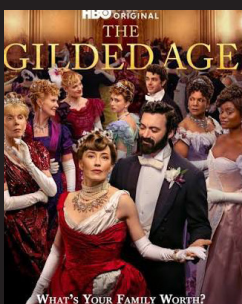


Women's Media Center 2026 Report: Gender & Non-Acting Emmy Nominations





THE WOMEN'S MEDIA CENTER WORKS TO MAKE WOMEN VISIBLE AND POWERFUL IN THE MEDIA



Founded in 2005 by Jane Fonda, Robin Morgan, and Gloria Steinem, the WMC is an inclusive and feminist organization that works to ensure women's realities are covered and women's voices are heard.

WMC works to make women visible and powerful in the media. We do so by promoting women as decision-makers and as subjects in media; training women to be effective in media; researching and exposing sexism and racism in media; and creating original online and on-air journalism.

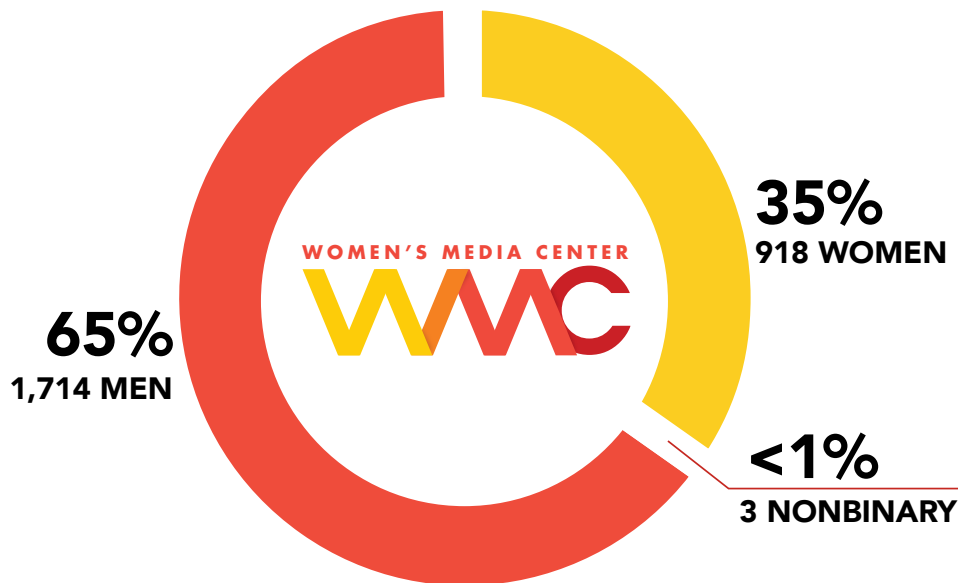
Our media programs that address the problems of unequal representation and misrepresentation of women in media include interconnected strategies that:

- Recruit and place diverse women experts in the media — print, broadcast, radio, internet, social media, and media leadership — through WMC SheSource.
- Train diverse women leaders to be effective in media, and increase their thought leadership through WMC Progressive Women's Voices and other customized training and leadership programs.
- Investigate, report, create, and publish original media to expand diverse women's voices and representation through WMC Features, WMC Women Under Siege, WMC FBomb, WMC Speech Project, WMC IDAR/E, and our syndicated radio program and podcast, WMC Live with Robin Morgan.
- Research, document, and produce reports that highlight the status of women in U.S. media, equip activists with evidence, and create benchmarks to hold media accountable for sexist and racist coverage.
- Advocate before government officials and agencies on policies affecting women's access to media and technology, ownership of media and technology, and safe and free speech in media and technology.

Women's Media Center 2026 Report: Gender and Non-Acting Emmy Nominations

For some 15 years, the Women's Media Center (WMC) has researched and produced reports on gender and non-acting nominations for the Emmy awards. These reports have documented, in detail, the representation of women as nominees in every category for these awards and provided an analysis of the status and progress, or lack thereof, in each area. This new report, "Women's Media Center 2026 Report: Gender & Non-Acting Emmy Nominations," adds to our understanding of where women are and are not in the industry. WMC reports equip thought leaders, journalists, activists, and academics with a wealth of information to demonstrate the status of women in behind-the-camera roles in Hollywood, as indicated by women's representation among nominees of these high-status industry awards.

ALL NOMINATIONS TOTAL

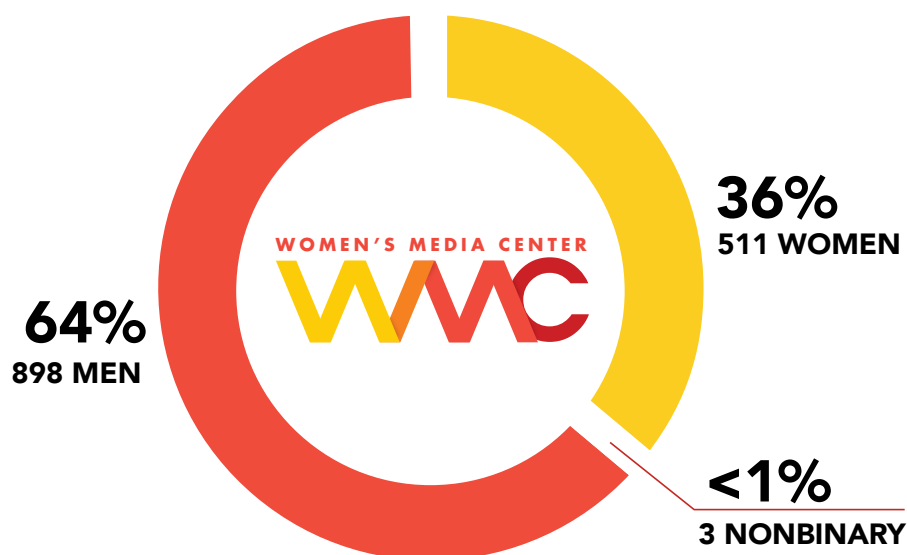


The Primetime Emmy Awards have experienced some big changes this year, but gender parity for the non-acting nominees isn't one of those changes. New aspects of the Primetime Emmy Awards include no longer using the name Creative Arts Emmy Awards for mostly technical categories; relocating some of the categories from the main telecast to the lower-profile pre-telecast ceremonies that are livestreamed on Emmys.com; and altering eligibility requirements for some categories. What hasn't changed is the low representation of women as nominees in non-acting categories, which has never exceeded 35%. This year's total matches that high, representing an increase of 2 percentage points from the 33% of women nominees in non-acting categories in 2025.

For the 78th annual Primetime Emmy Awards (which will be presented in Los Angeles on September 14), 2,635 people have been nominated in 102 non-acting categories. Of these nominees, 918 (35%) are women, 1,714 (65%) are men, and three (less than 1%) are nonbinary. This is a slight increase in female representation, compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, which had 2,634 people nominated in 102 non-acting categories. Of those nominees, 855 (33%) were women, 1,774 (67%) were men, and five (less than 1%) were nonbinary.

In the four major non-acting fields for the awards show — producing, directing, writing, and editing — the overall percentage increased slightly. For the 78th annual Primetime Emmy Awards, 1,412 people are nominated in 42 categories for producing, directing, writing, and editing. Of these 1,412 people, 511 (36%) are women, 898 (64%) are men, and three (less than 1%) are nonbinary. By comparison, for the 77th annual Primetime Emmy Awards, 1,451 people were nominated in categories for producing, directing, writing, and editing. Of these 1,451 people, 460 (32%) were women, 988 (68%) were men, and three (less than 1%) were nonbinary. Of the four fields, producing continues to be the one in which women are most likely to get Primetime Emmy nods. Progress in female representation has been made in some Primetime Emmy categories for producing, directing, writing, and editing, but there are very noticeable decreases in other categories.

OVERALL PRODUCING, DIRECTING, WRITING, AND EDITING



"In 2026, women's representation increased by 4 percentage points in the combined fields of producing, directing, writing, and editing," Julie Burton, President and CEO of the Women's Media Center, said. "This percentage — 36% — is a decade milestone for women. In 2016, women in these combined fields represented only 25% of nominated producers, directors, writers, and editors. We encourage the industry to continue this trend at a much faster pace so that women can be given equal footing in all roles behind the scenes in television."

The Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (or Television Academy), which oversees and produces the Primetime Emmy Awards, reports that it has approximately 27,000 members, of whom only members with National Active status are eligible to vote. The Television Academy does not publicly disclose how many of its members have this status, but it defines National Active status as being an individual who is least 18 years old, with active experience in national TV production/distribution within the last four years, and meeting specific criteria for one of the Academy's peer groups. There are 32 "peer group" categories representing specific fields of expertise. The Academy does not report the identity demographics (such as gender and race) of its members, although it occasionally releases demographic information that some of its members voluntarily self-report.

For the seventh consecutive year, each category could have up to eight nominations, based on a sliding scale of eligible submitted nominations. The exceptions are the categories of Outstanding Drama Series and Outstanding Comedy Series, which have eight nominations each, regardless of the number of submissions. These increases in nominations per category have not resulted in significant percentage increases for women being nominated in non-acting categories. In most non-acting categories, more nominations have resulted in more men getting these nominations in total numbers and in percentages, in every year since these changes to the category rules.

In 2026, the Television Academy revamped several Emmy categories. Here are the biggest changes with the potential to have the most impact on the number of women who could get nominated, particularly for female-dominated categories such as costume design and casting.

Costume Design: The job title of key costumer has now been added as an eligible job title in costume design categories.

Casting: For scripted series categories (comedy, drama, and limited or anthology series), associate casting director has been added as an eligible job title for an Emmy nomination. There was a different eligibility change in reality series casting: Prior to 2026, there was no maximum on the number of casting job titles that could be eligible for reality series. As of 2026, the number of eligible casting job titles for reality series has been capped at nine.

Variety Series: The categories of Outstanding Variety Talk Series and Outstanding Scripted Variety Series have now been combined into the revived category of Outstanding Variety Series, which had been shuttered in 2015.

Sound Design: Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Nonfiction or Reality Program has been split into two categories: Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Nonfiction Program and Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Reality Program.

In six categories for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, there are no women nominated at all. That's a significant decrease from the 13 categories from which women were shut out at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards. Cinematography remains the field that shuts out women nominees the most frequently. The categories that have no women nominees this year are:

- Outstanding Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie
- Outstanding Cinematography for a Series (Half-Hour)
- Outstanding Cinematography for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie
- Outstanding Cinematography for a Nonfiction Program
- Outstanding Music Composition for a Series (Original Dramatic Score)
- Outstanding Host for a Game Show

The decrease in the number of categories with no women nominees doesn't mean there have been major improvements in categories that snubbed women in 2025 but have female representation in 2026. In some cases, these categories have just one woman nominee, compared to zero in 2025. These "bare minimum" categories in 2026 are Outstanding Directing for a Reality Program; Outstanding Music Direction; Outstanding Original Main Title Theme Music; and Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Nonfiction Program. In 2026, women are still a minority of nominees in the other categories that snubbed women in 2025.

The category of Outstanding Host for a Game Show became a Primetime Emmy Awards category in 2023, after years of being a category for the Daytime Emmy Awards. This category has shown an alarming backward trend of decreasing female representation. It started off with two women among five nominees in 2023 and 2024. In 2025, there was one woman among the five nominees. And now, there are no women nominees in the category in 2026.

Keke Palmer of NBC's *Password* was the category's first Primetime Emmy winner in 2023, when the other woman nominee was Mayim Bialik of *Jeopardy!*, a syndicated series. In 2024, the two women nominees were Palmer of *Password* and Jane Lynch of NBC's *Weakest Link*, neither of whom won the prize. *Weakest Link* was canceled in 2025. In 2025, Elizabeth Banks of ABC's *Press Your Luck* was the only woman nominee, and she didn't win.

Women who are showrunners of primetime TV series continue to be a minority and often share the showrunner title with men. Among the women nominees who fit this description are Lucia Aniello and Jen Statsky of HBO Max's Emmy-winning comedy series *Hacks*. Aniello and Statsky handled *Hacks* showrunner duties with Paul W. Downs, who was also a supporting actor on *Hacks*, the fifth and final season of which was televised in 2026. For this final season, *Hacks* received 24 Primetime Emmy nominations, including Outstanding Comedy Series, setting a new record for the most Primetime Emmy nominations earned by a comedy series in a single year.

Quinta Brunson is the showrunner, creator, and star of ABC's Emmy-winning comedy series *Abbott Elementary*, which has Justin Halpern and Patrick Schumacker credited as co-showrunners/executive producers. *Abbott Elementary* has seven Primetime Emmy nods this year, including Outstanding Comedy Series. Joanna Calo of FX on Hulu's Emmy-winning comedy series *The Bear* is a co-showrunner with Christopher Storer, who created the show. *The Bear*'s eight nominations (including Outstanding Comedy Series) for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards are for the show's fourth season, which was televised in 2025. *The Bear*'s fifth and final season, which was televised in 2026, will be eligible for the 79th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Erin Foster, creator of Netflix's comedy series *Nobody Wants This*, stepped down from her position as sole showrunner after the show's first season, although she remains at *Nobody Wants This* as an executive producer and a writer. Jenni Konner and Bruce Eric Kaplan became co-showrunners for the series' second season, which was eligible for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. *Nobody Wants This* has two nods at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards: Outstanding Comedy Series (the show's second consecutive nomination in this category) and Outstanding Music Supervision. *Nobody Wants This* had three nominations for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, which gave acting nods to leading actress Kristen Bell and leading actor Adam Brody.

Debora Cahn, creator of the Netflix drama series *The Diplomat*, continues to be the rare woman who is the sole showrunner of a series nominated in major Primetime Emmy categories. In 2026, *The Diplomat* has seven Primetime Emmy nods, an increase from two in 2025. *The Diplomat*'s Primetime Emmy nominations in 2026 are Outstanding Drama Series; Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series; Outstanding Casting for a Drama Series; Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series, with Keri Russell nominated in this category; Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series, with Allison Janney nominated in this category; Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series, with Rufus Sewell nominated in this category; and Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series, with Bradley Whitford nominated in this category. Cahn is nominated for Outstanding Drama Series and Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series, while *The Diplomat* star Russell is also a double nominee this year, receiving a nomination for Outstanding Drama Series because she is also an executive producer of the show.

Katie Dippold, creator of the Apple TV comedy series *Widow's Bay*, is another sole female showrunner. She's also a double nominee this year, receiving nods for Outstanding Comedy Series and Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series. *Widow's Bay* has 19 Primetime Emmy nominations for the show's debut season. Megan Gallagher of Peacock's *All Her Fault* is the only woman showrunner nominated this year in the category of Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series. *All Her Fault* has seven Primetime Emmy Nods, including Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie, a category where Gallagher is also nominated.

This year's Primetime Emmy nominations also continue the trend of actresses receiving nominations as executive producers for series in which they star. Examples include Brunson of *Abbott Elementary*, Russell of *The Diplomat*, Sarah Snook of *All Her Fault*, and Bell of *Nobody Wants This*. Elle Fanning and Michelle Pfeiffer of Apple TV's *Margo's Got Money Troubles*, as well as Selena Gomez of Hulu's *Only Murders in the Building*, are each nominated for Outstanding Comedy Series. Claire Danes of Netflix's limited series *The Beast in Me*, as well as Carey Mulligan and Cailey Spaeny of Netflix's anthology series *Beef*, are female stars/executive producers of their respective series and are also nominated for Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series.

There are some actresses who are nominated as executive producers in major categories for series in which they do not star. These include Jodie Foster of *The Beast in Me*; Nicole Kidman and Dakota Fanning of *Margo's Got Money Troubles*; and Ali Wong of *Beef*. Wong won Primetime Emmys for her roles as a leading actress and executive producer of the first season of *Beef*. She is an executive producer but not an actress in the show's Emmy-nominated second season.

A select number of women who are live performers also received multiple nominations for their TV specials. Nikki Glaser has three nominations: Outstanding Variety Special (Pre-Recorded) and Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special, for her Hulu stand-up comedy special *Nikki Glaser: Good Girl*, as well as a nod in the category of Outstanding Variety Special (Live), for being the host of CBS's *83rd Annual Golden Globes*. She'll compete in the latter category with Cynthia Erivo, who is nominated for being a host/producer for CBS's *78th Annual Tony Awards (2025)*. Entertainers nominated for Outstanding Variety Special (Pre-Recorded) are performer/executive producer Sabrina Carpenter of Disney+'s *The Muppet Show*; performer/producer Taylor Swift of Disney+'s *Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour | The Final Show*; and *Wicked* co-stars Ariana Grande and Erivo, who each received a nod, for their dual roles as principal performers/hosts of NBC's *Wicked: One Wonderful Night*.

Brunson continues to be the extremely rare Black female showrunner with nominations in multiple major Primetime Emmy categories. In addition to being nominated for Outstanding Comedy Series, Brunson received nods for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series (which she won at the 74th Primetime Emmy Awards) and Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series (which she won at the 75th Primetime Emmy Awards).

Another Black woman with that rare distinction is Salli Richardson-Whitfield, who has three Primetime Emmy Award nominations in the same year. As an executive producer for HBO's *The Gilded Age*, she's nominated for Outstanding Drama Series. As a director, she received two nods for Outstanding Direction for a Drama Series: one for *The Gilded Age* and one for HBO's *Task*.

Black women achieved a milestone this year by getting half of the six nominations in the category of Outstanding Direction for a Drama Series. Hanelle M. Culpepper of Hulu's *Paradise* joins Richardson-Whitfield for this unprecedented achievement. Richardson-Whitfield (who received two nominations in the category) and Culpepper are the only women nominated in the category this year. Meanwhile, ABC's *Celebrity Family Feud* showrunner Myeshia Mizuno — who made Primetime Emmy Awards

history in 2025 by being the first Black woman showrunner to receive a Primetime Emmy nomination for Outstanding Game Show — has again been nominated in the category.

Also noteworthy is Black director/executive producer Alexandra “Alex” Stapleton of Netflix’s limited docuseries *Sean Combs: The Reckoning*. She received two Emmy nods: Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series and Outstanding Directing for a Documentary/Nonfiction Program. Stapleton is the only person of color nominated this year for Outstanding Directing for a Documentary/Nonfiction Program.

Only Murders in the Building co-star Gomez (who is Mexican American) and NBC’s *The Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show Starring Bad Bunny* executive producer Desiree Perez (who is Cuban American) are two of the few Latinas nominated this year as an executive producer. Gomez holds the record for being the Latina producer with the most Primetime Emmy nods: five so far — all for *Only Murders in the Building*.

Among the small percentage of Asian American women who are nominated in a non-acting Primetime Emmy category this year are Bravo’s *Top Chef* host/producer Kristen Kish, *Top Chef* showrunner Doneen Arquines, *Top Chef* executive producer Tracy Tong, MTV’s *RuPaul’s Drag Race* executive producer Mandy Salangsang, *Widow’s Bay* executive producer Claudia Shin, and *Beef* executive producer Wong. Salangsang of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* has been nominated 10 consecutive times in the category of Outstanding Reality Show Competition, and has won five times, while *Top Chef*’s Arquines has received her 16th consecutive nomination in this category. As a *Top Chef* producer, Kish received her first nomination this year for Outstanding Reality Show Competition. Kish has received three consecutive nominations for Outstanding Host for a Reality or Reality Competition Program.

LGBTQ representation in the Primetime Emmy competition is still dominated by shows that are led by and starring men. These shows include *RuPaul’s Drag Race* (nine nominations); MTV’s *RuPaul’s Drag Race: Untucked* (two nominations); and Netflix’s *Queer Eye* (one nomination). Emmy-winning TV series about queer or transgender women — such as Netflix’s drama series *Orange Is the New Black*, Prime Video’s comedy series *Transparent*, and FX’s drama series *Pose* — have long been canceled and have not been replaced with comparable, award-winning series centered on queer or transgender women.

Top Chef’s Kish, *The Beast in Me*’s Foster, and Wanda Sykes (who all identify as lesbian) are the openly queer women with the most high-profile Primetime Emmy nods this year in non-acting categories. Sykes is nominated for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Special, for her Netflix stand-up comedy special *Wanda Sykes: Legacy*. This is a decrease in queer female representation compared to previous years, such as those years when lesbian comedians Hannah Gadsby and Tig Notaro got Primetime Emmy nominations for their stand-up comedy specials, or when *Pose* (which was on the air from 2018 to 2021) garnered Outstanding Drama Series nods that included nominations for transgender women executive producers Janet Mock and Our Lady J.

Women showrunners who are over the age of 60 continue to be overlooked by the voters who chose this year’s Primetime Emmy nominations. No women showrunners over 60 have been nominated in the major Primetime Emmy categories. By contrast, there’s never a shortage of over-60 male showrunners who get Primetime Emmy nods in major categories. Male showrunners over the age of 60 who received Primetime Emmy nominations this year include John Wells of HBO Max’s *The Pitt* (nominated for Outstanding Drama Series); David E. Kelley of *Margo’s Got Money*

Troubles (nominated for Outstanding Comedy Series); Lorne Michaels of NBC's *Saturday Night Live* (nominated for Outstanding Variety Series); and Jeff Probst of CBS's *Survivor* (nominated for Outstanding Reality Competition Program).

Marsha Bemko, the longtime showrunner of PBS's *Antiques Roadshow*, is over the age of 60, and she received her 22nd consecutive Emmy nomination for Outstanding Structured Reality Program, a non-major category that is part of the pre-telecast livestreamed ceremonies. Bemko has yet to win a Primetime Emmy Award, in contrast to Wells (formerly of NBC drama series *ER* and *The West Wing*), Michaels, Probst, and Kelley (of HBO drama series *Big Little Lies* and formerly of Fox comedy series *Ally McBeal* and ABC drama series *The Practice*), who have each won several Primetime Emmys.

Overall, the total percentage of female representation increased in all four top non-acting Emmy fields: producing, directing, writing, and editing. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, out of the 1,412 nominees in these four fields, 511 (36%) are women, 898 (64%) are men, and three (less than 1%) are nonbinary. That's compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, when out of the 1,451 nominees in these four fields, 460 (32%) were women, 988 (68%) were men, and three (less than 1%) were nonbinary.

Out of these four non-acting fields, producing and writing resulted in the highest percentage of female nominees for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, with 40% for producing and 32% for writing. At the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, women comprised 36% of the nominees for producing and 31% of the nominees for writing.

Just as in the previous Primetime Emmy ceremony, the fields of directing and editing had the lowest percentages for women. However, the percentages for female representation slightly increased in these fields, compared to the previous year. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, women are 18% of the directing nominees and 26% of the editor nominees. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, women were 15% of the directing nominees and 23% of the editor nominees.

Of the eight programs with the most nominations (acting and non-acting) for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, all have at least one woman nominated as a producer, writer, editor, or director. *The Pitt* is the leading nominee contender, with 25 nominations, of which 12 nods are in non-acting categories. *Hacks* has 24 nods that include 14 for non-acting category nominations. *Widow's Bay* received 19 nominations, with 13 in non-acting categories. Apple TV's drama series *Pluribus* has 18 nods, of which 13 are in non-acting categories.

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, several scripted programs with female protagonists received Emmy nominations, but most of these shows do not have non-actor teams at or close to gender parity or a female majority in their total number of Primetime Emmy nominations in non-acting categories. *Hacks* and *The Diplomat* are notable exceptions.

Hacks, whose trio of showrunners includes two women, garnered several individual nominations for women in the male-dominated fields of producing, directing, writing, and editing. *The Diplomat* has a female majority or gender parity in all the non-acting categories in which the show received Primetime Emmy nominations: Outstanding Drama Series, Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series, and Outstanding Casting for a Drama Series. The statistics for *Hacks* fall within a pattern of female-centered TV programs with women as showrunners tending to have the highest total numbers of women getting Primetime Emmy nominations in producing, directing, writing, and editing. More details can be found in the sections of this report for these respective fields.

However, gender barriers remain. When looking at the top eight shows that received the most Primetime Emmy nods this year, female-oriented shows with women showrunners are still very much in the minority. *Hacks* is the only show in this top eight list that is centered on women characters and has women showrunners. (Aniello and Statsky have both previously won Emmys for *Hacks*.) Although *Widow's Bay* has a woman showrunner, the show is centered on a male mayor dealing with his town being plagued by a curse. All the other shows in this year's top eight nominee list have only male showrunners.

Now that *Hacks* has ended, and the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony is the last time *Hacks* can be eligible for Primetime Emmy Awards, it remains to be seen if any other female-centered primetime TV series with women as showrunners can emerge as a powerhouse Emmy winner. It also begs the question that the TV industry needs to answer: *Hacks* has proven that a female-centered primetime TV series with women as showrunners and several women as nominees can be a consistent Emmy-winning hit, so why aren't there more TV shows where women have these opportunities? "A show like *Hacks*, with women showrunners and focusing on women's stories, is a model of how equity and excellence are a winning combination," said Women's Media Center President and CEO Julie Burton. "Now that *Hacks* has completed its run, we need to see more shows like this."

The Primetime Emmy success of *Hacks* should not be considered an anomaly, but statistically, it will remain an anomaly as long as the barriers for women getting Primetime Emmy nods persist. Male-oriented shows led by men continue to get the most Primetime Emmy nominations, and men get most of the Emmy-nominated jobs on these shows. It's part of a systemic problem where Emmy-winning female-oriented programs led by women showrunners, even when highly successful, are so few and far between that the TV industry uses this scarcity as an excuse to not make more of these types of shows. Until there is more gender parity in behind-the-scenes hiring for these programs, the non-acting categories for the Primetime Emmys will continue to be a "male-majority club" where men get the most nominations and, therefore, the most wins.

The 78th annual Primetime Emmy Awards will be telecast live on NBC on September 14 and livestreamed on Peacock. Actress/producer/director Mariska Hargitay, a 2023 WMC Women's Media Awards Sisterhood Is Powerful [honoree](#), is hosting the ceremony. Hargitay is the first woman to host the Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony since Jane Lynch had the job in 2011.

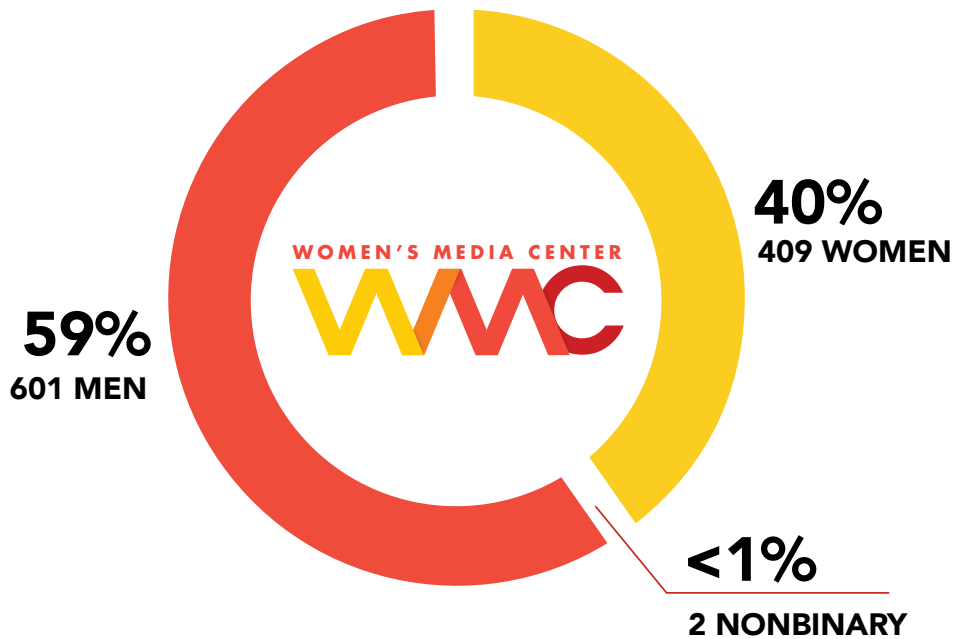
The Television Academy has dropped the name Creative Arts Emmy Awards for mostly technical categories. Separate ceremonies for these technical categories still exist, but all ceremonies are now simply referred to collectively as Emmy ceremonies.

The Emmy ceremonies for mostly technical categories will be presented on September 5 and September 6, and they will be livestreamed on Emmys.com. For the past several years, FXX has had televised highlights of the mostly technical Emmy Awards in an edited program. The Television Academy has not yet announced whether these two ceremonies can be watched on FXX and/or a streaming service this year. The Primetime Emmy Awards and the pre-telecast Emmy ceremonies will take place at the Peacock Theater at L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

PRODUCING (18 categories)

Of the four biggest non-acting fields (producing, directing, writing, and editing), producing continues to be the one where women have the highest percentage of Primetime Emmy nominations. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, female representation increased slightly in the producer categories. Of the 1,012 nominees, 409 (40%) are women, 601 (59%) are men, and two (less than 1%) are nonbinary. That's compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where of the 977 nominees, 361 (37%) were women, 614 (63%) were men, and 2 (less than 1%) were nonbinary. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, men outnumbered women for nominations in all 18 categories for producers. The previous high for women producing nominees was 39%, in 2020 and 2023.

OVERALL PRODUCING NOMINATIONS



In the category of Outstanding Drama Series, female representation had a notable 10 percentage point increase from the previous Primetime Emmy Awards. Of the 85 people nominated in the category this year, 33 (39%) are women, 51 (60%) are men, and one (1%) is nonbinary. By comparison, the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards had 86 nominees, of whom 25 (29%) were women and 61 (71%) were men. Five of the eight nominated programs for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards have male-majority teams of nominees: *The Gilded Age*, HBO's *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms*, Hulu's *Paradise*, *The Pitt*, and Apple TV's *Slow Horses*. Two of the shows — *The Diplomat* and *Pluribus* — have a female-majority team of nominees, while Apple TV's *Your Friends & Neighbors* has gender parity.

The women nominees for *The Diplomat* are showrunner Cahn, *The Diplomat* star Russell, Janice Williams, Jessica Brickman, Pam Roberts, and Melissa Gelernter. Women nominated for *Pluribus* are Alison Tatlock, Diane Mercer, Jenn Carroll, Trina Siopy, and Julie Hartley. The women nominees for *Your Friends & Neighbors* are Stephanie Laing, Lori Keith Douglas, Jamie Rosengard, and Connie Tavel. By contrast, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, all eight shows in this category had a male majority of nominees.

The category of Outstanding Comedy Series had significant percentage increases in female representation for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. Of the 113 nominees, 52 (46%) are women, and 61 (54%) are men. That's in comparison to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, which had 106 nominated producers in this category, of whom 32 (30%) were women, while 74 (70%) were men. Five of the category's eight nominated shows for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards have a male-majority team of nominated producers in this category: *Abbott Elementary*, *The Bear*, *Hacks*, *Only Murders in the Building*, and Apple TV's *Shrinking*. *Margo's Got Money Troubles* and *Nobody Wants This* have female-majority teams of nominated producers. *Widow's Bay* has gender parity among its nominated producers in this category.

Margo's Got Money Troubles has a Primetime Emmy-nominated team with one of the largest female majorities, with 14 women among the 18 nominated: the previously mentioned Elle Fanning, Dakota Fanning, Pfeiffer, and Kidman, as well as Phoebe Zimmer, Alli Reich, Boo Killebrew, Rufi Thorpe, Brittany Kahan-Ward, Dearbhla Walsh, Eva Anderson, Jes Anderson, Briar McQuilkin, and Caroline James. The women nominated in this category for *Nobody Wants This* are previously mentioned co-showrunner Konner, star Bell, creator Erin Foster, Sara Foster, Briar McQuilkin, Danielle Stokdyk, Sarah Heyward, and Lindsay Golder. The women nominees for *Widow's Bay* are showrunner Dippold, Claudia Shin, Joanne Toll, Kelly Galuska, Mackenzie Dohr, and Kaitlin Waldron. The 77th Primetime Emmy Awards had one show in this category with a female majority of nominees, while the other seven shows had male majorities.

The category of Outstanding Limited or Anthology Series, which has five nominated shows this year, had a slight percentage decrease in female representation. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, there are 78 nominees in the category, of whom 33 (42%) are women, and 45 (58%) are men. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category had 61 nominees, of whom 29 (48%) were women, and 32 (52%) were men. *All Her Fault* is the only show in the category with a female-majority team of nominees this year. Six of the nine *All Her Fault* nominees are women: showrunner Gallagher, star Snook, Christine Sacani, Joanna Strevens, Minkie Spiro, and Jennifer Gabler Rawlings. The other nominated shows in the category have male-majority producer teams: *The Beast in Me*, *Beef*, *DTF St. Louis*, and FX on Hulu's *Love Story: John F. Kennedy Jr. & Carolyn Besette*. By contrast, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, two out of the five nominated shows had a female majority of nominees or gender parity, and one out of the five had a female-majority producer team.

Unscripted, reality, nonfiction, and documentary categories continue to be where women often have among the highest percentages of producer nominations. Although male nominees outnumber female nominees in all these genre categories this year, some of the categories came close to gender parity.

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category of Outstanding Structured Reality Program has 53 nominees for five series. Of these 53 nominees, 24 (45%) are women, 28 (53%) are men, and one (2%) is nonbinary. PBS's *Antiques Roadshow* and Netflix's *Love Is Blind* are the only shows in this category to have female-majority producer teams. The nominated women for *Antiques Roadshow* are previously mentioned showrunner Bemko, Sarah K. Elliott, and Jill Giles. *Love Is Blind's* nominated women producers are Ally Simpson, Morgan Harris, Stefanie Cohen Williams, Nieshia Crawford, Ewa Mularczyk, and Michelle Thomas. By comparison, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category had 30 nominees, of whom 13 (42%) were women, and 17 (56%) were men.

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category of Outstanding Unstructured Reality Program

has 63 nominees for five series. Of these 63 nominees, 30 (48%) are women, and 33 (52%) are men. *Love on the Spectrum* and Bravo's *Summer House* are the only shows in this category to have female-majority producer teams that are nominated, while *RuPaul's Drag Race: Untucked* has gender parity among its nominees. The women nominees for *Love on the Spectrum* are previously mentioned Holden and Martin. The nominated women for *Summer House* are Glenda Hersh, Lauren Eskelin, Trish Gold, Jamie Jakimo, Faith Gaskins, Lisa Koehler, Maggie Langtry, and Jessica Hubert. The women getting nods in this category for *RuPaul's Drag Race: Untucked* are Andrea van Metter, Natalia James, Alicia Gargaro-Magaña, Jamala Gaither, America Ruiz, Teresa Powell, and Julie Ha. This level of female representation is more than twice last year's, when the category had 29 nominees, of whom six (21%) were women, and 23 (79%) were men.

In the documentary categories this year, Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking has the highest percentage of women nominees and is the only Primetime Emmy documentary category this year in which women outnumber men. The 78th Primetime Emmy Awards has 12 nominees for two documentary films: PBS's *The Librarians* and National Geographic's *The Tale of Silyan*. Of these 12 nominees, nine (75%) are women, and three (25%) are men. All five of the nominees for *The Librarians* are women: Kim A. Snyder, Janique L. Robillard, Maria Cuomo Cole, Jana Edelbaum, and Lois Vossen. The four women nominated for *The Tale of Silyan* are Tamara Kotevska, Anna Hashmi, Casey Meurer, and Carolyn Bernstein. This represents another huge jump compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, which had 16 nominees in this category, of whom nine (56%) were women, and seven (44%) were men.

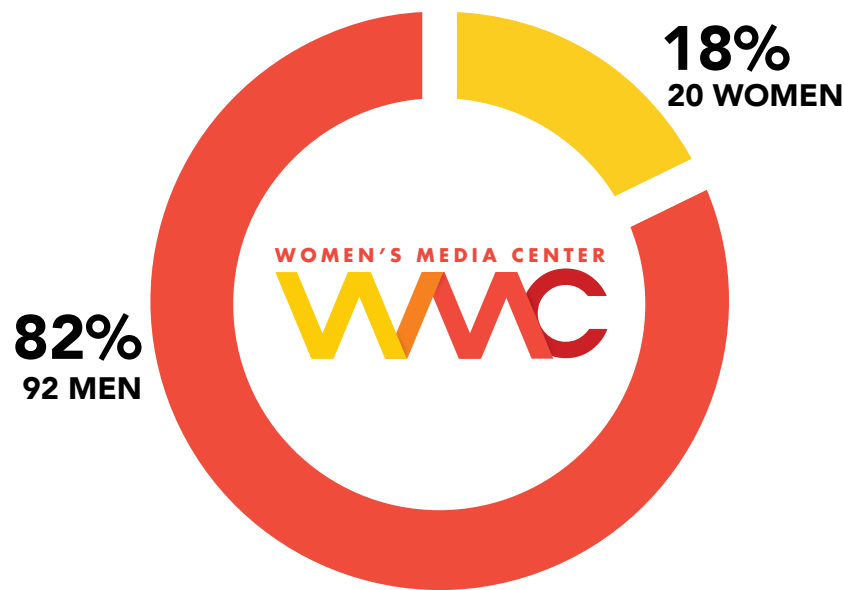
Meanwhile, there continues to be a very low percentage of women nominated for Outstanding Animated Program. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category has 21 women (21%) and 77 men (79%) comprising the 98 people who are nominated. It's a decline from the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where the category had 81 nominees, of whom 21 (26%) were women, and 58 (71%) were men.

The revived category Outstanding Variety Series combines two now-defunct categories, Outstanding Variety Talk Series and Outstanding Scripted Variety Series. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, that means previous Outstanding Variety Talk Series nominees — such as ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, CBS's now-canceled *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, and Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* — are now competing with *Saturday Night Live* and HBO's *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver*, the two nominated shows that had the Outstanding Scripted Variety Series category all to themselves for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards. Of these five nominated shows, only *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver* has a female-majority team of nominees in this category. *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver* has 11 women nominated, compared to 10 women from the show who were nominated in the previous year. The 11 nominated women for *Last Week Tonight With John Oliver* are Liz Stanton, Catherine Owens, Nicole Franza, Rebecca Etchberger, Kaye Foley, Laura L. Griffin, Anita Hassan, Farrah Lopez, Kate Mullaney, Meghan Rhoad, and Marian Wang.

DIRECTING (Nine categories)

Directing continues to be one of the toughest areas for women in television to get hired. Even though director categories collectively are nowhere close to achieving gender parity for all nine categories, there have been slight improvements this year. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, male nominees outnumbered female nominees in all directing categories except one category where women outnumbered men (Outstanding Directing for a Variety Series), and two categories where there is gender parity: Outstanding Directing for a Variety Special and Outstanding Directing for a Documentary/Nonfiction Program.

OVERALL DIRECTING NOMINATIONS



There was a small uptick in total percentages of women in directing categories. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, of the 112 director nominees, 20 (18%) are women, and 92 (82%) are men. By comparison, for the 77th Primetime Emmys, of the 164 director nominees, 24 (15%) were women, and 140 (85%) were men.

In the category of Outstanding Directing for a Drama Series, female representation had a small percentage increase from the previous ceremony. Two women (40%) are on this category's list of five nominees for the six nominated shows in the category: As previously mentioned, director Richardson-Whitfield is a double nominee in this category for *The Gilded Age* and *Task*. The other woman nominated in the category is Culpepper of Hulu's *Paradise*. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, two women (29%) were among the six nominated directors.

There are also two women nominees in the category of Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series. The previously mentioned Aniello of *Hacks* and Mary Lou Belli of BET+'s *The Ms. Pat Show* are the two women (33%) among the six nominees, representing six nominated shows. It's the same percentage that the category had for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards.

As previously mentioned, the biggest snub for women directors for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards is in the category of Outstanding Directing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie. All four of the category's nominees this year are men, for the three shows that received nominations: *Beef* (which received two nods in the category), *DTF St. Louis*, and Netflix's *Black Rabbit*. This is a big percentage drop for women, compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where the category had five women (83%) out of the six nominees.

On the other end of the spectrum, women outnumber men in only one director category at the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. The category of Outstanding Directing for a Variety Series has two women (67%) and one man (33%) as the nominees for three nominated shows. The nominated women in this category are Yvonne De Mare of *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert* and Liz Patrick of *Saturday Night Live*. This is an improvement from the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, when no women were nominated in the category.

Gender parity was achieved in the category of Outstanding Directing for a Variety Special. Two (50%) of the four nominees are women, and the other two nominees (50%) are men in this category that has five nominated shows (one of the men has two nominations in the category). The nominated women in this category are Rikki Hughes of Netflix's *Dave Chappelle: The Unstoppable...* and Julie Dash of Netflix's *Wanda Sykes: Legacy*. That's an increase from the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, when the seven nominees in this category consisted of three women (43%) and four men (57%).

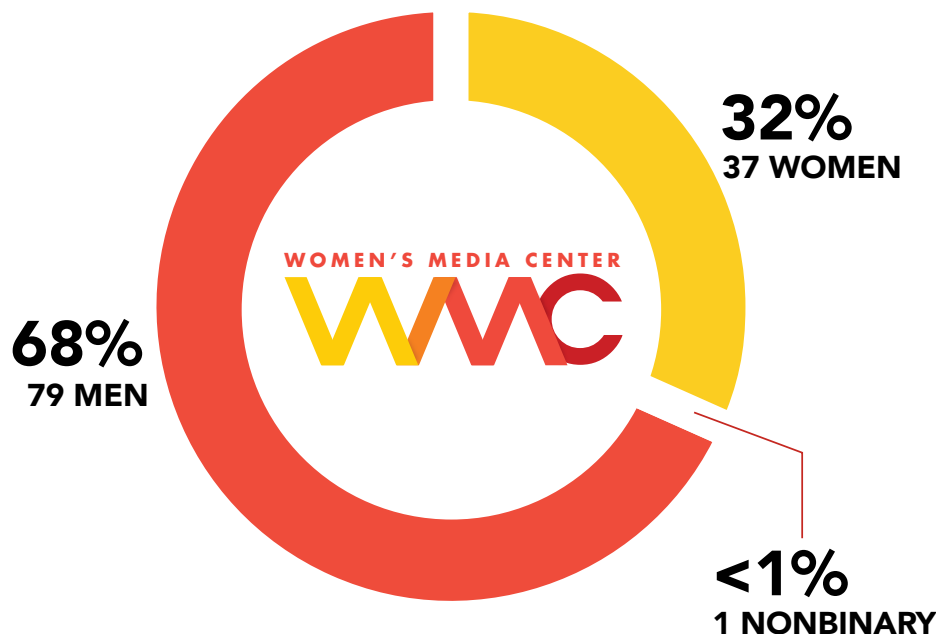
Outstanding Directing for a Documentary/Nonfiction Program has an equal number of men and women nominated for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. Six directors are nominated for five documentaries, with two of the male directors sharing a nomination for the same documentary. Of these six nominated directors, the three women (50%) are 78th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony host Hargitay for HBO's *My Mom Jayne: A Film by Mariska Hargitay*; the previously mentioned Stapleton for *Sean Combs: The Reckoning*; and Rebecca Miller for Apple TV's *Mr. Scorsese*.

The category of Outstanding Directing for a Reality Program made minimal progress for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards: Only one woman (20%) is among the category's five nominees: Anna Moulaison of *Top Chef*. The other four nominees (80%) are men. The category completely snubbed women for nominations for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where men comprised all five of the category's nominees.

WRITING (Six categories)

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, 117 people are nominated in the writing categories, of whom 37 (32%) are women, 79 (68%) are men, and one (less than 1%) is nonbinary. That's a slight percentage increase from the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where 167 people were nominated in the writing categories, consisting of 51 (31%) women, 115 (69%) men, and one (less than 1%) nonbinary person. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards nominations, men outnumber women in all writing categories except one: Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series, which has six shows nominated and gender parity among nominees. Of the 10 nominated people in the category, five (50%) are women, and five (50%) are men. The five women nominated are Brunson of *Abbott Elementary*; Lisa Kudrow of HBO's *The Comeback*; Aniello and Statsky of *Hacks*; and Dippold of *Widow's Bay*. By comparison, at the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, 19 people were nominated in this category, of whom eight (42%) were women and 11 (58%) were men.

OVERALL WRITING NOMINATIONS



Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series showed notable improvement in female representation for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, which has five shows nominated in six category slots this year. Of the eight writers who are nominated in this category, three (37.5%) are women and five (62.5%) are men. The three nominated women are Cahn of *The Diplomat*; Kirsten Pierre-Geyfman, co-nominated for *The Pitt* episode "1:00 P.M."; and Valerie Chu, nominated for *The Pitt* episode "12:00 P.M." For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, women were shut out of nominations in this category, where all five of the nominees were men.

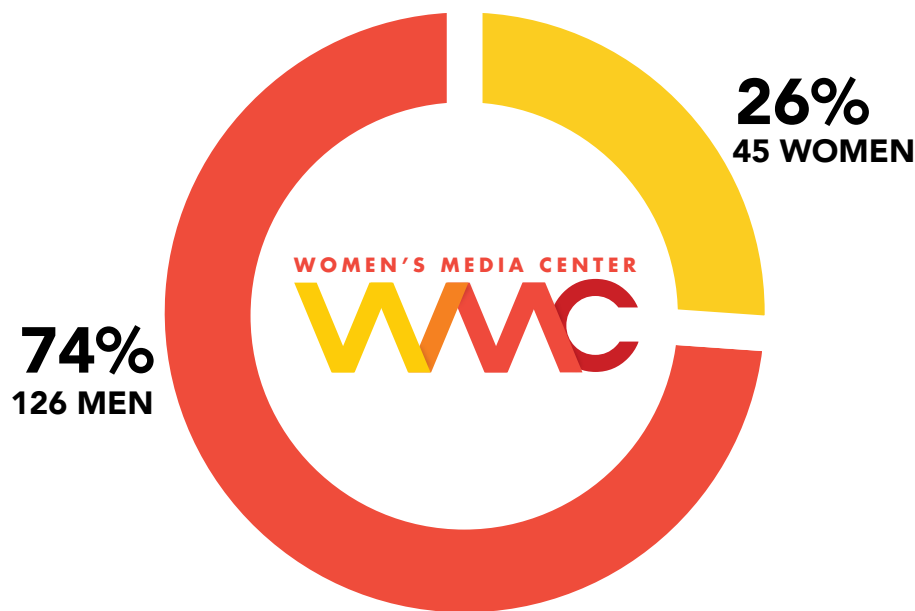
For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, the number of women dropped significantly for Outstanding Writing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie, the writing category that has five shows nominated and the lowest percentage of women writer nominees. Only one (17%) of the six nominees is a woman: *All Her Fault* showrunner Gallagher. The category's other five nominees (83%) are men, two of whom share a nomination for the same show. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, this category achieved gender parity: Four (50%) of the eight nominees were women.

In the category of Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series, there is a small percentage increase for women, although the category's total number of nominees decreased: Of the 58 nominees, 16 (28%) are women, and 42 (72%) are men. By comparison, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category had 69 nominees: 22 (32%) were women, 46 (67%) were men, and one (1%) was a nonbinary person.

EDITING (Nine categories)

At the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, men outnumber women in nominations in all the editing categories except two: Outstanding Picture Editing for a Single-Camera Comedy Series and Outstanding Picture Editing for a Multi-Camera Comedy Series, each of which has gender parity. The overall numbers of nominated women editors increased slightly from the previous ceremony. The 78th Primetime Emmy Awards has 171 editing nominees, of whom 45 (26%) are women, and 126 (74%) are men. By comparison, the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards had 142 editing nominees, of whom 33 (23%) were women, and 109 (77%) were men.

OVERALL EDITING NOMINATIONS



The percentage of women nominated for Outstanding Picture Editing for a Single-Camera Comedy Series dipped to 50% for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. In the category this year, *Widow's Bay* takes up three of the six nomination slots for shows, *Hacks* has two nominations, and *The Bear* has one. Six people are nominated — three women and three men. The three nominated women are Joanna Naugle of *The Bear*, Peggy Tachdjian of *Hacks*, and Jen Bryson of *Widow's Bay*. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, the nine nominees consisted of five women (56%) and four men (44%).

Female representation improved in the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for a Multi-Camera Comedy Series. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, there are six people nominated: three women (50%) and three men (50%). The three nominated women are Pamela Marshall of ABC's *Shifting Gears*, Jennifer Viola of BET's *Tyler Perry's Assisted Living*, and Angel Gamboa Bryant of Netflix's *The Upshaws*. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, the category had one woman (20%) of the five nominees, and the other four nominees (80%) were men.

Female representation took a nosedive in the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie. For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, there are 11 people nominated for five shows. Of those 11 people, four (36%) are women, and seven (64%) are men. The four women who are nominated are Laura Zempel of *Beef*, for the episode titled "All the Things We're Never Going to Have"; Lauren Connelly of *Beef*, for the episode titled "The Increasing Flimsiness of Any

Certainties About the Future”; and Anna Hauger and Bridget Case for Netflix’s *Death by Lightning*, where they and four male nominees share a nomination for the episode titled “The Man From Ohio.” By contrast, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, three (60%) of the category’s five nominees were women, while the other two nominees (40%) were men.

Meanwhile, the number of women nominees increased for the category of Outstanding Picture Editing for a Drama Series, which has seven nomination slots for shows this year. *Pluribus* took three of the slots, *The Pitt* has two, and *Task* and HBO’s *Euphoria* each have one. Of the 12 people nominated in this category for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, five (42%) are women, while the other seven (58%) are men. The women nominees are Aleshka Ferrero and Kristin Valentine of *Euphoria*, who share a nomination with three men, for the episode titled “In God We Trust”; Tamara Luciano of *The Pitt*, for the episode titled “1:00 P.M.”; and Keiko Deguchi and Amy E. Duddleston of *Task*, who share a nomination for the episode titled “A Still Small Voice.” Women were snubbed in this category for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, where all seven of the nominees were men. (Picture editing for single-camera drama series and multi-camera drama series are combined into one category — unlike comedy series, which get separate picture editing categories for single-camera series and multi-camera series.)

OTHER CATEGORIES (60 categories)

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, the percentage of women remained almost the same (compared to the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards) for nominations in non-acting categories that were not producing, directing, writing, or editing. These other categories are in casting, choreography, cinematography, costume, emerging media, hairstyling, lighting design/direction, main title design, makeup, music, performance, production design, sound, special effects, and stunt coordination.

For the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, there are 1,223 nominees in these categories: 407 (33%) are women, and 816 (67%) are men. For the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards, there were 1,183 nominees in these categories: 395 (33.5%) were women, 786 (66.5%) were men, and two (less than 1%) were nonbinary people.

Almost all these below-the-line (technical crew) categories continue their pattern of some categories having predominantly women nominees year after year, while men consistently dominate in other categories. Women are at least 68% of the nominees in casting, makeup, hairstyling, and costumes for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. Women were also at least 68% of the nominees in these categories for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards. Hairstyling has the biggest percentage (81%) of women in these below-the-line categories for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Other categories continue to be male-dominated: cinematography, music, performance, lighting design/direction, main title design, sound, special effects, stunt coordination, and emerging media. Men are at least 62% of the nominees in all of these categories for the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards. Men were at least 54% of the nominees in all of these categories, with cinematography showing the biggest percentage (99%) of men, for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Production design, the below-the-line field that has come the closest to gender parity in Primetime Emmy nominations, has been unpredictable as to whether men or women will be the majority of the nominees. For the 78th Primetime Emmys, of the 91 production design nominees, 40 (44%) are women, and 51 (56%) are men. For the 77th Primetime Emmys, of the 90 nominees, 41 (46%) were women, and 49 (54%) were men.

The gender breakdown in choreography has typically varied from year to year. But this year the numbers stayed the same as last year: For both the 77th Primetime Emmys and 78th Primetime Emmys, there were 13 choreography nominees, consisting of five (38%) women and eight (62%) men. While most of the below-the-line categories have extreme majorities of men or women dominating the nominations, men remain the majority in the below-the-line categories as a whole, just as they do for above-the-line categories.

CONCLUSION

The 78th Primetime Emmy Awards show a slight increase in the total percentage of women nominees. However, many categories remain resistant to having more than 40% of women as the nominees, with some categories still completely shutting out women. And although a show like *Hacks* is a shining example of Primetime Emmy achievements for women in male-dominated non-acting categories, one show alone cannot fix overall systemic problems. The end of *Hacks* also leaves a void for a female-driven major contender at the Primetime Emmys — and that void may or may not be filled for the next few Primetime Emmy Award ceremonies.

The total number of women nominees jumped by 4 percentage points in the fields of producing, directing, writing, and editing, compared to the same fields for the 77th Primetime Emmy Awards. Historically, it has been challenging for this kind of progress to be sustained in Emmy nominations; decision-makers must make a concerted effort to make sure opportunities continue to be opened up to women in non-acting roles in television. Meanwhile, the percentage of women nominees in below-the-line categories remained at 33%, as these categories remain largely segregated by gender. Most below-the-line categories still have extreme majorities of one gender, with men still dominating in the total numbers.

Actresses in the 21st century have become more influential agents of change, taking on additional roles as executive producers of their shows. And although the majority of actresses who star in TV shows do not have executive producer titles, more actresses are seeing the benefits of having more creative control and larger financial rewards that are part of the executive producer role. It's perhaps not a coincidence that the actresses who are also executive producers are often on the female-majority teams of people who get Primetime Emmy nominations in categories that have long been dominated by men.

When it comes to the huge gender imbalance in Primetime Emmy nominations, there are many ways to make progress in leveling the playing field and give women more opportunities in these roles. And this progress starts by understanding that decision-makers of any gender are capable of leading by example and making changes that improve gender diversity — and understanding that this diversity is good for business.



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