

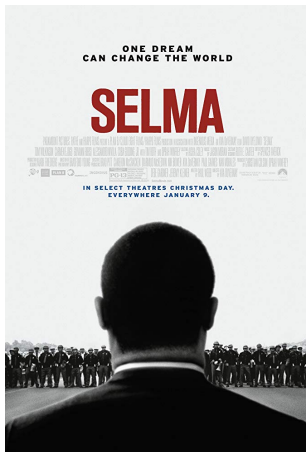
Hollywood: Her Story July 2019 ENewsletter

Directors whose movies are nominated for Best Motion Picture Oscars or Golden Globes usually receive a similar nod for Best Director. Surprisingly, Barbra Streisand was not nominated for a Best Director Oscar for *Yentl* and, similarly, Ava DuVernay did not receive a Best Director Oscar nomination for *Selma*. In this month's ENewsletter, we profile these two exceptional movie directors.



Barbra Streisand is the first person to direct, produce, co-author, star in and sing in a major motion picture seven decades after silent film personality extraordinaire Lois Weber wrote, directed, produced and starred in her own movie. Streisand is one of the few people who have won an Oscar, Grammy, Emmy, and Tony. Her Oscar wins include Best Actress in 1969 for *Funny Girl* and Best Music, Original Song in 1977 for *Evergreen* from the movie *A Star is Born*. One of the most successful individuals in the entertainment business, Streisand has also won a Peabody and has been honored with the Kennedy Center Honors and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Her blockbuster 1983 movie *Yentl*, was nominated for multiple Oscars and Golden Globe awards. Yet, Streisand was not nominated for a Best Director Oscar. When thinking about this oversight, she said, "It was strange. I didn't mind it for one reason. It really showed the sexism. I thought by not being nominated, I put a spotlight on the issue. I thought, 'Wow. This is so transparent.'"



The first African-American woman to be nominated for a Best Director - Motion Picture Golden Globe award was **Ava DuVernay**. A writer, director and producer, DuVernay was nominated for a Best Documentary Feature Oscar in 2017 for *13th*. She began making films after many years as a publicist in the film industry. Her first feature film was the 2008 documentary *This Is the Life*. Her first narrative feature film, the 2010 movie *I Will Follow*, resulted in the African-American Film Critics Association award for best screenplay. She became the first African-American woman to win the Sundance Best Director Prize (in 2012) for *Middle of Nowhere*.

DuVernay directed the movie *Selma* which was nominated for the 2015 Best Picture Oscar and won the Best Music, Original Song Oscar. In 2018, when *A Wrinkle in Time* was released, she became the first African-American woman to direct a movie with a \$100 million budget. DuVernay said, "I just don't think there's a lot of support for the woman's voice in cinema, and it becomes really difficult to raise that money and start again every time." She also said, "I think for female filmmakers a big issue is making their second and third films."

Women in front of and behind the camera make the movies that we all welcome into our hearts and homes. Women across all the areas of movie-making from actress to animator, editor to stuntwoman, costume designer to screenwriter, producer to director have contributed to the success of the movie industry since its founding in the 1890s. Help us celebrate these women who are written into movie history in *Hollywood: Her Story*.

Jill S. Tietjen, P.E. and Barbara Bridges

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