

# MEDIA PRESS PACKAGE



# INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### WHO THE FEMME ARE WE?!



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.

**WWW.LESFEMMESINTERNATIONAL.ORG**  
**TRAVELING WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL**



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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

WHY  
WOMEN?

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.

## INDUSTRY INEQUALITY



There is a **5 : 1** ratio of men working on films to women

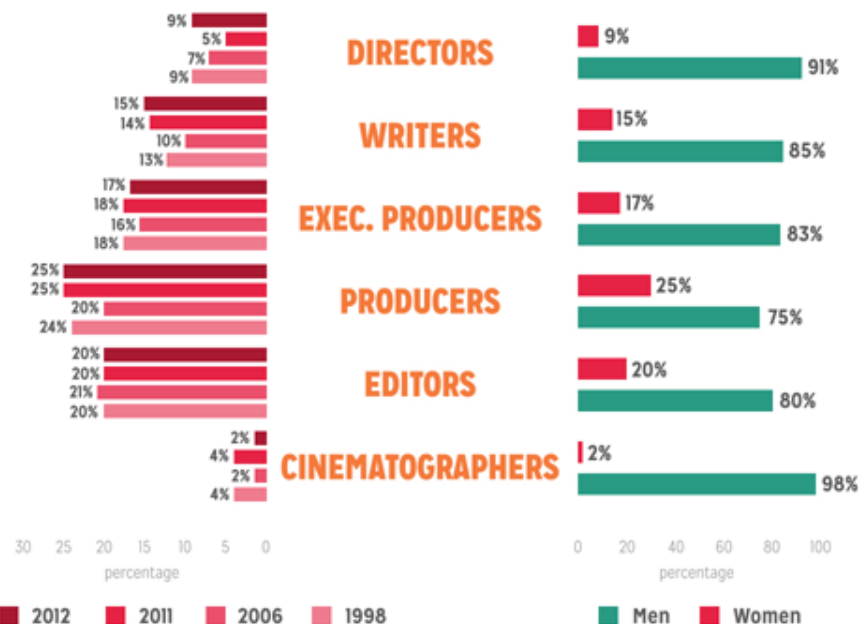


Females direct more  
**DOCUMENTARIES** than **NARRATIVE FILMS**



PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN EMPLOYED  
BEHIND THE SCENES  
ON TOP 250 FILMS BY ROLE

PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN AND MEN  
EMPLOYED BEHIND THE SCENES  
ON TOP 250 FILMS OF 2012

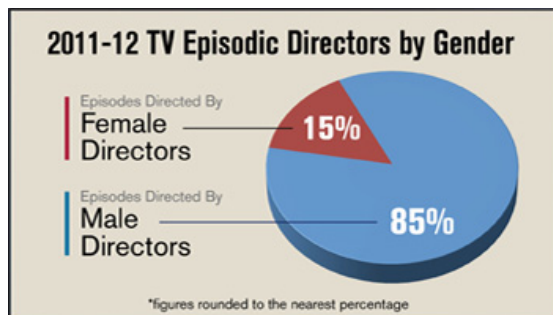


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In 85 years only 7 women producers have won the Best Pictures award. 8 women have won the Academy Award for best Original Screen play in 75 years, 8 women have won Best Adapted Screenplay in 85 years. And 77% of Oscar voters are male.

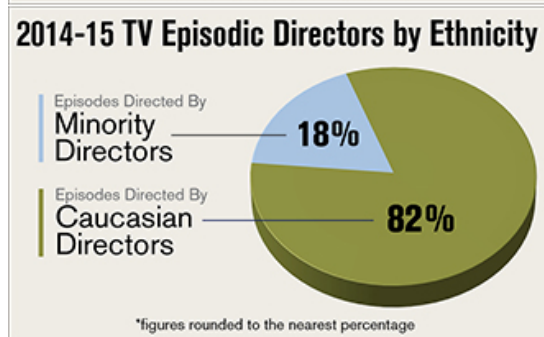
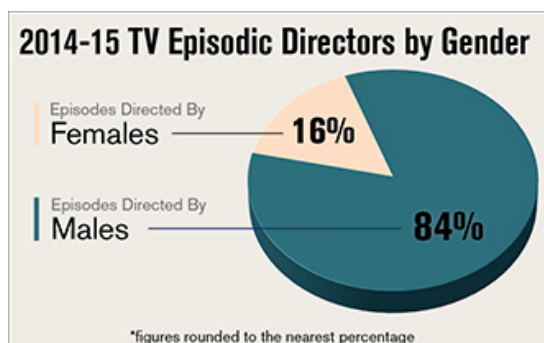
From 2014-2015 only 16% of TV directors were women and from that only 18% were minority directors.

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

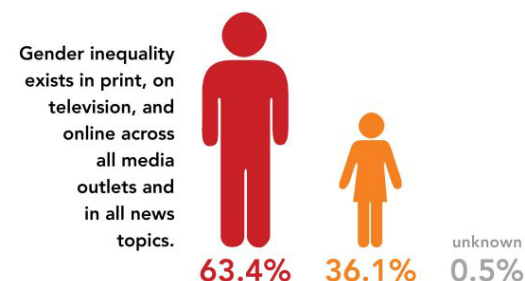
So, why women?

Because as a modern society **its 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.

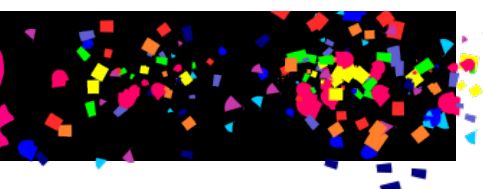
Our goal is to be able to reach under-represented filmmakers often not given the opportunity due to showcase their work. Based off submissions we can figure out where the most are being sent in from, and from there we travel to those locations while still maintaining a Southern California community through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



### BOTTOM LINE: MEN DOMINATE MEDIA



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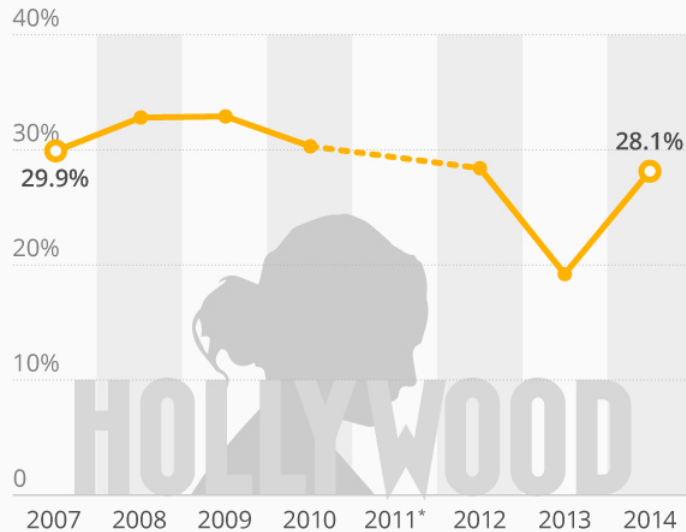
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### Women Are An Endangered Species In Hollywood

The prevalence of females in 700 Hollywood films

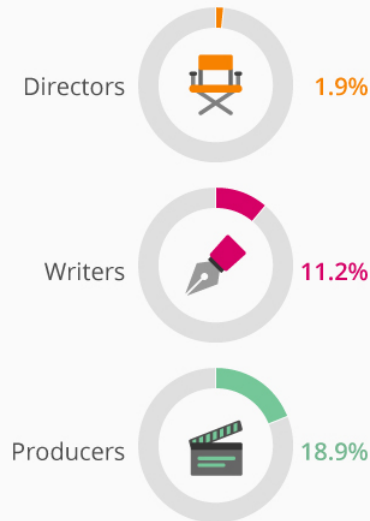
Female speaking characters in front of the camera



\* Female speaking characters from 2011 unavailable

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

Females behind the camera in 2014



### 2013 & 2014 Film Directors by Gender and Ethnicity

Minority Males 11.2% ■  
Caucasian Females 5.1% ■  
Minority Females 1.3% ■  
Caucasian Males 84.2% ■



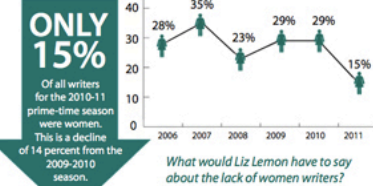
### WHERE ARE THE WOMEN IN TV?

Employment statistics of behind-the-scenes and on-screen women in the 2010-2011 prime-time television season

Women comprised only 25 percent of all creators, directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors and directors of photography on broadcast TV programs during the 2010-2011 prime-time season.

what 25 percent actually looks like

Women Writers for Prime-Time T.V. 2005 - 2011



ONLY 15%

Of all writers for the 2010-11 prime-time season were women. This is a decline of 14 percent from the 2009-2010 season.

What would Liz Lemon have to say about the lack of women writers?



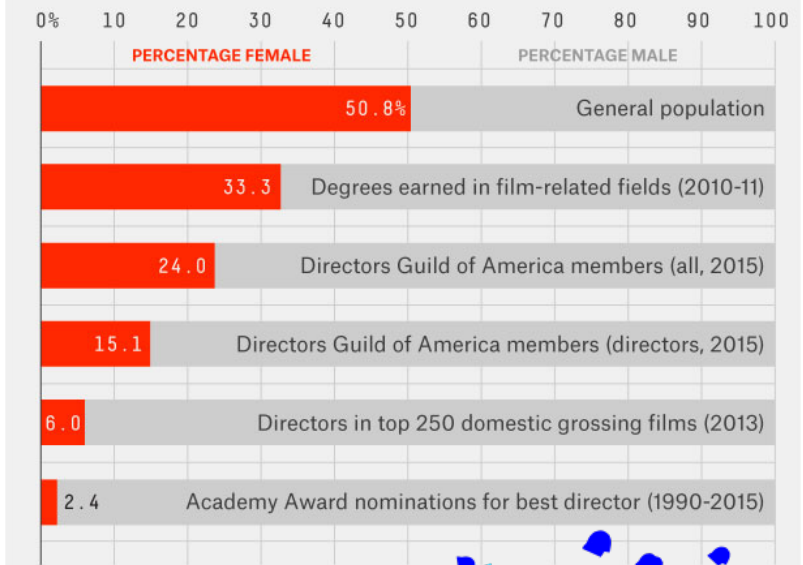
51%  
Of the world's population are women.

ONLY 41%  
Of all on-screen characters were women.

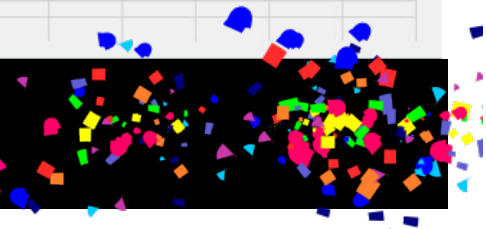
NOT  
very accurate representation, is it?

### And The Oscar For Best Director Goes To ...

... a man



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### *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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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

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- **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.

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### WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

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#### 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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### THE FILM FESTIVAL

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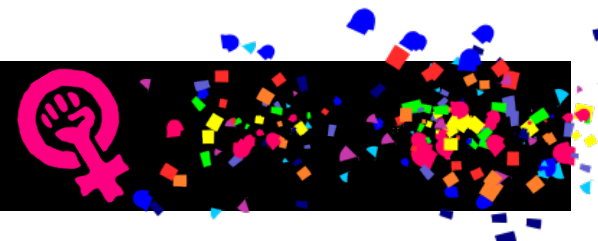
#### Film Festival

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.



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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### 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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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### LES FEMME'S FILM SUBMISSION DEMOGRAPHICS

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.



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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### OUR STAFF AND BOARD

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Edda Manriquez



David Leopoldo



Cristela Reyes



Elizabeth Ferguson



Jeanette Rodriguez



Danny Jaquin



Adriana Gomez-Weston



Daniel Foerste

## MEET OUR TEAM

### **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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### BOARD MEMBERS/STAFF

**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 pursuing 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.

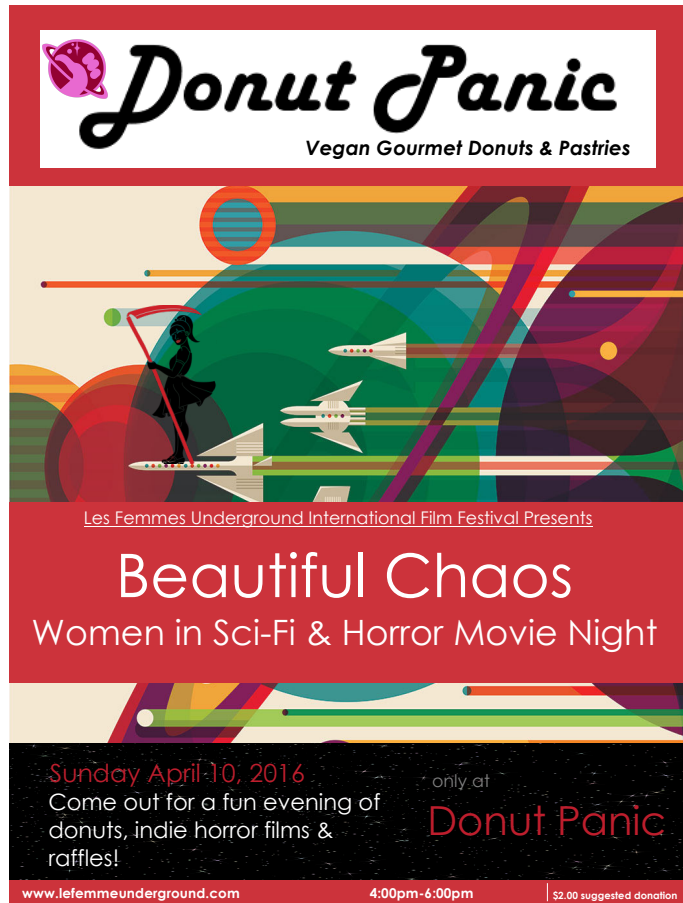
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# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### PAST EVENTS



### Welcome Guests!

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

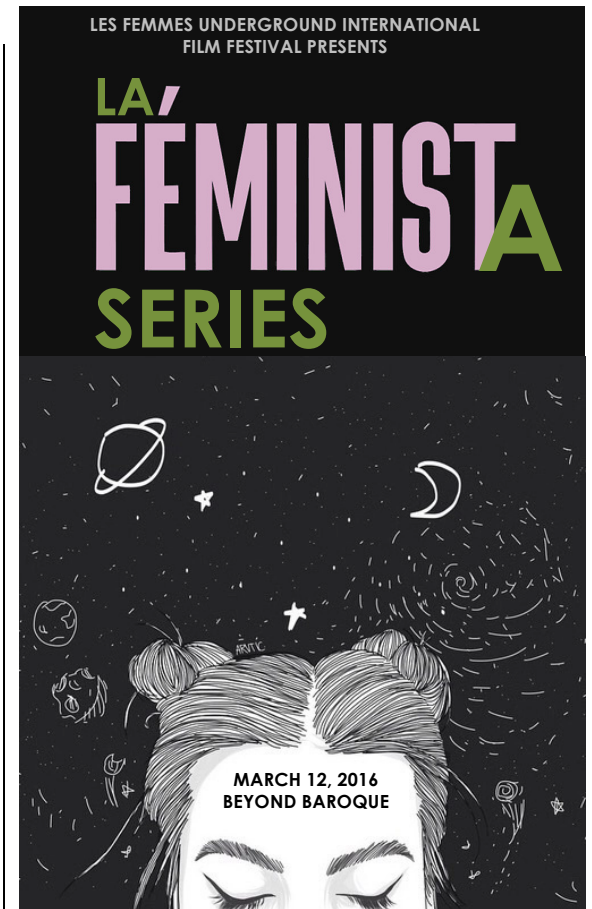
As a result of our partnership with **Beyond Baroque** during the **Women's Scream Festival**, this series centers itself around films documenting race and gender adversity from a feminist lens. These selected works highlight a diverse group of women facing issues from child-hood abandonment, cultural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

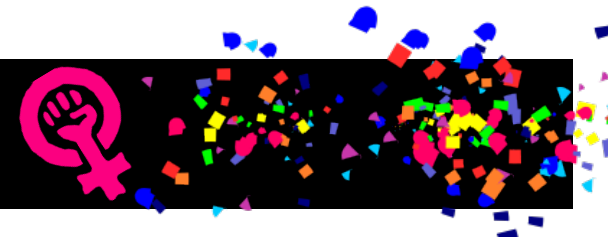
**Les Femmes Underground International** will like to formally thank you for attending, and hopes we can continue receiving your support in the Arts as we strive to encourage more women to screen their work.

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 **FilmFreeway**.

**Website:**  
[www.lefemmeunderground.com](http://www.lefemmeunderground.com)  
**Contact Us:**  
[lefemmeunderground@gmail.com](mailto:lefemmeunderground@gmail.com)



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## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### PAST EVENTS

LA FEMINISTA SERIES PRESENTS  
In Collaboration with Beyond Baroque Theatre

## WOMAN SCREAM

International Poetry and Arts Festival

SAT MARCH 12, 2016 8PM



681 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291

**UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES**

Woman Scream is a chain festival happening globally in March. This installment features Alicia Partnoy, Gail Wronsky, Sholeh Wolpe and more. Les Femmes Underground International Film Festival, in collaboration with variety of community organizations, will be hosting several monthly screenings, artist retrospectives, and installations from featured experimental feminist artists. Work will include local and international films centered on a variety of themes and subjects.

**FEATURING FILMS FROM:**  
Begonia Randhava, Maryam Rahimi, Denise Khumalo Mehmet Yamak, Darine Hotait, Deborah Fixler, Aylin Gökmen, Inés Poggio, Yasmin Mistry, Naghmeh Farzaneh

**REGULAR ADMISSION**  
\$10 General Admission, \$6 Students/Seniors, Members free  
[www.lefemmeunderground.com](http://www.lefemmeunderground.com)

LA FEMINISTA SERIES  
UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES

**Women Scream**  
Beyond Baroque Foundation  
& Literary Arts Center  
681 Venice Blvd, Venice, CA 90291

March 12, 2016

**SHORT FILMS:**

**Scent of Geranium** by Naghmeh Farzaneh (TRT: 00:04:41)  
**Synopsis:** An animated personal documentary of a young women's longing for home in Tehran.  
**About:** Naghmeh Farzaneh is an Iranian animator and filmmaker who entered the animation world after getting her bachelor's degree in Painting from Alzahra University in Tehran, Iran.

**Chameleon** by Aylin Gökmen (TRT: 00:06:53)  
**Synopsis:** School officials alienate a young girl for wearing a hijab to school.  
**About:** Aylin Gökmen 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 Inés Poggio (TRT: 00:06:33)  
**Synopsis:** An expository documentary centered on Ethiopian Women's rights.  
**About:** Inés 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: 00:07:15)  
**Synopsis:** An intimate documentary about a new mother in Jerusalem in the mist of political events taking place in the city.  
**About:** Moran Ifargan is a student at the school Sam Spiegel of Film and Television in Jerusalem.

**I Say Dust** by Darine Hotait (TRT: 00:14:14)  
**Synopsis:** An Arab-American poet belonging to the Palestinian diaspora in New York City, a free-spirited chess sales girl, their brief love affair eventuates in challenging their understanding of home and belonging.



**About:** Darine Hotait is an American Lebanese writer and film director. Born in Beirut in the midst of civil war, She completed her film directing studies at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California.

**Feeling Wanted** by Yasmin Mistry (TRT: 00:14:03)

**Synopsis:** Charell, age 6, woke up to find herself alone. With a dad incarcerated for murder, a mom on drugs & a childhood in foster care, Charell knew it was time to break the cycle.

**About:** Yasmin Mistry is an Emmy-nominated animator & filmmaker. Her work has been displayed worldwide including recent showings at the Louvre, as well as at film festivals such as Cannes. She began to receive training in Radio and Television Department.

**Khayalami (My Home)** by Denise Khumalo (TRT: 00:14:40)

**Synopsis:** A documentary about a Zimbabwean woman's struggle to keep her traditions and customs alive while living in an increasingly Western world.

**About:** Denise is currently pursuing her Masters in Filmmaking in Los Angeles, California at the New York Film Academy.

**The Bride** by Mehmet Yamak (TRT: 00:19:30)

**Synopsis:** A documentary that examines Turkey through the eyes of the bride septuagenarian woman.

**About:** Mehmet Yamak was born in 1984 in Ankara, Turkey. Mehmet attended Gazi University in 2008 where he began to receive training in Radio and Television Department.

**FEATURE FILM:**

**Women are the Answer** by Fiona Cochrane (TRT: 01:30:50)

**Synopsis:** A documentary about the link between women's education and Population growth in India.

**About:** Fiona Cochrane is an Australian filmmaker.

**For More info Contact Les Femmes Underground International:**

[lefemmeunderground@gmail.com](mailto:lefemmeunderground@gmail.com)

[www.lefemmeunderground.com](http://www.lefemmeunderground.com)

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### PAST EVENTS



### LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

#### **CALLING OUT ALL FEMINIST & WOMEN ARTISTS!**

Les Femmes Underground International is currently seeking talented FILMMAKERS, PERFORMERS, and MUSICIANS, to screen/perform at our première at The Egyptian Theatre, on August 2016. Film submissions are open to men and women. Work submitted by men must reflect relevance to the theme. Women must front musical groups.

USE CODE: "LuckyStarRadio" for submission discount

#### **CONTACT US & SUBMIT VIA FILMFREEWAY**

<https://filmfreeway.com/festival/LeSFemmeSUndergroundFilmFestival>  
[WWW.LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND.COM](http://WWW.LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND.COM)  
[LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LEFEMMEUNDERGROUND@GMAIL.COM)



### LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

## LA FEMINISTA SERIES

UNEARTHING UNDERGROUND FEMINIST VOICES

#### *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 retrospectives, 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/SCIFI)



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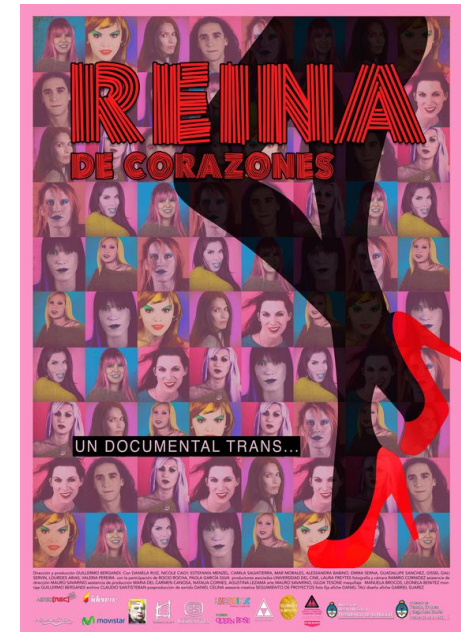
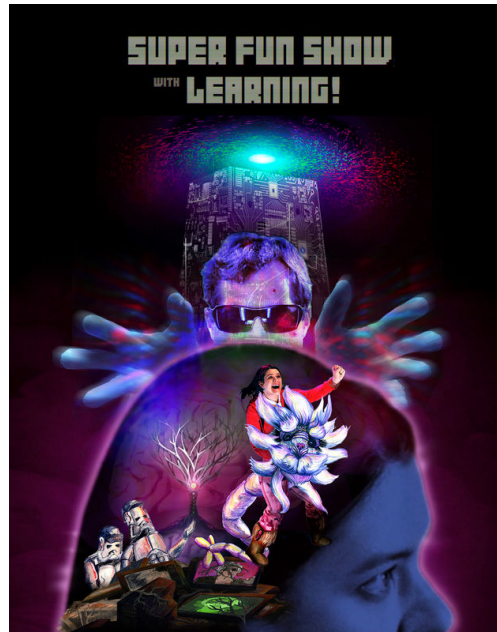
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### PAST FILMS SCREENING AT OUR FESTIVAL



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.

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### FILMS SCREENED AT OUR 2016

#### **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 Pigeard (6:12)  
Music of the Spheres Madison Thomas (19:00)  
Fruitcake Harriet Croucher (1:38)  
Olívodo Caitlin Díaz (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 Marinah 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 Alfiorova (5:35)  
Nasty Prano Bailey-Bond 15:10

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**TRAVELING WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL**

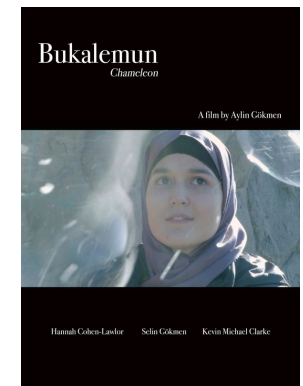
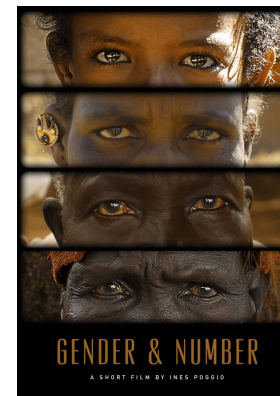
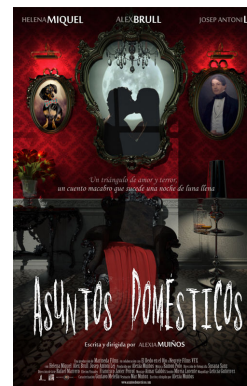
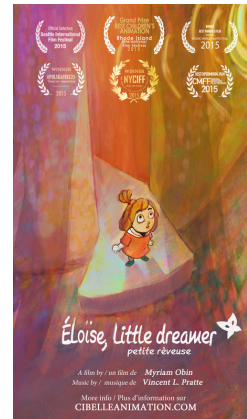


# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### WOMAN'S SCREAM EVENT

FILM  
FATALES



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# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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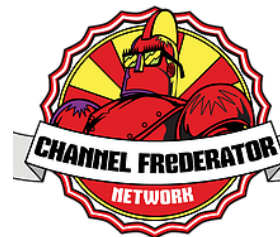
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# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

### WHEN WILL THE EVENT TAKE PLACE?

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**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 ETHNIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS.

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# LES FEMMES UNDERGROUND

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



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