

The Hollywood Reporter Releases Official Actress Roundtable

NOVEMBER 18, 2015 by [HAYLEY BRADBROOK](#)



Photo Courtesy of The Hollywood Reporter

Kate Winslet, Jane Fonda, Carey Mulligan, Brie Larson, Helen Mirren, and Charlotte Rampling all come together for *THR*'s Annual Actress Roundtable, and boy is it uncensored!

Executive Editor Stephen Galloway asked the actresses how hard it is to find good roles.

Fonda replied that is hard to find good roles especially as a woman in her 60's: *"I'm told over 40, although what I did when I was in my 40s was I simply produced my own movies because no one offered me anything. But certainly after 50 it's hard for a woman, which is why television is such a welcoming thing."*

Brie Larson agreed with **Helen Mirren** saying that it is hard to find good roles for young woman too. Larson stated: *"That's what we're all doing: paving the way, finding the roles that have the complication instead of the one that's always got it together or the dedicated housewife or the wild one who smokes cigarettes and sleeps with anybody."*

The discussion quickly turned to the wage gap in Hollywood. Here were their responses:

Jennifer Lawrence: *"There's always a backlash in everything that you do, but it's not going to stop or change anything. And it's not only an issue in Hollywood. When you're asking about roles for men and women, men certainly have a longer shelf life. Men can play the sexy lead for 20 years longer than we can —"*

Cate Blanchett: *“It’s lazy thinking across all industries. We’re at the pointy and probably the most public end, but in what industry do women receive equal pay for equal work? I can’t think of any.”*

Jennifer Lawrence: *“Across all fields, women are generally paid 21 percent less than men.”*

Helen Mirren: *“I love the way you wrote about it because you wrote about it very simply and personally. I so recognized that thing you said about, “I didn’t want to be an asshole,” you know? I want to be polite. We’ve got to stop being polite. If I ever had children, which I don’t, the first thing I’d teach a girl of mine is the words “f— off.”*

The interview became even more honest when actresses talked about their experiences doing sex scenes in films.

Jennifer’s first real sex scene was with **Chris Pratt** while shooting *Passengers*. She said *“It was just very vulnerable. And you don’t know what’s too much. You want to do it real, you want everything to be real, but then ... That was the most vulnerable I’ve ever been.”*

The conversation then steered to gender roles, and how guilty women feel working while also having a family.

Jennifer Lawrence: *“I’m going to ask this because I don’t have children: What is the difference between men who direct [and] have families, too?”*

Cate Blanchett: *“There’s still an expectation that someone’s going to be keeping the home fires burning.”*

Kate Winslet: *“My husband is a very present husband, and that has made going to work feel easier. I don’t feel guilty. I definitely feel less guilt because I know he’s there during breakfast, lunch and supper if I’m not.”*

Jennifer Lawrence: *“...Women get frustrated that we don’t get paid enough; and then the Republicans or the CEOs that are men say, “Well, it’s because women take off time for maternity leave.”*

Brie Larson: *“It’s our fault, obviously.”*

Carey Mulligan: *“We’re continuing the human race for you. You’re welcome! (Laughter.)”*

Jane Fonda: *“More women have to be in charge of studios, so that they can greenlight films with women.”*

Helen Mirren: *“I don’t think that works though, does it?”*

Jennifer Lawrence: *“I think women can be just as sexist. Women can be misogynistic, too — more so, they have more freedom to do it.”*

Helen Mirren: *“The economics have to change.”*

Jennifer Lawrence: *“Why would people have confidence in a female director when there are so few? What is it, 3 percent or something?”*

As soon as the interview was published this morning the media outlet received backlash from the public noting that there are only white actresses at the roundtable. In the late afternoon, *The Hollywood Reporter* released the following statement:

***“Often they’re chosen before anyone has even seen their films, when our editors are faced with tough decisions on whom to include and whom to turn down —
In doing all that this year, as we prepared for this cover, we discovered precisely ZERO actresses of colour in the Oscar conversation — at least in the weeks in early September when the roundtables are put together....
Unless the half-dozen men and women now running the major studios demand and foster a culture of diversity, the status quo will continue as it is.”***

Blanchett, Lawrence, Winslet, Mulligan, Mirren, and Rampling all have yet to comment.

For the full interview you can read it [online](#), or buy it on newsstands November 27th. What do you think of *The Hollywood Reporter* Roundtable and backlash? Tweet us your thoughts at [@popandpress](#)