



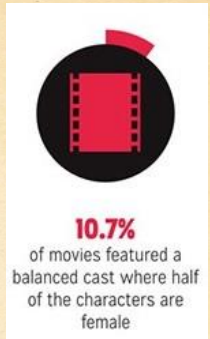
I sit down with UCF film student Hannah Mitchel to discuss equal representation in the film industry.

RG: I appreciate you taking the time to meet with me. Can you tell me a bit about how you became interested in film and your background in cinema?

HM: Ok so I'm not just making this up because we are talking about females in film. For the longest time when I was younger I had no idea what I wanted to do. It's kind of interesting that you ask me this because I always thought about film, but I was in denial that it was a realistic option for me. I thought it was impossible to do something in film because you had to be related to someone, or you had to be a man. Most of the people who are behind the scenes are, white men. It wasn't until halfway through college, when I kept watching shows, that I said "Fuck it!" I didn't want to do anything else.

RG: Who are some of your personal idols in the industry?

HM: This is kind of rough, I didn't really think of anyone. We need to be showcased more. Catherine Bigelow was the first



woman director to win an Oscar, yet all of her films are based off white men in the military, very conservative topic.

RG: What do you think is getting in the way of women directing?

HM: Men. (Both laugh) I'm dead serious! I've gotten to taste a little bit of it at school. There are great people in our program, but are there still conservative mindsets? Yeah. Maybe they don't realize that their mindset is biased. I remember being at a party, after I was asked by a classmate to be a Producer on a show, and someone came up to me and mentioned that he heard about me being brought on. He said that he and my classmate were in a women in film class and learned the importance of getting female crew members and filmmakers involved, "so that's probably why he asked you." It was a shame because you know he meant well and was trying to show how he had been taught to be good to women. So I'm thinking, well did I only get asked to do this because I have a vagina? That's Frustrating. Things are getting better, I work with some great male colleagues that couldn't give two fucks about someone's gender. This sounds bad but I think once the older white men die out, this will go away because it is already changing. (Both laugh)



RG: Why is the film business allowed – and why does it feel it's OK – to openly treat women so differently?

HM: Look at who runs the industry, old white men! It all leads back to old white men. (Laughs) The people who carry all the money, as well, are old white men. When the industry is infiltrated with more women taking on business roles, then we will see a huge difference.

RG: Apart from financing issues, they often argue that women lack the confidence to come out when it comes to filmmaking. Do you think this is a real factor?

HM: Yes. Yeah, I think it is intimidating as hell. I was intimidated going to UCF film meet and greets, there are some females, but a lot of men. Just think about back in the day when everyone a woman had to go through was a man. It is intimidating.

RG: What do you think is the first step in turning round this juggernaut of a problem?

HM: Stand your ground. Don't let people manipulate you. Confidence is key, that's why people say you are a bitch. If that's what it takes. I don't care.

RG: Do you have any hope that Hollywood will start making the same efforts?

HM: It's happening, especially with shows. Shonda Rhimes? That's huge. TV right now, YouTube helps a lot. It's coming. Out of the whole entertainment industry I think film is the last one because there is so much money, and it's all run by old white men. The academy is mostly run by white men over sixty. That says a lot.

RG: I would think that to be a filmmaker you need to have a good story to tell. Are there any special skills you would need to succeed in filmmaking? Any that would put women at a disadvantage?

HM: Anyone can be a storyteller. The only problem is the control of money. Many men say that the Hurt Locker is their favorite movie and they don't even know that Kathryn Bigelow directed it.

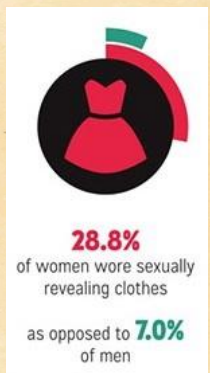
RG: Can you tell me a little bit about Females in film UCF and why it's important to you?

HM: It is an unofficial group. Morgan Armstrong actually started a Facebook group, she made me one of the admin on there. It was an open place for our female, girlfriends, in UCF film to post positive articles about new progressive movements or anything involving women in film. We post awesome things. Like my friend Katherine when she was on set. She put on a clip of this young girl producing and directing a scene, who was intimidated to do it until people finally told her "why not, just do it." It's a place to post positive things about women in film. So I thought we should post more about what women at UCF are currently directing and producing to get more representation. We have a lot of girls in our program that kick ass! I started asking my girlfriends for BTS (behind the scenes) pictures on sets, working on lighting, or directing. We want people to know that women are here, and they are trying to make films. Our mission statement is, "You can't be what you can't see."



RG: Finally what are your 3 pieces of advice to (women) filmmakers?

HM: One, just do it! Two, stand your fucking ground! You have to be extra aware of who is fucking you over unfortunately. Three, try to work with more women. I used to only get along with boys, we women are taught to just hate each other. I finally started working with more females and it was the best working set I have worked on. I didn't have to deal with any man's fragile ego! It was amazing, one of the best looking shoots I've had. Why didn't I do this earlier? (Both laugh) We women should collaborate, and not compete. **RG**





ROLANDO GIL

A PASSION FOR TELLING
EVERYONE'S STORIES

BORN READY FOR THE OSCARS!



Warrior Mom. HOOAH!



No such thing as a "Male" Feminist.



Ladies you can do it! I'll help!

Someone likes Barbara Gordon a little
too much! Gender Fluid Villain.



Gender Fluid Batgirl

