

**REPORT**

**PARITY AMONG  
FILM CRITICS**

**IN FRANCE**

Analysis of the films  
released between  
May 2018 and April  
2019



**50 | 50 | 2020**

# SUMMARY

1

## Lower female proportion among film critics than among the total of journalists in France

Among the 611 journalists who wrote at least 1 review between May 2018 and April 2019, **37% are women**. In comparison, 47% of all the registered journalists in France are women\*.

\*Observatoire des métiers de la presse

2

## A profession mainly composed of occasional film critics, especially amongst women

The majority of journalists - 74% for women and 68% for men - who have written a film review in the past 12 months have done so **on an occasional basis** - less than 12 reviews.

**One third of the female critics wrote only one review** between May 2018 and April 2019, against one quarter of the male critics.

The average number of reviews per **female critics is 14.3** vs 16.4 for male critics.

5

## Ratings given by female critics are slightly higher than those given by male critics

3

## Reviews emanate mostly from general interest magazines and from publications specialized in cinema and culture, where female critics are largely under-represented

**47% of the total number of reviews** are published by **general interest magazines**, 26% by magazines specializing in cinema and 18% by magazines specializing in culture.

A **significant majority** of the reviews published in magazines specializing in **cinema, culture or general interest magazines** **are signed by male critics**.

A significant majority of reviews published in **TV and women's magazines** are signed by **female critics**.

4

## The number of reviews written by male critics is significantly higher for Thriller, Action Films and Documentaries

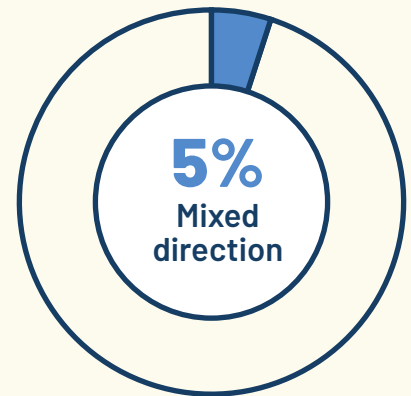
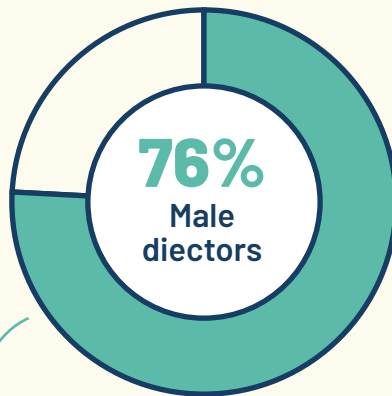
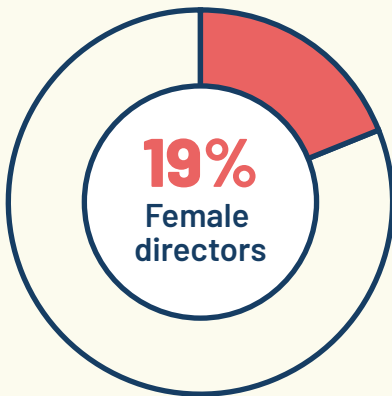
**3.5/5 on average for female critics** versus 3.2/5 on average for male critics.

The **director's gender has no influence on the ratings**.

# RESULTS

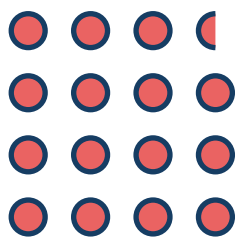
# 646

films  
(released between May 2018 and April 2019)

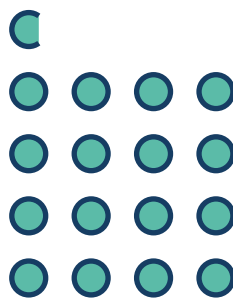


A MAJORITY OF MALE DIRECTORS

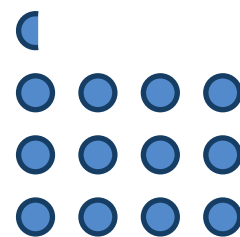
Number of reviews per film



Female directors  
**15,5**



Male directors  
**16,9**



Mixed direction  
**12,6**

A roughly identical number of reviews per film regardless of the director's gender.

# 611

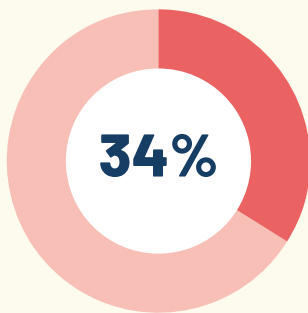
Journalists signed at least one film review between May 2018 and April 2019

## Films critics by gender



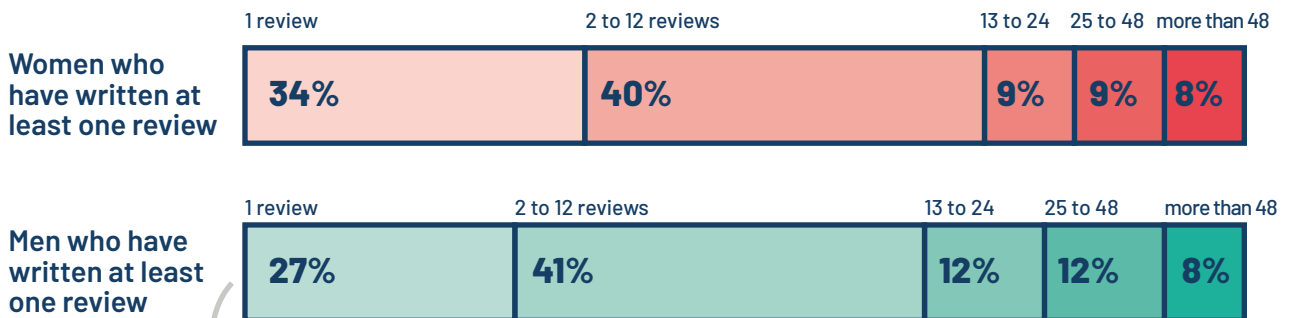
**62%** are men  
**37%** are women  
**1%** unspecified (« La Rédaction » for example)

In comparison, an AFDAS study shows that women **represent 47% of all journalists** in possession of a press card.



**one third of the women** wrote only one review between May 2018 and April 2019

## Number of reviews in the last 12 months



The majority of journalists (74% for women and 68% for men) who have written a film review in the past 12 months have done so on an **occasional basis** (less than 12 reviews).

# 14,3

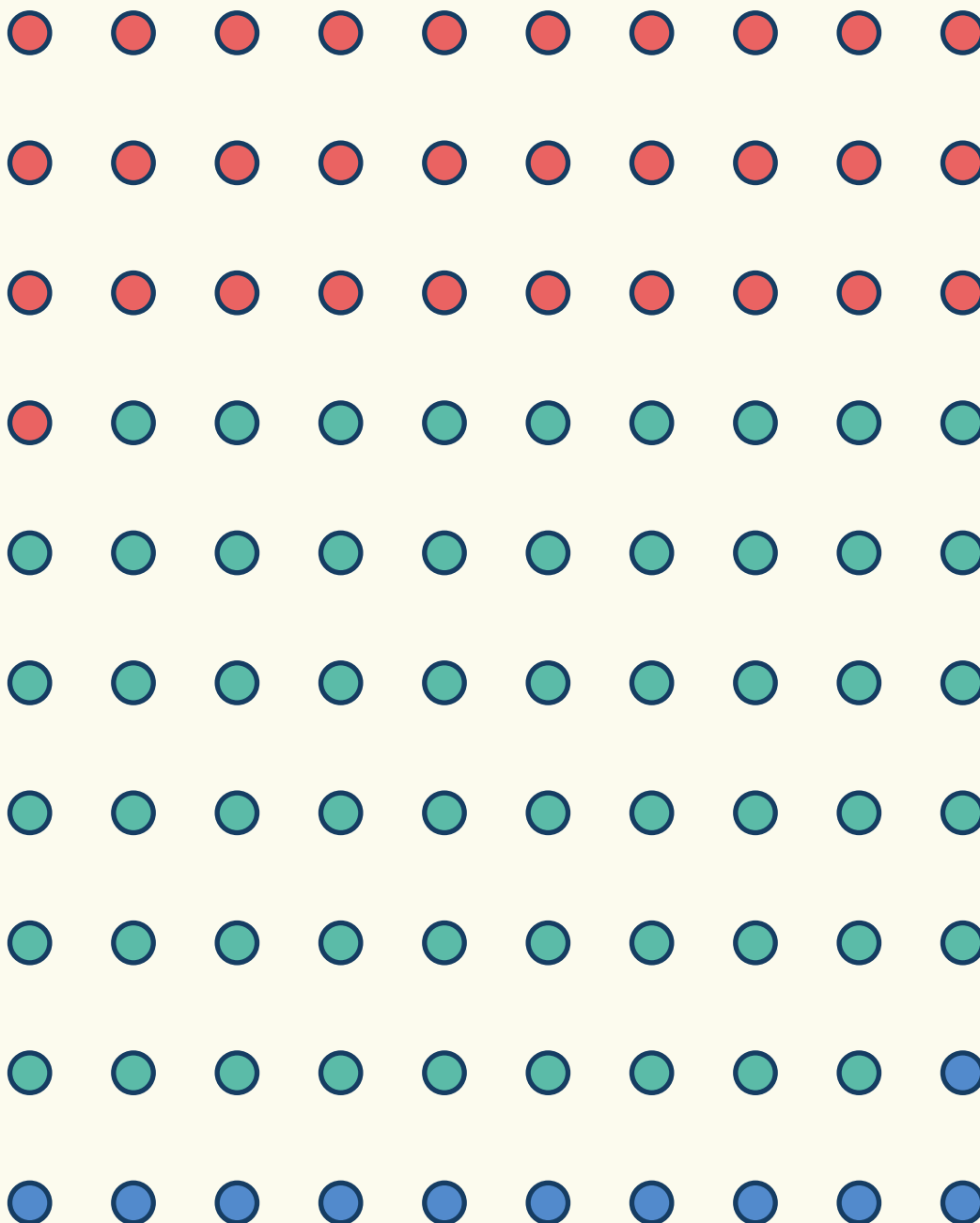
Average number of reviews signed by **female critics**

# 16,4

Average number of reviews signed by **male critics**

# 10,602

film reviews  
between May 2018 and April 2019



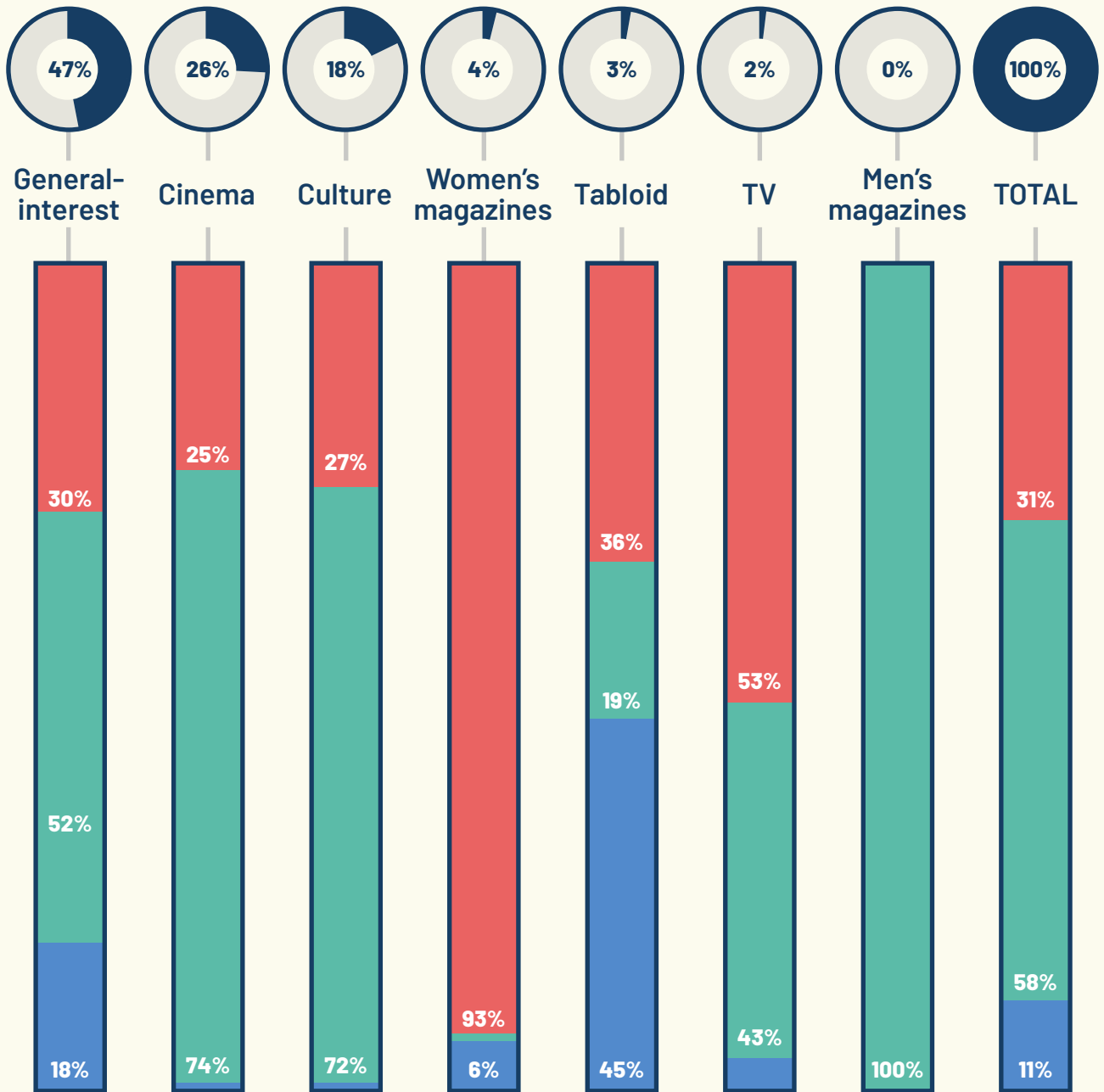
**31%**  
reviews  
written by  
women

**58%**  
reviews  
written by  
men

**11%**  
unspecified  
(« La Rédaction »  
for example)

Reviews by media type :

● Women ● Men ● Unspecified



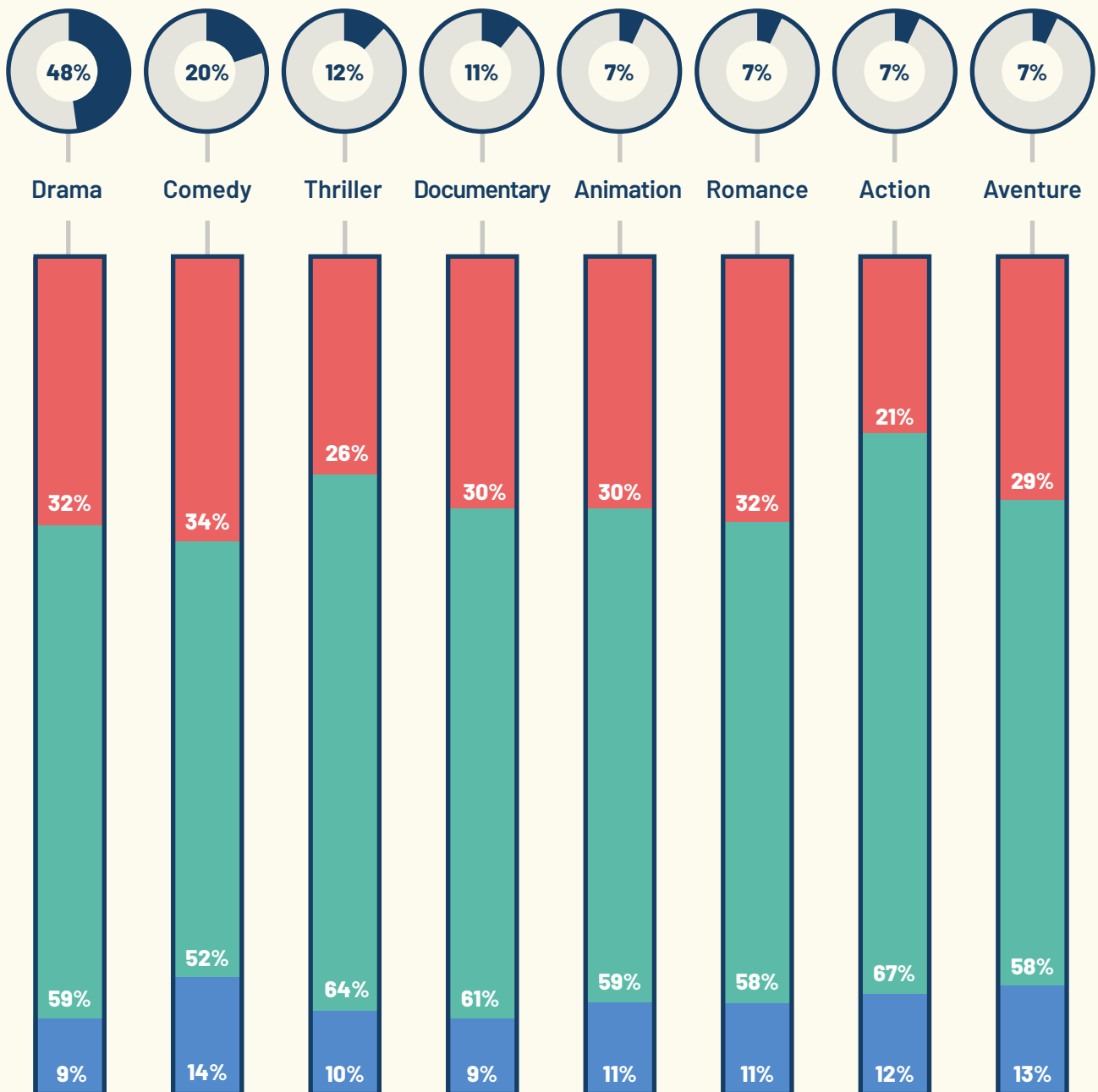
Reviews from magazines specializing in **CINEMA**, **CULTURE** and **GENERAL INTEREST** magazines are mostly signed by **MALE CRITICS**.

Reviews from **TV** and **WOMEN'S MAGAZINES** are mostly signed by **FEMALE CRITICS**.



Reviews by film genre :

● Women ● Men ● Unspecified



For films such as **ACTION, THRILLER** and **DOCUMENTARY** the number of reviews written by **MALE CRITICS** is significantly higher

**FEMALE CRITICS** are more often reviewing in films such as **COMEDY, DRAMA, ROMANCE**

On average, ratings by female critics are slightly higher.



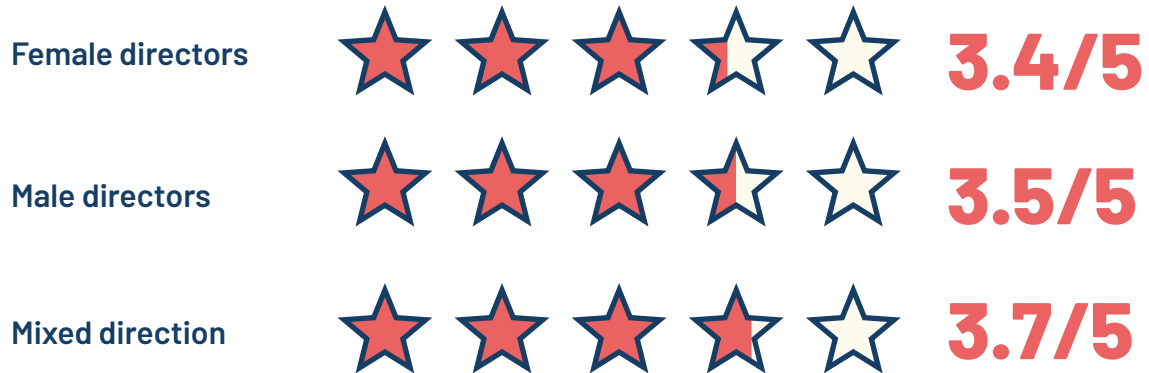
Average ratings by media type

	Reviews written by <b>women</b>	Reviews written by <b>men</b>	Reviews written <b>unspecified</b>
Cinema	 <b>3.3</b>	 <b>3.1</b>	 <b>3.4</b>
Culture	 <b>3.4</b>	 <b>3.3</b>	 <b>3.9</b>
Generalist interest	 <b>3.4</b>	 <b>3.2</b>	 <b>3.4</b>
Women's magazines	 <b>4.1</b>	 <b>3.0</b>	 <b>4.1</b>
Men's magazines	 -	 <b>3.8</b>	 -
Tabloid	 <b>3.8</b>	 <b>3.5</b>	 <b>3.9</b>
TV	 <b>3.8</b>	 <b>3.4</b>	 <b>3.9</b>

Regardless of the type of media, ratings by **FEMALE CRITICS** are higher

The director's gender has no influence on the ratings

Average ratings - Reviews written by **women**



Average ratings - Reviews written by **men**



Average ratings - **unspecified**



# METHODOLOGY

**Analysis of the films released between May 2, 2018 and April 24, 2019 (new films only)**  
**646 films / 10,602 film reviews / 611 critics who signed at least one review**

## 1. DATA SCRAPING FROM THE ALLOCINE WEBSITE

The panel of our report includes 55 titles from the daily press, titles and sites specializing in cinema, and magazines ranging from general interest to specialized press. The minimum number of reviews to be featured on the site is 3.

<b>Titles specializing in Cinema</b>	<b>Websites specializing in Cinema</b>	<b>Quoditians and weekly</b>	<b>General interest magazines, others</b>
• L'Écran fantastique	• À voir à lire	• 20 minutes	• Biba
• Les Cahiers du cinéma	• Bande à part	• Charlie Hebdo CNews	• Closer
• Cinemateaser	• Chronicart	• Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace	• Elle
• Les Inrocks	• Critikat	• L'Express	• Femme actuelle
• Mad Movies	• Culturebox	• L'Humanité	• GQ
• Positif	• Culturopoing	• La Croix	• Marie-Claire
• Première	• Ecran large	• La Voix du nord	• Paris Match
• Studio	• Filmsactu	• Le Dauphiné Libéré	• Public
• Télérama	• Journal du geek	• Le Figaro	• Rolling Stone
• Transfuge	• La Septième obsession	• Le JDD	• Télé 2 semaines
	• LCI	• Le Monde	• Télé 7 jours
	• Les Fiches du cinéma	• Le Parisien	• Téléloisirs
	• IGN France	• Le Point	• Voici
		• Libération	
		• Marianne	
		• Nouvel Obs	
		• Ouest France	
		• Sud-Ouest	

## 2. CHECKING THE REVIEWERS WHO SIGNED UNDER AN ACRONYM

## 3. CHECKING THE GENDER OF EACH REVIEWERS AND EACH DIRECTORS

## 4. CLASSIFICATION OF PRESS TITLES

- **Cinema** : Bande à part / Cahiers du Cinéma / CinemaTeaser / Critikat.com / Ecran Large / Filmsactu / L'Ecran Fantastique / La Septième Obsession / Les Fiches du Cinéma / Mad Movies / Positif / Première / Studio Ciné Live / Studio Magazine
- **Culture** : aVoir-aLire.com / Culturebox - France Télévisions / Culturopoing.com / IGN France / Le Figaroscope / Le Journal du Geek / Les Inrockuptibles / Rolling Stone / Télérama / Transfuge
- **General interest** : 20 Minutes / Charlie Hebdo / CNews / Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace / L'Express / L'Humanité / La Croix / La Voix du Nord / LCI / Le Dauphiné Libéré / Le Figaro / Le Journal du Dimanche / Le Monde / Le Nouvel Observateur / Le Parisien / Le Point / Libération / Marianne / Ouest France / Paris Match / Sud Ouest
- **Women's magazines** : BIBA / Elle / Femme Actuelle / Marie Claire
- **Men's magazines** : GQ
- **Tabloid** : Closer / Public / Voici
- **TV** : Télé 2 semaines / Télé 7 jours / Télé Loisirs

**50 | 50 > 2020**

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