



## Feminist Film Theory

This guide is designed to assist our patrons in understanding Feminist Film Theory by providing key resources to use as a starting point in their research. Use this information to refine your search, and contact library staff with any follow-up questions or for further research assistance.

### Subject Headings

A subject heading can help refine your search by narrowing the search field.

To find books on feminist film theory available in the Film Reference Library, use the following subject headings:

#### Subject

- FEMINISM
- FEMINISM - ARAB COUNTRIES
- FEMINISM - BIBLIOGRAPHY
- FEMINISM - CANADA
- FEMINISM - DISCOGRAPHY
- FEMINISM - FILM CATALOGS**
- FEMINISM - UNITED STATES
- FEMINISM AND LITERATURE
- FEMINISM AND MASS MEDIA - CANADA - HISTORY
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - CANADA - HISTORY
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - CONGRESSES
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - EUROPE, EASTERN
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - FRANCE
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - GERMANY
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - NEW YORK (STATE) - NEW YORK
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - SOVIET UNION
- FEMINISM AND MOTION PICTURES - TURKEY
- FEMINISM AND THE ARTS
- FEMINISM AND THE ARTS - AUSTRIA

SEARCH

RESET FORM

Examples of subject headings related to feminist film theory

- [Feminism bibliography](#)
- [Feminism – Film catalogs](#)
- [Feminism and motion pictures – Canada – History](#)
- [Feminism and mass media – Canada – History](#)
- [Feminist film criticism](#)
- [Feminist films](#)
- [Feminist theory](#)
- [Feminism and the arts](#)

## Books

Books provide a comprehensive overview of a larger topic, making them an excellent resource to start your research with.

[\*Visual and Other Pleasures\*](#) by Laura Mulvey  
Publisher: Indiana University Press, 1989

[\*Chick Flicks: Theories and Memories of the Feminist Film Movement\*](#) by B. Ruby Rich  
Publisher: Duke University Press, 1998

[\*Looking for the Other: Feminism, Film, and the Imperial Gaze\*](#) by Ann Kaplan  
Publisher: Routledge 1997

[\*And the Mirror Cracked: Feminist Cinema and Film Theory\*](#) by Anneke Smelik  
Publisher: Palgrave 2001

*Female Masochism in Film: Sexuality, Ethics and Aesthetics* by Ruth McPhee  
Publisher: Routledge 2014

[\*Women's Cinema, World Cinema: Projecting Contemporary Feminisms\*](#) by Patricia White  
Publisher: Duke University Press 2015

[\*Cinematic Howling: Women's Films, Women's Film Theories\*](#) by Hoi F. Cheu  
Publisher: UBC Press 2007

[\*The Monstrous-Feminine: Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis\*](#) by Barbara Creed  
Publisher: Routledge, 1993

[\*Gendering the Nation: Canadian Women's Cinema\*](#) by Kay Armatage et al.  
Publisher: University of Toronto Press 1999

[\*Afterimages: On Cinema, Women and Changing Times\*](#) by Laura Mulvey  
Publisher: Reaktion Books 2022

[\*Feminist Film Theory: A Reader\*](#) by Sue Thornham  
Publisher: New York University Press 1999

[\*A Feminist Reader in Early Cinema\*](#) by Jennifer M Bean, Diane Negra  
Publisher: Duke University Press 2002

### Articles

Articles are usually shorter in length and focus on a unique argument.

#### Foundational Feminist Film Theory

*Note: All articles listed can be found in the Film Reference Library's print and/or electronic periodical collection. You can access these articles by visiting the Library in person.*

bell hooks, "The Oppositional Gaze," in *Feminist Film Theory: A Reader*, ed. Sue Thornham (New York City: New York University Press, 1999).

Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema," *Screen* 16, no. 3 (September 1, 1975): 6–18, <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/16.3.6>.

John Berger, "Chapter 3," in *Ways of Seeing: Based on the BBC Television Series with John Berger*, (Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1974), <https://www.ways-of-seeing.com/ch3>.

Mary Ann Doane, "Film and the Masquerade: Theorising the Female Spectator," *Screen* 23, no. 3–4 (September 1, 1982): 74–88, <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/23.3-4.74>.

Barbara Creed, "Horror and the Monstrous-Feminine: An Imaginary Abjection," *Screen* 27, no. 1 (January 1, 1986): 44–71, <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/27.1.44>.

Carolyn Korsmeyer, "Pleasure: Reflections on Aesthetics and Feminism," *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 51, no. 2 (1993): 199–206, <https://doi.org/10.2307/431386>.

#### Contemporary Feminist Film Theory

*Note: All articles listed can be found via open access publications and are freely available to the public.*

Sarah Artt, "Being Inside Her Silence: Silence and Performance in Lynne Ramsay's *Morvern Callar*," *Scope: An Online Journal of Film and Television Studies*, Issue 25, February 2013, <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/scope/documents/2013/february-2013/artt.pdf>.

Alison Butler, Feminist theory and women's films at the turn of the century, *Screen*, Volume 41, Issue 1, Spring 2000, Pages 73–79, <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/41.1.73>.

Amelia Crowther, "Hag Witches and Women's Liberation: Negotiations of Feminist Excess in the U.S. Horror Film, 1968-1972," *Frames Cinema Journal*, Issue 16, Winter 2019, <http://framescinemajournal.com/article/hag-witches-and-womens-liberation-negotiations-of-feminist-excess-in-the-u-s-horror-film-1968-1972/>.

Barbara Klinger, "The art film, affect and the female viewer: *The Piano* revisited," *Screen*, Volume 47, Issue 1, Spring 2006, Pages 19-41, <https://doi.org/10.1093/screen/hjl002>.

So Mayer, "The Art of (Feminist Film) Work in the Age of Digital Reproduction," *cléo*, Volume 2, Issue 2, Summer 2019, <https://cleojournal.com/2014/08/21/the-art-of-feminist-film-work-in-the-age-of-digital-reproduction-2/>.

Kathleen McHugh, "Prolegomenon: Anger, Aesthetics, and Affective Witness in Contemporary Feminist Cinema," *Film Quarterly* Volume 75, Issue 1, Pages 10-22, <https://doi.org/10.1525/fq.2021.75.1.10>.

Michaël Van Remoortere, "Regarding the Pain of Mothers: On the Silence in Jeanne Dielman," *photogénie*, December 2022, <https://photogenie.be/regarding-the-pain-of-mothers-on-the-silence-in-jeanne-dielman/>.

Ana Vujanović, "Landscapes of Resistance: Time and Temporality of Feminist Storytelling," *Senses of Cinema*, Issue 103, October 2022, <https://www.sensesofcinema.com/2022/after-yugoslavia/landscapes-of-resistance-time-and-temporality-of-feminist-storytelling/>.

## Films

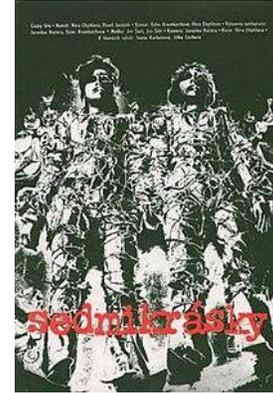
A collection of films featuring female directors and/or actors, as well as feminist plots and ideology.



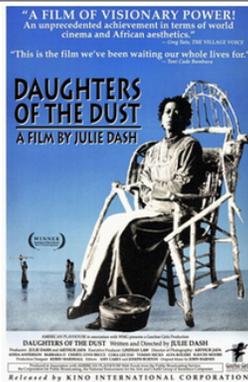
*Certain Women* (2016), dir.  
Kelly Reichardt  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Bio File\]](#)



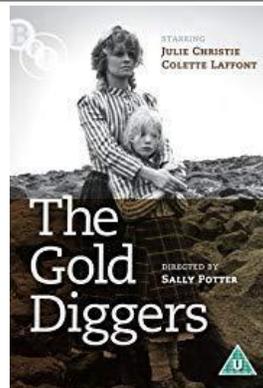
*Cléo de 5 à 7* (1962), dir.  
Agnes Varda  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



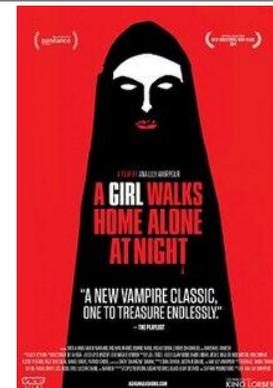
*Daisies* (1966), dir. Věra  
Chytilová  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



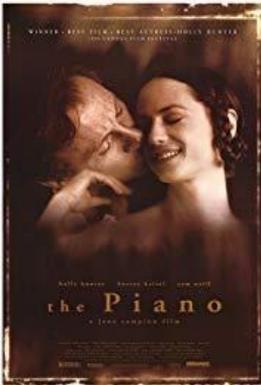
*Daughters of the Dust* (1991),  
dir. Julie Dash  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



*The Gold Diggers* (1983),  
dir. Sally Potter  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



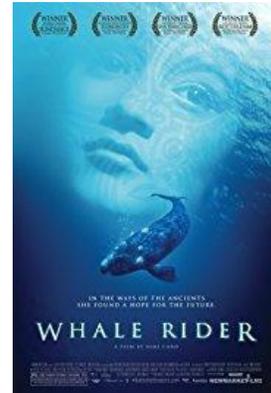
*A Girl Walks Home Alone at  
Night* (2014), dir. Ana Lily  
Amirpour  
[\[Film File\]](#)



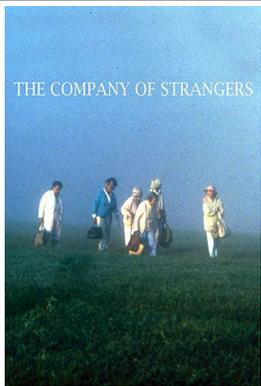
*The Piano* (1993),  
dir. Jane Campion  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



*Jeanne Dielman, 23, quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975), dir. Chantal Akerman  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



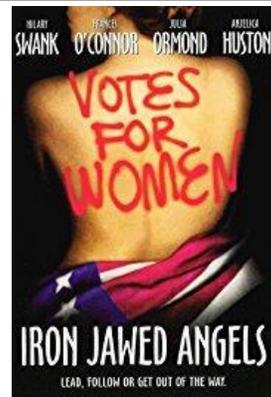
*Whale Rider* (2002),  
dir. Niki Caro  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



*The Company of Strangers* (1990), dir. Cynthia Scott  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[Film File\]](#)



*4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (2007), dir. Cristian Mungiu  
[\[Film File\]](#)



*Iron Jawed Angels* (2004),  
dir. Katja von Garnier  
[\[AV\]](#) [\[File File\]](#)

## External Sources

Links to resources and institutions that have more information on Feminist Film Theory films and the industry.

- [10 Great Feminist Films; BFI](#)
- [Women Make Movies](#)
- [Birds Eye View](#)
- [Black Women Film Network](#)
- [Women in Film and TV Toronto](#)
- [Gender Equity in Media Society Vancouver](#)
- [cléo Journal](#)
- [Cinema Femme](#)
- [The Light Leaks](#)
- [Women in View](#)
- [National Film Board](#)
- [Oxford Bibliographies](#)
- [Feminist Films for the Classroom](#)