

MARCH 2024

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Yorkston School Newsletter



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: FILM RECOMMENDATIONS, FEMINIST POETRY AND TRAILBLAZING MUSICIANS

FILM RECOMMENDATIONS, FEMINIST POETRY AND TRAILBLAZING MUSICIANS

Dear all,

As we celebrate International Women's Day, I wanted to share with you a list of films, feminist poems and music that celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women throughout history.

These **recommendations** explore the **fight for women's rights**, reflect on the female experience, and showcase the talents of **remarkable women**.





FILM RECOMMENDATIONS:

Let's get the popcorn out!

1. **On the Basis of Sex (2018)**

- Directed by Mimi Leder
- A powerful portrayal of the early life and career of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, highlighting her landmark case on sex discrimination.

2. **Suffragette (2015)**

- Directed by Sarah Gavron
- Set in 1912, this film follows working women in the UK who fought for women's suffrage, shedding light on their sacrifices and dedication to the cause.

3. **Hidden Figures (2016)**

- Directed by Theodore Melfi
- Based on real events, this film tells the story of three Black women who played crucial roles at NASA during the Space Race, breaking barriers of both gender and race.

4. **Made in Dagenham (2010)**

- Directed by Nigel Cole
- Depicting the Ford sewing machinists' strike of 1968, this film explores the demand for equal pay and its impact on changing UK labor laws.

5. **Battle of the Sexes (2017)**

- Directed by Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton
- A gripping portrayal of the 1973 tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, highlighting the fight for equal pay and recognition in the sports world.

6. **Iron Jawed Angels (2004)**

- Directed by Katja von Garnier
- Examining the U.S. women's suffrage movement in the 1910s, this film follows leaders Alice Paul and Lucy Burns in their quest for a constitutional amendment.

7. **The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (2017)**

- Directed by David France
- A documentary investigating the life and activism of transgender icon Marsha P. Johnson, a key figure in the early trans rights movement.

8. **The Glorias (2020)**

- Directed by Julie Taymor
- A surreal biopic on feminist icon Gloria Steinem, showcasing key events in her life and the intersectional nature of the feminist movement.

9. **Selma (2014)**

- Directed by Ava DuVernay
- Focusing on the 1965 voting rights marches, this film significantly centers on trailblazing women who played crucial roles in the civil rights movement.

10. **North Country (2005)**

- Directed by Niki Caro
- Based on a true story, this film follows a female miner's fight against sexual harassment, leading to a landmark case that changed U.S. law.

*Lights, Camera, Empowerment:
Exploring Feminism in Film*



FEMINIST POETRY:

Honouring Women's Contributions: A Grateful Note

1. **"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou**

- An empowering poem that champions womanhood, resilience, and rising above oppression.

2. **"Lady Lazarus" by Sylvia Plath**

- Sylvia Plath's exploration of near-death experiences, touching on the struggles of the female artist in a male-dominated world.

3. **"In Honour of That High and Mighty Princess, Queen Elizabeth" by Anne Bradstreet**

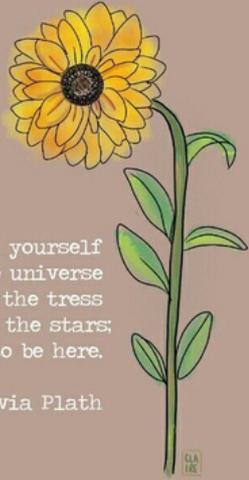
- Anne Bradstreet's praise for Queen Elizabeth as an ideal of a strong, independent woman.

4. **"Marrying the Hangman" by Margaret Atwood**

- Margaret Atwood's poem that blends feminism with a historical perspective on an old law related to executions.

5. **"What They Don't Want You to Know" by Amanda Lovelace**

- A short yet impactful poem from Lovelace's collection, offering an important reminder to young girls.



Be gentle with yourself
You are a child of the universe
No less than the tress
and the stars;
You have a right to be here.

-Sylvia Plath



Click to listen: https://youtu.be/qviM_GnJbOM?si=rLZKOLcp9BI5QvfR

Expressing gratitude to the influential women in poetry and acknowledging the importance of their contributions.



CULTURAL ICONS IN MUSIC:

Pioneering Women in Music: Honoring the Icons

1. **Ms. Lauryn Hill:**

- As one of the greatest rappers of all time, Ms. Lauryn Hill's fusion of hip-hop, R&B, and soul has left an enduring impact. Her album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill" not only earned critical acclaim but also became a cultural touchstone, winning multiple Grammys.

2. **Dolly Parton:**

- A beloved figure in the music industry, Dolly Parton's authenticity, warmth, and philanthropy have made her an iconic presence. From her extensive career in country music to her charitable endeavors, Dolly continues to inspire generations.

3. **Selena Quintanilla-Perez:**

- Known as the "Queen of Tejano Music," Selena's influence transcends genres and cultures. A trailblazer in the Tejano music genre, she continues to be a symbol of Latin music and cultural pride.

From breaking through gender barriers to achieving crossover success, female musicians have made a lasting impact on the world of music. In addition to the poets listed, we celebrate the following musicians who have shaped the landscape of music and society.

4. **Whitney Houston:**

- Whitney Houston's powerhouse vocals made her one of the most iconic singers of the 20th century. Her chart-topping hits and contributions to film soundtracks have solidified her legacy as a music legend.

5. **Aretha Franklin:**

- The "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin, is rightfully hailed as one of the greatest singers of all time. Beyond her musical achievements, she used her voice to advocate for civil rights and equality.

6. **Ella Fitzgerald:**

- A trailblazer in her own right, Ella Fitzgerald was the first woman to win multiple Grammy awards and the first to receive the Recording Academy Lifetime Achievement Award. Her collaborations and perseverance made her a legend.

7. **Carole King:**

- Celebrated for her soothing voice and introspective lyrics, Carole King's breakthrough album "Tapestry" marked a pivotal moment in music history. A prolific songwriter, she opened doors for future female singer-songwriters.

8. **Nina Simone:**

- a classically trained pianist and vocal powerhouse, stands as a beacon in jazz, blues, and civil rights activism. Songs like "Feeling Good" and "Mississippi Goddam" showcase her soul-stirring voice and commitment to social justice during the Civil Rights Movement. Beyond music, Simone's fearless advocacy left an enduring impact, blending genres and infusing her art with purpose, solidifying her legacy as a trailblazer in both music and activism.





Click to listen: <https://youtu.be/FCRp3UGlfig?si=x1NAskh7qujBiL2Q>

CULTURAL ICONS IN MUSIC:

Today's Impact: Modern Female Musicians

9. **Madonna:**

-The "Queen of Pop," has reigned over the music scene since the '80s, leaving an enduring legacy of pop culture influence. With hits like "Like a Virgin" and "Vogue," she fearlessly tackled societal norms, becoming a symbol of empowerment. Madonna's career showcases her versatility as a singer, songwriter, actress, and trailblazing businesswoman, consistently pushing boundaries.

10. **Beyoncé:**

Beyoncé, a global icon and powerhouse performer, has reshaped the music industry with her unmatched talent and charisma. From her Destiny's Child days to solo hits like "Single Ladies" and "Formation," Beyoncé's influence extends beyond music. An advocate for Black empowerment, feminism, and philanthropy, she seamlessly intertwines artistry with social impact, leaving an indelible mark on contemporary music and culture.



Click to listen:

<https://youtu.be/238Z4YaAr1g?si=4Pgc3T4oKC9QV1M2>

Modern Female Artists Breaking Records:

1. **Taylor Swift:**

- Taylor Swift, a record-breaking artist, has set new standards in the music industry. Her achievements, philanthropy, and resilience in the face of adversity make her a role model for many.

2. **Rihanna:**

- A powerhouse in the industry, Rihanna's influence extends beyond music to beauty and fashion. As a self-made billionaire, she continues to break boundaries and advocate for social and political causes.

3. **Mariah Carey:**

- Known for her incredible vocal range, Mariah Carey is a chart-topping artist and one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Her impact on the cultural landscape is immeasurable, both as a music icon and a humanitarian.

As we celebrate these accomplished female musicians, let us reflect on the power of their voices, the messages in their lyrics, and the societal changes they've inspired.





TIPS

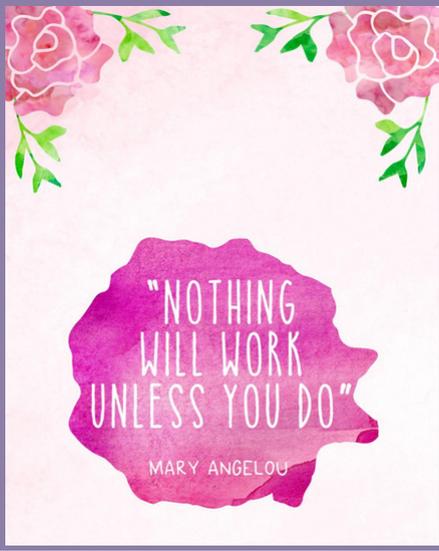
METAPHOR: PAVED THE WAY

MEANING:

THE METAPHOR "**PAVED THE WAY**" IS A POWERFUL EXPRESSION THAT SIGNIFIES CLEARING OBSTACLES, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES, AND MAKING PROGRESS FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. IT IMPLIES THAT SOMEONE'S ACTIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE OPENED THE DOOR FOR OTHERS, BREAKING NEW GROUND AND MAKING FUTURE SUCCESS POSSIBLE.

EXAMPLE:

IN THE WORLD OF STEM, KATHERIN JOHNSON'S GROUNDBREAKING CONTRIBUTIONS AT NASA PAVED THE WAY FOR MORE WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR TO PURSUE CAREERS IN SPACE EXPLORATION AND RELATED FIELDS. HER DEDICATION AND BRILLIANCE NOT ONLY PROPELLED HER OWN CAREER BUT CREATED A FOUNDATION THAT ALLOWED OTHERS TO FOLLOW IN HER FOOTSTEPS. JOHNSON'S WORK SERVED AS A CATALYST, DEMOLISHING BARRIERS AND INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION TO REACH FOR THE STARS. SHE NOT ONLY CALCULATED TRAJECTORIES; SHE CHARTED A COURSE FOR INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY IN SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVORS. 🚀🌟



I encourage you to explore these works and reflect on the incredible contributions of women to society.

Sources:

<https://mashable.com/article/best-feminist-movies>

<https://unexpectedvirtualtours.com/resources/most-influential-women-in-music/>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/138721/celebrating-womens-history-month>

