

HIGHLIGHTS

Onscreen and offscreen

The influence of Filmmakers Gender
on the Representation of Men and Women
in recent Quebec Cinema



Onscreen and offscreen

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MALE DIRECTORS (2011)

FEMALE DIRECTORS (2010-2011)

Leading Roles

Male directors cast men in leading roles most of the time. Female directors do the same for women, but less often. Since the vast majority of films produced in Québec are directed by men (80% in 2011) most of our onscreen heroes are men.

72% of leading roles are played by men.

62% of leading roles are played by women.

The four most important roles

In male-directed films, men are consistently over-represented by 53 to 72% in the four most important roles, regardless of ranking.

Female directors demonstrate a more balanced allotment of roles, since they cast women in 62% of leading roles and 60% of fourth roles, while 70% of second and third roles are allocated to men.

Leading	men	72 %
	women	28 %
Second	men	53 %
	women	47 %
Third	men	64 %
	women	36 %
Fourth	men	58 %
	women	42 %

Leading	men	38 %
	women	62 %
Second	men	70 %
	women	30 %
Third	men	70 %
	women	30 %
Fourth	men	40 %
	women	60 %

Starring Roles¹

Male directors portray male and female characters in a ratio of 6 to 4, while female directors present an equal number of male and female characters.

59 % men
41 % women

50 % men
50 % women

All speaking roles

The over-representation of male characters is more pronounced in male-directed productions than in those directed by women.

63 % men
37 % women

54 % men
46 % women

Age

Male directors tend to portray younger female characters more often than female directors.

70 % of female characters are 40 or younger (60 out of 86 characters).

47 % of female characters are 40 or younger (19 out of 40 characters).

¹ Characters played by actors and actresses whose names are on the film's official billing.

	MALE DIRECTORS (2011)	FEMALE DIRECTORS (2010-2011)
Concordance with dominant standards of beauty, thinness and youth	Female characters correspond to dominant standards of beauty 8 times out of 10.	Female characters correspond to dominant standards of beauty 6 times out of 10.
Concordance with dominant standards of beauty, thinness and youth	66% of female characters are 40 or younger, thin, and correspond to dominant standards of beauty.	42% of female characters are 40 or younger, thin, and correspond to dominant standards of beauty.
Nudity outside of sex scenes	Female directors portray nude women outside of sex scenes almost 3 (2.76) times less often than male directors.	
Sexualization through sexy costumes, fragmented body presentation and signs of sexual availability	Female directors sexualize their characters almost 5 (for 4.7) times less often than male directors.	
Gestures of authority	Female directors portray characters who act with authority 2.35 times less often than male directors.	
Psychological, physical and sexual violence	Female directors portray characters who commit acts of violence 2.5 times less often than male directors.	
Group interaction with friends	On average, male characters are shown in group interactions with friends twice as often as female characters.	On average, female characters are shown in 1.66 times more group interactions with friends than their male counterparts.
Group interaction with family	Male characters are portrayed in slightly (1.23 times) more group interactions with family than female characters.	Male characters are shown in the same number of group interactions with family as their female counterparts.
Child care and domestic labour	The majority of domestic labour and child care (54 %) is carried out by women.	The majority of domestic labour and child care (65 %) is carried out by women.
Does the character have an occupation?	Men: 65 % yes Women: 52 % yes	Men: 54 % yes Women: 48 % yes
Employment sector of all speaking roles for which the occupation is known	18 % secretary and services, 15 % teaching and library, 8 % prostitution and erotic dancing.	Insufficient data.