950):** The story line is comparable: a white beautiful girl, who is used to clean the house, fell in love with a prince. As Snow White, she is a poor girl (an orphan) but fall in love with a prince

**"The Sleeping Beauty" (1959):** Once again, a beautiful white girl who did nothing of her day and fell asleep because of ... a thimble. The only way to wake her up is to be kissed by a brave white prince. She really is a princess this time



These movies painted beautiful white princesses who needed a white prince to save them and changed their life. Without them, they were just housewives. The time period is from 1937 to 1959. It's not surprising. Indeed, only the first wave feminist movement was developed, and his influence was more on rights of vote of women than way of life. The patriarchal society was highly identified in the Walt Disney movies. Women needed men in their life, otherwise they can't be happy. What a sexist image.



**"The Little Mermaid"** (1989): a red hair white mermaid princess who fell in love with a white guy, but she took independent decisions, and follows her heart. At the end, even her father, the king, accept her decision to become a woman and not a mermaid anymore. But her decisions were bad, which led her into problems.



**"Aladdin"** (1992): Jasmine was a courageous princess, who confronted her father and refused to marry her contenders. She even flew from her castle. However, her decisions led her also in troubles, and Aladdin, the hero, saved her. We can notice for the first time the princess is not white, but from an oriental country.

**"The beauty and the beast"** (1991): A former script of princess, but with ameliorations. The princess, Aurora, is a beautiful white girl. But she made a courageous choice to save her father risking her life, and changed the beast into a prince.

**Pocahontas** (1995): daughter of a clan's chief. She also refused to marry her contenders, followed her heart, and for the first time in Walt Disney movies, she made the right decisions and saved her country! She wasn't dependent to any male. She was the heroine.



**Mulan** (1998): Similar story. A Chinese woman, who acted like a boy. Want to be a warrior and serve her country. And finally, she saved it and become a princess.

Here we go! Women are not passive anymore. Men bring problems, and the princesses solve them! From 1989 to 2001, Walt Disney passed from white and emancipated princesses to oriental, strong and heroic ones. The Second wave feminist movement has an impact on pour patriarchal society. And we can see it in Walt Disney movies. Let the movement continue!

**"Princess and the Frog"** (2008): the first movie with a black princess in the USA! She lived an amazing adventure as a frog and a princess.. Walt Disney did a lot of effort to avoid any racial misinterpretation. Maddy, to close to "Mammy" (which is an insult), was changed to Tiana to satisfy the black population.



**"Tangled Ever After"** (2012): Rapunzel was a white princess, but independent; and didn't wait for a prince to save her. On the contrary, she helped a felon to escape from her donjon and fell in love with him.

Walt Disney tries to be more diverse about the ethnicity. Finish with only white princesses. . Moreover they change the classic choice of tales: it's not only a princess saved by a prince waiting in an eternal sleep; but a princess who save a country or live an amazing adventure. Now women are leaders. Now they are strong and can defend themselves. No need for a man, women can do it better.



Walt Disney is an enormous company with one of the strongest socialization impacts of the world. From 1937 to 1960, the society was strongly patriarchal. The feminist movement had just started. It wasn't surprising to see the princesses were white, beautiful, passive, needing a prince to live. But with time, the feminist movement got some influence, and Disney movies changed slowly. The princesses came from oriental countries, and became emancipated, active and the real heroes of the tales. Even a black princess was created by Walt Disney. It's very important for the new generation to see multiethnic princesses who are real heroes. Walt Disney changes are a real hope for feminist movement. It shows that even big patriarchal company can change and become a force for the feminist movement by indirect socialization. We hope the changes will continue.



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