

There is a new breed of feminism sweeping Hollywood. Here, Australian producer Bruna Papandrea joins the gender equality debate and explains how women have dropped the “lady ball”.

Frankly, after slogging through film after film with women reduced to a series of one-note, stereotypical roles – the “pretty/loyal wife,” the “hot/falls in love with our hero girlfriend,” the “wise-cracking, not-so-pretty friend,” the “sage grandmother” etc. – we were getting tired of women consistently playing second fiddle to the leading man and being portrayed so blandly on screen. Sure, there were some great movies with awesome female leads but unfortunately they stuck out as the exceptions not the rule – it’s frustrating waiting around for the next Meryl Streep movie (you can’t keep the greatest living actor down!) or this generation’s *Thelma and Louise*. In a nutshell, Reese and I wanted

I think of the amazing women who've come before us who fought for our right to vote, our right to work, our right to choose, our right to breathe, but it's clear to me that we've stopped (or at least really slowed down). In my mind, I'm living my dreams.

I don't think the focus of the conversation should be squarely on female directors — it's an industry-wide

A reminder to the world that gender equality is a right, yes, a goal we must achieve, yes, but let's be honest, it's also just bloody good business! ■

THESE
PATTERNS
OF FEMALE
BEHAVIOUR
ARE DEEPLY
ROOTED
IN OUR
CULTURE.

