

WHO TO WATCH: 2026 Film FYC Guide

A comprehensive guide to the nomination-worthy women, nonbinary, and transgender filmmakers you should know this awards season.

Directors

- Kate Beecroft**, *East of Wall*
- Kaouther Ben Hania**, *The Voice of Hind Rajab*
- Kathryn Bigelow**, *House of Dynamite*
- Emilie Blichfeldt**, *The Ugly Stepsister*
- Mary Bronstein**, *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*
- Sophie Brooks**, *Oh, Hi!*
- Cherien Dabis**, *All That's Left of You*
- Nia DaCosta**, *Hedda* ⚡
- Embeth Davidtz**, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*
- Elaine del Valle**, *Brownsville Bred*
- Sierra Falconer**, *Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake)* ●
- Mona Fastvold**, *The Testament of Ann Lee*
- Rachel Feldman**, *Lilly* ●
- Kirsten Foe**, *Off the Record* ●
- Dolores Fonzi**, *Belen*
- Sarah Friedland**, *Familiar Touch*
- Nisha Ganatra**, *Freakier Friday* ♦♦
- Biliana & Marina Grozdanova**, *Eastern Western*
- Pinny Grylls**, *Grand Theft Hamlet*
- Hikari**, *Rental Family*
- Annemarie Jacir**, *Palestine 36*
- Scarlett Johansson**, *Eleanor the Great*
- Maggie Kang**, *KPop Demon Hunters*
- Jennifer Kaytin Robinson**, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*
- Kayci Lacob**, *Everything to Me*
- Tracie Laymon**, *Bob Trevino Likes It*
- Philippa Lowthorpe**, *H is for Hawk*
- Rungano Nyoni**, *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl*
- Laura Piani**, *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*
- Lynne Ramsey**, *Die My Love*
- Kelly Reichardt**, *The Mastermind*
- Tina Romero**, *Queens of the Dead*
- Mascha Schilinski**, *Sound of Falling*
- Domee Shi**, *Elio*
- Celine Song**, *Materialists*
- Kristen Stewart**, *The Chronology of Water*
- Constance Tsang**, *Blue Sun Palace* ★
- Shih-Ching Tsou**, *Left-Handed Girl*
- Amalia Ulman**, *Magic Farm*
- Mailys Vallade**, *Little Amélie or the Character of Rain*

- Anu Valia**, *We Strangers* ▶
- Eva Victor**, *Sorry, Baby*
- Kate Winslet**, *Goodbye June* ●
- Chloe Zhao**, *Hamnet*

Screenwriters

- Emilie Blichfeldt**, *The Ugly Stepsister*
- Joanna Calo**, *Thunderbolts**
- Julia Cho**, *Elio*
- Tricia Cooke**, *Honey Don't!*
- Cherien Dabis**, *All That's Left of You*
- Embeth Davidtz**, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*
- Nia DaCosta**, *Hedda* ⚡
- Emma Donoghue & Philippa Lowthorpe**, *H is for Hawk*
- Pamela Duffy-Little & Eleni Rivera**, *Almost Popular* ●
- Elaine del Valle**, *Brownsville Bred*
- Lori Evans Taylor**, *Final Destination Bloodlines*
- Sierra Falconer**, *Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake)* ●
- Mona Fastvold**, *The Testament of Ann Lee*
- Rachel Feldman**, *Lilly* ●
- Dolores Fonzi, Laura Paredes & Agustina San Martín**, *Belen*
- Mirrah Foulkes**, *Christy*
- Dana Fox & Winnie Holzman**, *Wicked: For Good*
- Sarah Friedland**, *Familiar Touch*
- Nora Garrett**, *After the Hunt* ●
- Holly Gent**, *Nouvelle Vague*
- Betsy Giffen Nowrasteh**, *Sarah's Oil*

- Biliana & Marina Grozdanova**, *Eastern Western*
- Pinny Grylls**, *Grand Theft Hamlet*
- Hikari**, *Rental Family*
- Annemarie Jacir**, *Palestine 36*
- Jillian Jacobs**, *Drop*
- Danya Jimenez, Maggie Kang & Hannah McMechan**, *KPop Demon Hunters* ★
- Erin Judge & Tina Romero**, *Queens of the Dead*
- Tory Kamen**, *Eleanor the Great*
- Jennifer Kaytin Robinson**, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*
- Kayci Lacob**, *Everything to Me*
- Tracie Laymon**, *Bob Trevino Likes It*
- Rehana Lew Mirza & Melanie Wilson LaBracio**, *Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie*
- Martyna Majok**, *Preparation for the Next Life* ●
- Susan McMartin**, *Regretting You*
- Emily Mortimer**, *Jay Kelly*
- Rungano Nyoni**, *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl*
- Louise Peter & Mascha Schilinski**, *Sound of Falling*
- Laura Piani**, *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*
- Amanda Silver**, *Avatar: Fire & Ash*
- Syreeta Singleton**, *One of Them Days*
- Celine Song**, *Materialists*
- Rebecca Sonnenshine**, *The Housemaid* ●
- Kristen Stewart**, *The Chronology of Water*
- Constance Tsang**, *Blue Sun Palace* ★



AWARDS & EQUITY

In the history of the Academy Awards®..

BEST DIRECTOR

2%

CIS WOMEN NOMINEES

0.2%

CIS WOMEN OF COLOR NOMINEES

0%

TRANS/NONBINARY NOMINEES

BEST ORIGINAL & ADAPTED SCREENPLAY

11%

CIS WOMEN NOMINEES

0.5%

CIS WOMEN OF COLOR NOMINEES

0%

TRANS/NONBINARY NOMINEES

- Shih-Ching Tsou**, *Left-Handed Girl*
- Amalia Ulman**, *Magic Farm*
- Anu Valia**, *We Strangers* ▶
- Jordan Weiss**, *Freakier Friday* ♦●
- Erin Cressida Wilson**, *Snow White*
- Chloe Zhao**, *Hamnet*

- Stephanie Economou**, *Everything to Me*
- Stephanie Economou**, *Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie*
- Mari Fukuhara**, *Little Amélie or the Character of Rain*
- Hildur Guðnadóttir**, *Hedda* ⚡
- Annika Henderson**, *Father, Mother, Sister, Brother*
- Paris Hurley**, *The Chronology of Water*
- Yuki Kajiura**, *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – The Movie: Infinity Castle*
- Laura Karpman**, *Captain America: Brave New World*
- Klein**, *BLKNWS: Terms & Conditions*
- Raashi Kulkarni**, *A Nice Indian Boy*
- Emilie Levienaise-Farrouch**, *H is for Hawk*
- Ariel Marx**, *Lilly* ●
- Lia Ouyang Rusli**, *Sorry, Baby*
- Lynne Ramsey**, *Die My Love*
- Hania Rani**, *Sentimental Value*
- Sarah Schachner**, *Predator: Badlands*
- Nala Sinephro**, *The Smashing Machine*
- Isabella Summers**, *Dust Bunny*
- Vilde Tuv**, *The Ugly Stepsister*
- Emily Wells**, *Plainclothes*

- Rachel Durance**, *Jay Kelly*
- Úna Ní Dhonghaile**, *Paddington in Peru*
- Peggy Eghbalian**, *The Long Walk*
- Madeleine Gavin**, *Captain America: Brave New World*
- Dana E. Glauberman**, *Karate Kid: Legends*
- Tania Goding**, *Last Breath*
- Pinny Grylls**, *Grand Theft Hamlet*
- Saira Haider**, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*
- Kaouter Ben Hania**, *The Voice of Hind Rajab*
- Tricia Holmes**, *A Little Prayer*
- Eleanor Infante**, *Freakier Friday* ♦●
- Allyson C. Johnson**, *Highest 2 Lowest*
- Stephanie Kaznocha**, *A Nice Indian Boy*
- Susan E. Kim**, *A Big Bold Beautiful Journey*
- Lisa Lassek**, *Dust Bunny*
- Nona Khodai**, *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*
- Taylor J. Mason**, *Him*
- Maya Maffioli**, *Echo Valley*
- Pamela Martin**, *Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere*
- Anne McCabe**, *Preparation for the Next Life* ●
- Billie Mind & Evelyn Rack**, *Sound of Falling*
- Olivia Neergaard-Holm**, *The Chronology of Water*
- Olivia Neergaard-Holm**, *The Ugly Stepsister*
- Fin Oates**, *Warfare*
- Danielle Palmer**, *Steve*
- Sabrina Pitre**, *Final Destinations Bloodline*
- Nancy Richardson & Joan Sobel**, *Lilly* ●
- Jane Rizzo**, *Rebuilding*
- Elisabet Ronaldsdóttir**, *Nobody 2*
- Stacey Schroeder**, *Now You See Me, Now You Don't*
- Catherine Schwartz**, *Nouvelle Vague*
- Sara Shaw**, *Splitsville*
- Sofía Subercaseaux**, *The Testament of Ann Lee*
- Constance Tsang**, *Blue Sun Palace* ★
- Aacharee Ungsriwong**, *Familiar Touch*
- Tracey Wadmore-Smith**, *Ella McCay* ⚡
- Lucia Zucchetti**, *Goodbye June* ●

Cinematographers

- Evgenia Alexandrova**, *The Secret Agent*
- Ava Berkofsky**, *One of Them Days*
- Alice Brooks**, *Wicked: For Good*
- Sarah Blum & Hélène Louvart**, *Palestine 36*
- Charlotte Bruus Christensen**, *H is for Hawk*
- Josée Deshaies**, *Urchin*
- Autumn Durald Arkapaw**, *Sinners*
- Em Michelle Gonzales**, *Off the Record* ●
- Pinny Grylls**, *Grand Theft Hamlet*
- Nicole Hirsch Whitaker**, *Dust Bunny*
- Charlotte Hornsby**, *We Strangers* ▶
- Kira Kelly**, *Him*
- Hélène Louvart**, *Eleanor the Great*
- Shannon Madden**, *Queens of the Dead*
- Shasta Spahn**, *Everything to Me*
- Amy Vincent**, *A Nice Indian Boy*
- Amy Vincent**, *Song Sung Blue*
- Mandy Walker**, *Snow White*
- Ari Wegner**, *Honey Don't!*

Visual Effects Supervisors

- Clara Chan**, *KPop Demon Hunters* ★
- Laura J. Hill**, *One Battle After Another*
- Charlotta Forssman**, *Now You See Me, Now You Don't*

Editors

- Anisha Acharya**, *Bob Trevino Likes It*
- Floriane Allier**, *Jane Austen Wrecked My Life*
- Tina Baz**, *All That's Left of You*
- Kim Boritz-Brehm & Tia Nolan**, *One of Them Days*
- Victoria Boydell**, *All of You*
- Sarah Broshar**, *Snow White*
- Angela M. Catanzaro**, *Thunderbolts**
- Sophie Corra**, *Friendship*
- Sophie Corra & Monika Willi**, *The Carpenter's Son*
- Jennifer Chung**, *Almost Popular* ●
- Emily Denker**, *Honey Don't!*

Composers

- Marilyna Bertoldi**, *Belen*
- Kathryn Bostic**, *Sarah's Oil*
- Michelle Cho**, *Sunfish (& Other Stories on Green Lake)* ●
- Lucrecia Dalt**, *On Becoming a Guinea Fowl*
- Lucrecia Dalt**, *Rabbit Trap*
- Chanda Dancy**, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*
- Chanda Dancy**, *One of Them Days*
- Sofia degli Alessandri**, *All of You*
- Florencia Di Concilio**, *The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo*
- Aime Doherty**, *Freakier Friday* ♦●

⚡ 2025 WIF Honoree project ▶ ReFrame Rise Fellow project ★ WIF Fellow project ◆ WIF Board of Directors project ● ReFrame Stamp applicant



AWARDS & EQUITY

5 years of ReFrame Stamp film reporting shows that the roles of cinematographer, composer, visual effects supervisor, and editor are the least likely to be held by women, nonbinary, and transgender people. The Academy Awards follow this trend:

Only 3 women have ever been nominated for Best Cinematography. It is the only Academy Award category a woman has not yet won.

The most recent woman to win Best Original Score was in 2019 – over a decade since a woman last took home the trophy.

Since its inception in 1980, only 5 women have been nominated in Best Visual Effects. 2023 marked the first nomination for a woman of color.

The first woman of color to be nominated for Best Film Editing was less than a decade ago, in 2016. No woman of color has ever won.