

Beat: Vips

HOLLYWOOD SCANDAL TOP FEMALE STARS ARE FINALLY SPEAKING OUT

INEQUALITY IN THE MOVIE BUSINESS

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USPA NEWS - The top-earning female dramatic actors take home around 40% of the salaries of their male co-stars. Patricia Arquette injected some political fervour into the Oscars ceremony by calling for equal pay for women at the end of her acceptance speech for best supporting actress...

The top-earning female dramatic actors take home around 40% of the salaries of their male co-stars. Patricia Arquette injected some political fervour into the Oscars ceremony by calling for equal pay for women at the end of her acceptance speech for best supporting actress. It began conventionally enough, with Arquette paying tribute to her cast members...

It concluded with : "To every woman who gave birth, to every taxpayer and citizen of this nation, we have fought for everybody else's equal rights. It's time to have wage equality once and for all. And equal rights for women in the United States of America."^[1]

Barely a day now passes without another high-profile female actor sharing a story of double standards in the payroll department. Others joining the chorus include Jennifer Aniston, Kim Cattrall, Salma Hayek, Emma Watson, Charlize Theron and Amanda Seyfried who, earlier this month, revealed she was paid 10% of an equivalent male actor's salary in a big-budget production.

Jennifer Lawrence is estimated \$52m haul over the past 12 months puts her way out ahead of the second-placed actress, Scarlett Johansson, who made \$35.5m during the same period. Lawrence's rise to prominence has been stratospheric: it is just five years since her Oscar-nominated breakthrough. Since then, she has picked up a best actress Oscar for 2012's Silver Linings Playbook and a best supporting actress nomination for 2013's American Hustle.

According to the Forbes list of the highest paid female actors in the world "Melissa McCarthy, ranked third with \$23 million, is the only other actress to bank over \$20 million in our scoring period. The Bridesmaids star has proven her ability to carry movies solo""Spy and Tammy grossed a combined \$335 million worldwide and now she's turning to fashion, launching an all-sizes clothing line."

May 16, 2015, during the Cannes Film Festival, Salma Hayek said : "For a long time they thought the only thing we were interested in seeing were romantic comedies,...They don't see us as a powerful economic force, which is an incredible ignorance."^[2]

She also said that she's lost out on jobs because A-list actors have approval over her casting, whereas top actresses in Hollywood don't get similar deals. She noted how studio executives suffer from amnesia when it comes to female-driven hits.

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