

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Spanish and North American cinematography industry there is still inequality between men and women behind the camera. Due to that, in recent years some women from the industry have set up associations like the Spanish Association of Women Filmmakers and Audiovisual Media Professionals (CIMA) or production companies like Pacific Standard founded by Reese Whitterspoon that have the objective to promote the equal presence of women in the industry to contribute and create realistic stories that have equal representation. Therefore, these women defend that the entrance of women in the industry bring something different to that which men bring. The fact of knowing this leads one to think the following: Are there differences in the way that you direct depending on whether you are male or female?

Hence, the general objective of this investigation is to verify the differences between the formal aspects and the characters' treatment that female film directors and male film directors include in their films by using a methodology divided into three parts. Firstly, the theoretical part explains what film directors do in the different stages of film production and what singularities does literature consider female directors have. Secondly, the practical part consists of seven interviews with Spanish female film directors, to determine in which aspects of the creation of a film they put more emphasis. Because of this, it has been possible to extract four points of analysis and to create four hypotheses related to the *mise-en-scène*, points of view, themes and characterizations of their films.

Thirdly, these four points have allowed the design of an analysis instrument that has permitted the third part of this investigation: the analysis of six blockbusters. These blockbusters are *Fifty Shades of Grey*, *Me Before You*, *Everything, Everything*, *The Age of Adaline*, *Collateral Beauty* and *The Mountain Between Us*. The sample is composed of commercial films because what is sought in this research is to verify if there are differences between films with similar genre, social impact and budget.

Finally, by using this methodology, this investigation exposes that there are two different perspectives in this field: the first one ensures that there are differences between women and men in film directing and the second one defends the opposite. Consequently, it is an investigation that remains unsolved and the result of this research, even though it's not conclusive, shows that in the analysed samples there are aspects that go against what the interviewees and the literature defend. Thus, this sample guides one to think that the gender of a film director is not a determining factor in searching for differences in blockbusters and that maybe the differences can be found in auteur films.