

# HUFFPOST WOMEN

## Women Directors Infographic: Why Are There So Few Female Directors In Hollywood?

By Christina Huffington

April 20, 2013



When Kathryn Bigelow failed to get a Best Director nomination for *Zero Dark Thirty* at this year's Academy Awards, some commentators asked if it was because she is a woman.

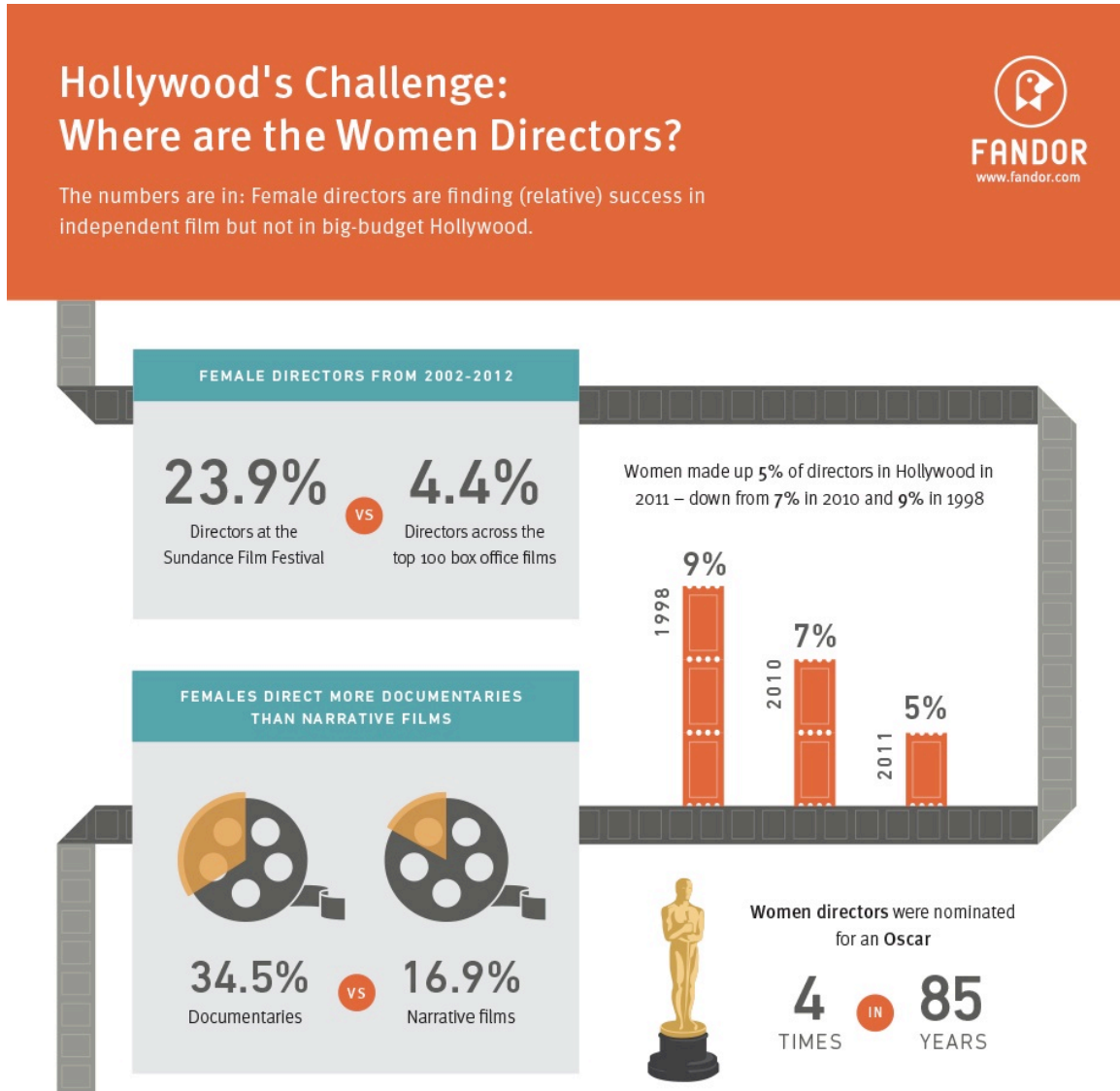
Bigelow's Oscar snub was likely about more than her gender, but there is no question that Hollywood has many fewer female directors than male and that female directors win almost no awards. Now, Fandor, a streaming movie service for independent films, has created an infographic that makes that gender discrepancy *very, very* obvious.

Fandor found that while women directors are finding "relative success" in independent films, they are not in mainstream Hollywood: From 2002-2012, women comprised 23.9 percent of the directors at Sundance but only 4.4 percent of the directors of the top 100 box office films.

According to Fandor, women make up a total of five percent -- *five percent!* -- of the directors in Hollywood, down from nine percent in 1998. In 85 years, a woman has been nominated for a Best Director Oscar only four times. In 2010, Kathryn Bigelow was the first -- and to date, only -- woman to actually win an Oscar for Best Director.

And things are not getting better: Of the 19 films nominated for the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival this year, only one was directed by a woman.

Check out the full infographic below, and let's hope this trend turns around in 2014.



*[Continued on next page]*

## FEMALE DIRECTORS IN NARRATIVE FILM

41 Female directors



VS

625 Male directors



In **narrative film** when looking at women directors over the last decade, only **41 women** have made films in the top 100 released films every year across the decade, compared to **625 men**.

There are **15.24 male directors** for every **1 female director**.

1 FEMALE DIRECTOR



15.24 MALE DIRECTORS



## SUCCESSFUL INDIE FEMALE DIRECTORS

**Mira Nair:** *The Namesake* (2006), *New York, I Love You* (2008)

**Barbara Kopple:** *Bearing Witness* (2005), *Shut Up and Sing* (2006)

**Jane Campion:** *The Piano* (1993), *In the Cut* (2003), *Bright Star* (2009)

**Sofia Coppola:** *The Virgin Suicides* (1999), *Lost in Translation* (2003), *Marie Antoinette* (2006)

**Mary Harron:** *American Psycho* (2000), *The Moth Diaries* (2011)

**Lisa Cholodenko:** *Laurel Canyon* (2002), *The Kids Are All Right* (2010)

Women are very much involved in the production and creation of independent narrative and documentary feature films, but cracking big-budget Hollywood has remained a challenge.

Women's work must get exposed more broadly to audiences who love film, and evolving technologies and alternative distribution channels are helping to make that possible. Let's put the spotlight on female directors!

**SOURCES:** *The Atlantic*, *IndieWire*, *The New York Times*, *Sundance Institute* and *Women in Film*