



Hollywood: Her Story July 2026 ENewsletter Women Nominated for the Animated Feature Oscar

The first woman nominated for the Best Animated Feature Film Oscar, Marjane Satrapi, recently passed away. In her memory, this month's newsletter focuses on her and other women nominated for that Oscar category.



In 2008, Iranian-born film director, **Marjane Satrapi**, became the first woman nominated for the Best Animated Feature Oscar for her film *Persepolis*. The movie debuted at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival where it won the Special Jury Prize. It was based on her autobiographical comic book of the same name. While others refer to these books as graphic novels, she said they were actually comic books and should be called as such. Satrapi directed other movies including *Chicken with Plums* and *Radioactive* and was also a cartoonist, children's book author and political activist. Satrapi lived in France starting in her mid-20s. The French Academy of Fine Arts called her "a passionate advocate for cinema and film education." Prior to her death in 2026, Satrapi established the Mattias and Marjane Ripa-Satrapi Cinema Foundation to help international students come to Paris to study film.



Director and animator **Jennifer Yuh Nelson** was the first woman and the first Asian American to solely direct an animated film, *Kung Fu Panda 2*, which had box office sales of more than \$665 million. Nelson was nominated for the 2012 Best Animated Feature Oscar for that movie. In 2016, she directed *Kung Fu Panda 3* which had worldwide box office sales of more than \$500 million. Nelson was born in Korea and emigrated with her family to the US when she was four. She grew up in California and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from California State University, Long Beach. Following her two sisters into the animation industry, she worked at various companies, such as Hanna-Barbera, before joining DreamWorks Animation in 1998. Nelson has won Emmy awards for her work.



In 2013, writer, animator, and director **Brenda Chapman** was the first woman to win an Oscar in the Best Animated Feature category, sharing the Oscar for the movie *Brave*. The first woman to serve as a director for an animated movie, Chapman co-directed the 1998 animated film *The Prince of Egypt*. She worked as an artist for Disney movies, including *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*. For *The Lion King*, Chapman was the first woman to serve as head of story for an animated feature film. She later worked for DreamWorks Animation as well as Pixar. Chapman grew up in Illinois and moved to California where she studied animation at the California Institute of Arts.

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 moviemaking 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*.

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