

# HOLLYWOOD IGNORING THE MOVIE TASTES OF WOMEN?

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Published: Friday, June 25 1993 12:00 a.m. MDT

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## Summary

The current hit film "Indecent Proposal," in which Robert Redford offers Woody Harrelson \$1 million for the privilege of sleeping with Demi Moore, is being touted as a woman's film despite its weirdly sexist overtones. "The idea of being a whore for a night is kind of exciting for a woman," the director Adrian Lyne reportedly said of the movie's premise.

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"The idea of being a whore for a night is kind of exciting for a woman," the director Adrian Lyne reportedly said of the movie's premise. The fact that the film earned \$70 million in its first four weeks is proof to Hollywood that today's version of a woman's film is one in which every woman has her price.

If Hollywood is shaky about what women want to see on screen, it certainly knows how to appeal to men. Just check out the summer schedule: huge budgets, lots of violence, naked women and sex. The industry has pinned its hopes on Sylvester Stallone in "Cliffhanger," Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Last Action Hero" and Clint Eastwood in "In the Line of Fire."

Other forthcoming examples of the genre: "Weekend at Bernie's 2," "The Fugitive" with Harrison Ford and "Surf Ninjas." In the typical man's movie, the men are handsome (and women love them, even if they're not), they cannot be defeated, no matter how ridiculous the plot, and they win the woman in the end.

Summer offerings for women, by contrast, offer no formulaic sequels such as "Enchanted April 2" or sure-fire, high-stakes star vehicles. The few movies that are designed for women make "Thelma and Louise" - with its tough-girl heroines - look like a freak occurrence.

On tap for women this summer are low- or medium-budget movies: Whoopi Goldberg in "Made in America," a comedy about artificial insemination; "What's Love Got to Do With It," about Tina Turner and her abusive husband, Ike; "Hocus Pocus," about three witches; and Nora Ephron's "Sleep-less in Seattle," a romantic comedy about a man (Tom Hanks), his son and their attempt to find a wife and mother (Meg Ryan). "Sleep-less" has already been touted as a date movie - which means that women get to choose and men won't object.

Everyone knows that women will line up for action pictures and get a thrill out of high-tech warfare on screen. And plenty of men love sensitive Merchant-Ivory films. But - no matter how much it sounds like a vast generalization - men and women do gravitate to different films.

Girl movies, boy movies. That such categories exist - and are described, albeit discreetly, in just those terms in Hollywood - is one of the movie industry's dirty little secrets.

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