

# Sexism | Cinema Film Series: Spring 2015

Fifty years ago, the term “sexism” was coined. In light of this historical marker, this film series seeks to consider ways in which sexism is embedded, endorsed, and/or challenged in the cinema. Looking back at the past five decades, we selected films featuring women as central protagonists in order to review changing (and/or stagnant?) attitudes toward sex/gender. Together, these films offer an intriguing site for the analysis of diverse representations of race/ethnicity, femininities, and sexualities. All movies begin at 7:00pm and will be followed by 20-30 minutes discussion.

2/11: Foxy Brown

3/11: Fast Times at Ridgemont High

3/25: Fargo

4/23: Girlfight

## 4/29: Blue is the Warmest Color

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Film Fact: Since 1971, when Peter Finch was nominated for an Oscar for his role as a gay doctor in *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, 37 actors and actresses have been nominated for LGBT roles and 11 of them have won Oscars.

### Blue is the Warmest Color Controversies & Achievements

- Due to the focus on Adele's body and mouth, and the elaborate sex scenes in the film, some have questioned whether the director successfully portrays lust, desire, and sensuality, or whether the film is another example of female objectification. Julie Maroh, who wrote the original graphic novel, weighed in that the sex scenes do not accurately present lesbian sex and puncture the realism of the film. Do the scenes have artistic value or are they pornographic?
- Director Abdellatif Kechiche has been highly criticized for his directing methods and treatment of the young female actresses. Both actresses reported feeling terrorized and manipulated by the director. The actresses were required to remain naked and spent 10 days shooting one sex scene. Even for small moments of the film, the director required over 100 takes.
- To recognize the great investment of the film's lead actresses, the jury at Cannes awarded the Palme d'Or to Kechiche as well as stars, Léa Seydoux and Adèle Exarchopoulos. Steven Spielberg, who chaired the jury at Cannes, stated that the film was awarded in this manner to recognize “the achievements of three artists.” This was the first time the award was given to the director and stars collectively.

Go to <https://fearlessttu.wordpress.com/> for more resources and discussion!

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## See you in Fall 2015!