

Towards Gender Equality in Film Production

Efforts to achieve gender equality are often met by arguments and explanations as to why it simply isn't possible. At the Swedish Film Institute, we believe that efforts have to be made at a range of different levels. **Our strategy is therefore to meet every argument with an action.** Each challenge with a constructive suggestion. The Film Institute's aim is, by the end of 2015, to have achieved equality in film production in Sweden. **What are the strategies and goals in your country?**

1

» There are very few competent female filmmakers. «

No, we disagree. There are plenty of competent women making film. However, those women are not visible enough. **This is why we are setting up a web site to make female filmmakers in the Nordic region visible, from the early days of cinematic art up to the present day.** The site, which will be called *Nordic Women in Film*, was an initiative of the Swedish Film Institute and is a collaboration between the Nordic film institutes and researchers/writers from each country.

2

» Women don't get to make their second and third films. «

Yes they do. But it is hard for women to get the chance to make their second and third films. They have a far harder time than men finding business partners and financiers. It's also hard to create a strategy for getting established in the industry.

We have therefore started the mentor and change programme *Moviement*. The first programme begun in 2013 and consists of five well-established female feature-film directors and ten women who to date have each made one feature-length fiction film. The programme is a leadership and strategy course which aims to empower female directors in taking their film ideas through the funding labyrinth to finished film.

3

» Counting the percentage of women as compared to men doesn't lead to equality. «

As a funding institution, the Film Institute is of crucial importance to what films get made in Sweden. Decisions on who receives funding are founded on an overall assessment. We systematically monitor how many films with men and women in key positions receive funding over time, and we

are absolutely convinced that this makes a difference. **The gender equality perspective will now be an even more important part of our day-to-day work. We are therefore intensifying the ongoing monitoring of our funding, so as to reveal the structures and thereby identify working approaches that help create a gender equal film industry.**

4

» **There aren't as many young women as men who dream of becoming a film director.** «

Yes there are. Many young women want to become directors. However, there is a vast difference between the attitudes of young women and men dreaming about a career in the world of film. **We are therefore developing initiatives to highlight role models and mentors for young women who show an interest in the film profession in their teens. We are also starting up several projects with the aim of strengthening equality long-term in areas where**

young filmmakers spend their time, such as education establishments, competitions, film festivals, regional talent development and film camps.

5

» **Those in power have no desire to see things change.** «

One in five feature-length fiction films released at the cinema in Sweden is made without funding from the Film Institute, and we cannot affect those films. Responsibility for the goal of equality in film production therefore lies both with the Film Institute and with the film industry as a whole. At the Swedish Film Institute we are convinced that the desire to change exists, but more knowledge is always needed. **We have therefore started up a research project with the Swedish Film & TV Producers Association and researchers from the Royal Institute of Technology/Fosfor to study the structures that exist within the industry.**

What are you doing?



**Swedish
Film Institute**

The Swedish Film Institute is tasked by the Swedish government to implement film policy in Sweden. We strengthen Swedish film at every stage by supporting the production of new films, distributing and screening films of value, preserving Sweden's film heritage and making it accessible, and representing Swedish film at an international level.

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