

PATHWAYS TO POWER  
Montgomery County NOW Symposium, 1991

Movie and Video List

Ellen Burstyn was once asked why she supported a women's film festival when men didn't have one. Her response: "Oh yes they do, it's called Hollywood."

Film reviews and plot summaries are often downright sexist. How about this for NORMA RAE: "Blue collar factory girl turns angry union organizer." Montgomery County NOW offers a sampling of movie and video movie titles and descriptions to start us looking at media images in the context of feminist thinking: thinking that says women should be portrayed realistically as screen images and allowed to be capable and fulfilled as performers in the film industry.

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THE BURNING BED (1987). After years of enduring spousal abuse, a woman fights back.

COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER (1980). Loretta Lynn's rise from poverty to the top ranks of country/western music.

THE COLOR PURPLE (1985). Based on Alice Walker's book, a look at the lives of some southern black women in the first half of the century.

THE CORN IS GREEN (1945). A school teacher starts a village school for Welsh miners.

CRY IN THE DARK (1988). True story of a woman claiming her baby was killed by wild dogs, is tried in court and media.

DESERT HEARTS (1986). A 50's romance between an English professor and a casino worker who meet at a ranch in Nevada.

MARIE (1985). True story of the first woman to head the Tennessee Board of Pardons and Paroles.

MY BRILLIANT CAREER (Australia, 1979). Woman living during the turn of the century refuses a suitor to pursue her dream of the world beyond.

FARMER'S DAUGHTER (1947). Swedish maid of a congressman becomes a political force.

NORMA RAE (1979). A southern factory worker becomes a successful labor union organizer.

OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNE (1987). A comic adventure of two struggling actresses embroiled in a CIA plot.

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PEOPLE VS. JEAN HARRIS (1981). MTV film based on the Scarsdale diet doctor murder trial.

A QUESTION OF LOVE (1989). An admitted lesbian struggles to retain custody of her son.

RESURRECTION (1980). Woman experiences clinical death and returns with healing powers. She refuses to accept her lover's contention that her power comes from God and not from within herself.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE (1989). English housewife vacations in Greece and rediscovers her zest for life.

SILKWOOD (1983). True story of a worker in a nuclear processing plant who mysteriously dies just before talking with a reporter.

STAGE DOOR (1937). Classic film of life in a New York theatrical boarding house.

STEEL MAGNOLIAS (1989). Six southern women face their fears and hopes.

STRANGERS IN GOOD COMPANY (1991). Group of women cooperate when their bus breaks down.

SUGARBABY (Germany, 1980). One of the few movies casting an overweight woman in the nontraditional romantic lead.

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT (1983). Portrayal of the intimate relationship between a mother and daughter.

THELMA AND LOUISE (1991). Powerful story of two women bonding against malevolence.

TROJAN WOMEN (1971). Katherine Hepburn, Vanessa Redgrave, Genevieve Bujold, Irene Papas provide the power for this interpretation of Euripedes' tragedy.

TURNING POINT (1979). Ballet is the focal point of this drama depicting two women's life choices.

TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL (1985). An elderly woman overcomes obstacles to return to a town of her past.

WHALES OF AUGUST (1987). Two elderly sisters living independent lives in Maine face change brought on by outside forces.

WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN (Spain, 1989). Story of fiery women dealing with a man's betrayal.

THE WOMEN'S ROOM (1980). Colleen Dewhurst is one of the stars of this movie version of Marilyn French's best seller.

YENTL (1983). A 17 year old Jewish woman masquerades as a man in order to pursue scholarly studies.