MEDIA PRESS PACKAGE

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

LES FEMMES

UNDERGROUND

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Les Femmes Underground International is a 501c3 non-profit organization devoted to developing, screening, and producing women's films and multi-media art. Our mission is to equip, inform, influence, and mobilize women in underground media by countering and transforming the longstanding and well-known problems of gender inequality, media misrepresentation, objectification, and a lack of feminist role models.

Les Femmes Underground hosts screenings, film festivals, and frequent workshops, creating forums that bring together established and fresh female filmmakers and audiences.

Inspired by the Riot Grrrl punk rock movement, Les Femmes are creating an independent, DIY, underground community of women filmmakers, writers, artists, financiers, and audiences passionate about women’s issues. aimed at promoting, educating, financing, exhibiting, and facilitating independent films for first time and established filmmakers centered around women issues.

Our previous submissions have come from women filmmakers from 30 different countries, representing a variety of ages, underrepresented cultures, and sexual orientations and included documentary, experimental, animated, and mixed media films.

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL
As filmmakers, we believe it is our responsibility to empower new generations of young women to generate work that breaks away from society’s gendered roles.

Unfortunately 5 out of 1 people working on films are women, and even less are minorities. Due to the lack of universal representation both on and off screen we hope to create an additional venue in which women of all colors can have a space in which they can display their work continuously and get the exposure which a lot of them lack due to monetary constraints or due to racial biases.

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In 85 years only 7 women producers have won the Best Pictures award. 8 women have won the Academy Award for best Original Screenplay in 75 years, 8 women have won Best Adapted Screenplay in 85 years. And 77% of Oscar voters are male.

From 2014-2015 only 16% of TV directors were women and from that only 18% were minority directors.

The stats are even lower for independent female filmmakers. This is why we decided to become a traveling women’s film festival.

So, why women?

Because as a modern society it's time we have a more diverse group of women generating work that inspires both artists and non-artists to reach for positions that are often reserved for the male elite.

Our goal is to be able to reach under-represented filmmakers often not given the opportunity due to showcase their work. Based off submissions we can figure out where the most are being sent in from, and from there we travel to those locations while still maintaining a Southern California community through our monthly events.
Women Are An Endangered Species In Hollywood
The prevalence of females in 700 Hollywood films

Female speaking characters in front of the camera

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of Female Speaking Characters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011*</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Female speaking characters from 2011 unavailable

Source: Inequality in 700 popular films: Examining Portayals of Character Gender, Race & LGBT Status from 2007 to 2014

And The Oscar For Best Director Goes To ... a man

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage Male</th>
<th>Percentage Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
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<td>2011</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>59.9%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General population

- 33.3% Degrees earned in film-related fields (2010-11)
- 24.0% Directors Guild of America members (all, 2015)
- 15.1% Directors Guild of America members (directors, 2015)
- 6.0% Directors in top 250 domestic grossing films (2013)
- 2.4% Academy Award nominations for best director (1990-2015)
LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

mission statement

1. Equip, inform, influence, and mobilize, women in underground media.

2. Transform the landscape of cinema for women by creating opportunities and forums that accurately represent them.

3. Assist and promote innovative films that bring back the 'Riot Grrrl' mentality in the art world, thereby pushing and inspiring women to acquire more opportunities.

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL
WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

- Community Outreach
- Community Screenings/Workshops
- Project Grants for Women
- Youth Programs
- Film Festival

Community Outreach

We collaborate with local multi-media artists and non-profit arts communities to develop and conduct free workshops, media training sessions, and film screening forums.

Provide exclusive networking opportunities for female filmmakers and artists in the southern California region.

We offer work-shopping services for works in progress to those wishing to enter the competitive festival circuit from our professional staff.

Community Screenings/Workshops

We host events through our partnerships with local theater communities to host quarterly film screenings.

La Feminista Film Screening Series highlights local and international feminist filmmakers in introspective screenings where they are awarded certificates.
WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

Film Grants for Women
A portion of our budget is devoted to creating finishing grants for female filmmakers. We understand there is a lack of support out there for women to generate work. As a result we provide grants to women filmmakers whose work reflects strong diverse female leads. Our goal is to encourage more women to help diversify our media.

Youth Programs
Our traveling movie theatre offers free youth programs in non-traditional spaces. Our mission is to pair up with local communities with under-represented, low-income, at-risk, immigrant, homeless, and rehabilitating youth, as a way to create a positive social change from a young age through free film workshops.

Our staff has experience working with continuation schools, young expectant mothers charters in East LA, YPI, 826LA, and Ameri-Corps. We are committed to assisting our community and encouraging them to enter higher education to achieve their academic dreams.

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Film Festival

Headquarters for Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival is Los Angeles, where we are able to target key market audiences in the visual arts. Resources, accessibility, and proximity to facilities, such as Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, allows for extended engagement and interaction with the local film community.

As a traveling film festival, our main event will take place in a new city or state every year. Our mission is to bring awareness and resources to preexisting feminist filmmaking communities by engaging with the submission demographics from those cities. As filmmakers ourselves, we understand it is a financial burden to travel to festivals outside of our community. By carefully studying where submissions come from, we can plan out where our festival will be hosted the following year.
COLLABORATIONS

• American Cinematheque
• Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Centre
• Women’s Scream International Poetry’s Festival
• Lucky Star Radio
• SheFest
• Etheria Film Festival
• Donut Panic
• Tia Chucha’s
• Echo Park Film Center
• Etheria Film Night
• San Diego Latino Film Festival

RACK FOCUS

Our collaborations feature local community venues in the southern California region. The spaces are predominantly established arts communities, creating a lush space for networking between artists of all backgrounds.

Our list showcases future, past, and developing collaborations. Our biggest collaboration will take place at the Phoenix Center for the Arts where our main event, the film festival will be debuting in the Arizona historic Arts district. Our main event will take place on Sept 1, 2018.

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We receive over 300 monthly submissions from both Filmfreeway and Withoutabox. From those submissions, entries come from over 30 different countries and counting, such as Africa, Latin America, Australia, Netherlands, Israel, Syria, Canada, United States amongst many others. We provide Fee-Waivers to all who ask for financial assistance as well as youth applying. We provide low entry fees to facilitate global participation. All entry fees are used to fund the film festival in addition to our youth programs, monthly screenings, and women’s film grants. As a non-profit, all the assistance we receive is from volunteers giving their free time towards helping the community grow.
LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

OUR STAFF AND BOARD

Edda Manriquez - CEO/Festival Director
Edda is an award winning filmmaker based in southern California. She has an M.F.A. in Film and Video from the California institute of the Arts and a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego. She currently works with the Getty research institute / The Internet Archive.

David Leo Gonzalez - Chief Financial Officer
David Leopoldo Gonzalez is an award-winning writer, his work has previously showcased at the California Sociological Association in Northern California. David has curated various art shows throughout the southern California region. He is also the Co-Founder of Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival, and the Chief Financial Officer. He is a certified Benefits and Cost Analyst by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. David currently, works at the California Institute of Technology.

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Cristela Reyes - Secretary of Executive Board - Cristela is a filmmaker, philanthropist, and community activist. She acquired her degree at the University of California, Irvine, where she majored in International Business. She is currently pursing an M.B.A. degree in business. Her expertise lays in marketing research.

Elizabeth Ferguson - Community Outreach Coordinator - Liz is a filmmaker, and founder of Porcelain Rose Productions since 2010. She has worked as a production assistant for several major media companies. She got her B.A. degree in Visual Arts: Media at the University of California, San Diego.

Jeanette Rodriguez - Staff Writer - Jeanette is a writer. She has a B.A. in Film and Media Studies from the University of California Irvine. She is currently working in payroll, writing on her free time, and pursuing writing fellowships for TV

Adriana Gomez-Weston - Marketing Coordinator and Content Writer - Adriana is a Marketing Coordinator and Content Writer. She has always been passionate about writing - more specifically film criticism and about hot topics such as diversity in the entertainment industry and feminism. She received her Bachelor of Science from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina and relocated to Southern California. She is currently based in San Diego.

Gersan Jarquin - IT Department - Gersan specializes on hardware maintenance such as computers, phones, tablets reprogramming among other electronic devices; as well as software development in Java, Visual Studio, and versed in programming logic.

Danny Jarquin - IT Department - Danny specializes on hardware maintenance such as computers, phones, tablets reprogramming among other electronic devices; as well as software development in Java, Visual Studio, and versed in programming logic. He is currently striving for a B.S. in Computer Science to expand programming literacy and is an intern at an electronic repair shop to grasp the hardware technology of today.
PAST EVENTS

**Donut Panic**
Vegan Gourmet Donuts & Pastries

**Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival Presents**

Beautiful Chaos
Women in Sci-Fi & Horror Movie Night

- Sunday April 10, 2016
- Come out for a fun evening of donuts, indie horror films & raffles!
- Only at Donut Panic

Welcome Guests!

Welcome to the first installment of La Feminista Series, brought to you by Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival.

As a result of our partnership with Beyond Baroque during the Women’s Scream Festival, this series centers itself around films documenting race and gender adversity from a feminist lens. These selected works highlight a diverse group of women facing issues from child-hood abandonment, cultural identity, mother-hood, education, to coping with abuse.

Our program features work from first time directors, students, and accomplished female filmmakers. As a community of feminist artists and community activists, Les Femmes Underground International seeks to promote and encourage works, which touch upon topics not often covered in popular culture.

Les Femmes Underground International will like to formally thank you for attending, and hopes we can continue receiving your support in the Arts as we strive to encourage more women to screen their work.

Les Femmes Underground International will be premiering its first annual main event and film festival in August of 2016 at The Egyptian. If interested in screening please submit via Film Freeway.

**Website:** www.lefemmeunderground.com
**Contact Us:** lefemmeunderground@gmail.com
**Submit Via Film Freeway:** https://filmfreeway.com/festival/LesFemmesUndergroundFilmFestival

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL
PAST EVENTS

LA FEMINISTA SERIES PRESENTS

WOMAN SCREAM

International Poetry and Arts Festival

SAT MARCH 12, 2016 8PM

UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES

Woman Scream is a chain festival happening globally in March. This installment features Alicia Partnoy, collaboration with variety of community organizations, will be hosting several retrospectives, and installations from Gail Wronsky, Sholeh Wolpe and more.

UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES

LA FEMINISTA SERIES

UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES

Women Scream

Second Runthouse Foundation & Literary Arts Center

681 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291

March 12, 2016

SHORT FILMS:

Stolen of Gersomby by (TRT: 00:04:41)


About: Gersomby is an Iranian animation and filmmaker who entered the animation world after getting her bachelor’s degree in Painting from Alzahra University in Tehran, Iran.

Chamelenka by Aylín Gökmem (TRT: 00:06:33)

Synopsis: School officials intimidate a young girl for wearing a hijab to school.

About: Aylín Gökmem is a Turkish and Swiss filmmaker born in 1990 in Sion, Switzerland. She studied philosophy and literature at the University of Lausanne, this is her first film.

Gender & Number by Ines Poggio (TRT: 00:06:33)

Synopsis: An experimental documentary centered on Ethiopian Women’s rights.

About: Ines Poggio studied Environmental Science as an engineer. She is currently an Art Director and Graphic Designer. “Gender & Number” is her first film.

Maternity Leave by Moran Ifargan (TRT: 00:07:13)

Synopsis: An intimate documentary about a new mother in Jerusalem in the midst of political events taking place in the city.

About: Moran Ifargan is a student at the school 6am Spiegel of Film and Television in Jerusalem.

I Say Dust by Fiona Macil (TRT: 00:14:14)

Synopsis: An Arab American poet belonging to the Palestinian diaspora in New York City, a free-spirited chess salesgirl, their brief love affair eventuates in challenging their understanding of home and belonging.

REGULAR ADMISSION

$10 General Admission. $6 Students/Seniors, Members free

www.lesfemmesinternational.com

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL

For More Info Contact Les Femmes Underground International:

lesfemmesinternational@gmail.com

www.lesfemmesinternational.com
TRANSFORMING THE LANDSCAPE OF CINEMA FOR WOMEN

Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival in collaboration with American Cinematheque, Beyond Baroque, and Etheria Films, will be hosting several monthly screenings, artist retrospective, and installations from featured experimental feminist artists. Each month prizes will be awarded to featured work. All work presented must be made by women. Submissions can be installations, narrative, documentary, experimental, or animation.

Submissions:
http://www.lefemmeunderground.com (OTHER GENRES)
http://www.etheriafilmnight.com (HORROR/SCI-FI)

CONTACT US & SUBMIT VIA FILMFREEWAY
https://filmfreeway.com/festival/LesFemmesUndergroundFilmFestival
WWW.LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND.COM
LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND@GMAIL.COM

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL
Our programming features work from first time directors, students, and accomplished female filmmakers. As a community of feminist artists and community activists, Les Femmes Underground International seeks to promote and encourage works, which touch upon themes and topics not often covered in culture. Our mission is to screen works which best represents fourth wave feminism in the digital age. As such, the works featured are unique, colorful, and innovative and most importantly empowering for women filmmakers.
PSYCHEDELIC MADNESS
Owls, Bunnies & Tigers Sandra Powers (00:30)
Love Sick Maggie Levine (13:29)
Hoop Dreams Samantha Gurry (4:36)
Super Fun Show, with Learning! Episode 2 Lexie Kahanovitz (16:30)
Diary of Reflection Penda Diakite (3:00)
Technicolor Angst Ketchup Freeland (14:49)
Keep Sake Meredith Sause (17:20)
The Magical Theatre Jovanna Tosello (3:00)

MEMORIES
Supress Payton Baril (0:30)
The First of the Free Girls Alexandra Velasco (4:00)
Jam Sandy Garfunkel (13:40)
Sinking Myriam L. Obin (1:00)
Eloise Little Dreamer Myriam L. Obin (4:00)
Grimm Street Emma Lennox (16:49)
Lookout Noa Gusakov (17:56)
Numberland Gina Napolitan (1:30)
Big Bunny Again? Emilie Pigier (6:12)
Music of the Spheres Madison Thomas (19:00)
Fruitcake Harriet Croucher (1:38)
Olivido Caitlin Diaz (5:13)
Scent of Geranium Naghmeh Farzaneh (4:41)

SEX, LIES, AND VIDEO TAPES
Bang Bang Bang Sandra Powers (0:20)
Self Portrait at 24 Amanda Bonaiuto (00:30)
You’re Just Projecting Mariah Janello (2:27)
The Astronaut and the Star Christina Kolozsvary (19:04)
Clitorissima Sara Koppel (13:04)
The Magical Porno Theater Jovanna Tosello (4:00)
Fucking Him Adrian Garcia Gomez (1:46)
Encounters I May Or May Not Have Had With Peter Berlin
  Mariah Garnett (14:14)
  Pearl and Werther Stefan Pavlovic (9:43)
The River Ya-Ting Hsu (16:14)
  Promenade Mariana Saez (8:50)
The Face of Angele Sacha Ratcliffe (2:10)
  Ambivalence Maxime Lahousse (6:47)
  Forgiveness Irani Rima (12:36)
  Majesty Girls Veronica Robinson (9:00)

LADIES OF HORROR
Fox & Bunny Sandra Powers (0:35)
  Mask Katie Speare (1:12)
  Valentina Araeia Robinson (10:10)
  Magical Beasts
Domestic Affairs Alexia Muinos (13:04)
  View Grace Nayoon Rhee (5:35)
  Toxic Patricia Luna Alforova (5:35)
  Nasty Prana Bailey-Bond 15:10
LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

SPONSORSHIPS/PARTNERSHIPS

Hollywood Wax Museum
American Cinematheque
BITCH MEDIA
DUCK TAPE
WOMAN SCREAM
PETA
SHEFEST
ETHERIA
FIVE GUYS
TÍA CHUCHA’S
CENTRO CULTURAL & BOOKSTORE
“Where Art and Minds Meet – For a Change”

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center
681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 91201
www.beyondbaroque.org

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TRAVELING WOMEN’S FILM FESTIVAL
WHEN WILL THE EVENT TAKE PLACE?

WHO: LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

WHEN: SEPT 1, 2018

WHERE: PHOENIX CENTER FOR THE ARTS

HOW: THROUGH FILM SUBMISSION ENTRIES, GENEROUS DONATIONS, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, SOCIAL MEDIA.

WHY: BECAUSE WE NEED TO EXPOSE THE WORLD TO MORE MEDIA MADE BY WOMEN OF ALL ETHINC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS.

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