

Female Stars in Contemporary Hollywood

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This lecture takes Sandra Bullock's surprise success with *Gravity* (2013) and the overall trajectory of her career across the last three decades as the starting point for an exploration of the status of female stars in Hollywood cinema since the 1960s. Towards the end of that decade, female stars lost much of the power they had held before, with very few exceptions becoming quite marginal for the operations of the American film industry. This lamentable state of affairs may now be changing with the resurgence of older stars such as Bullock and the rapid rise to the top of younger stars such as Jennifer Lawrence. The increasing importance of female protagonists in Hollywood's Science Fiction/action blockbusters is of special importance for this changing situation.

Screening:

Gravity (2013)

Reading:

Peter Krämer, "The Rise and Fall of Sandra Bullock: Notes on Starmaking and Female Stardom in Contemporary Hollywood", *Film Stars: Hollywood and Beyond*, ed. Andy Willis, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004, pp. 89-112

Peter Krämer and Rupert Read, "Gravity's Pull", ThinkingFilmCollective Blogspot, 22 January 2014,

<http://thinkingfilmcollective.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/gravitys-pull.html>

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