



MEDIA RELEASE
Monday 29 February

New release – film trailers that pass the Bechdel test!

To celebrate the Oscars, the Sydney Opera House's *All About Women* festival, which returns on Sunday 6 March, has released three trailers for blockbusters you won't be seeing this summer – films that would pass the Bechdel test. Click [here](#) to see the trailers.

The Bechdel test – named for American cartoonist **Alison Bechdel** – judges just how much Hollywood values female characters by applying simple criteria: does the film feature at least two women, who talk to each other about something other than a man?

The *All About Women* trailers – for a fictional rom-com, thriller and horror film – star Australian actors **Celeste Barber** (*How To Behave, All Saints*) and **Adele Vuko** (*Activewear, Skit Box*) and feature lesbians who *don't* turn for the straight man, a woman who is allowed to focus on her career, and a man in a supporting role..

Written and directed by **Florence Noble** (who collaborated with *Bondi Hipster's* Nick Boshier on the Emmy Award-winning comedy *#7DaysLater* and *Meanwhile, On Earth*), the series was produced by **Michelle Hardy** (*#7DaysLater, Back Seat Drivers*) for Sydney creative collective **Paper Moose**.

The project was inspired – and blessed - by **Lena Dunham** and **Jenni Konner's** popular *Lenny Letter*, in which Brooklyn-based writer **Kira Garcia** published a series of "[Realistic Female Driven Film Treatments](#)" that would definitely pass the Bechdel test.

Sydney Opera House Head of International Development and co-curator of *All About Women* Danielle Harvey says: "*We continue to create online content that responds to the themes and issues that our live events At the Sydney Opera House, explore. By working with creatives from Australia and the world, we are able to treat online spaces as an extension of our physical footprint, and create unique content that further opens up the Opera House for everyone.*"

The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media surveyed 120 films made worldwide from 2010 to 2013 and found only 31% of named characters were female, and less than a quarter of the films had female protagonists. As for women directors, they accounted for just 7% of films.

According to *Feminist Frequency's* **Anita Sarkeesian**, the Bechdel test is "*a simple way to gauge the active presence of female characters in Hollywood films and just how well rounded and complete those roles are... It is astonishing the number of popular movies that can't pass this simple test.*"

Both Alison Bechdel and Anita Sarkeesian have featured at the *All About Women* festival in previous years.

View Tara Moss's interview with Alison Bechdel here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zGGNPOicTo>

View Anita Sarkeesian's *What I Couldn't Say* address here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhgEuY64ECw>

Last year, the *All About Women* team created the viral YouTube hit *Minister for Men*, starring **Gretel Killeen** and created with emerging female director and comedian **Kacie Anning**. View the full series here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKKWbWvkO0GCzuhOi2VsT-AxXmPFhNxbx>

Now in its fourth year, *All About Women* is one of Sydney Opera House's flagship festivals. It is a full day of talks and discussions about ideas that matter to women, providing an important platform for women's voices. Featuring 30 guests from Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, North Korea, Russia, South Africa and the United States, the packed 2016 program co-curated by Danielle Harvey and Ann Mossop explores issues ranging from equality, unconscious bias and violence to the economy, masculinity, female incarceration, Indigenous activism, and the power of the female memoir. Speakers include Anne-Marie Slaughter, Miranda July, Piper Kerman, Carrie Brownstein, Jennifer Clement, Mallory Ortberg, Margie Orford and more. For more information, visit: <http://aaw.sydneypoperhouse.com/>

Click here to view *Not Showing In Cinemas This Summer*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbczqcUNviQ>



Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas presents ideas, conversation and debate from leading thinkers and culture creators from around the world, extending the reach of live events with unique content online. As well as a year-round program of inspiring events, Sydney Opera House Talks & Ideas features annual festivals *All About Women* and the *Festival of Dangerous Ideas*, one-day talks events *For Thought* and *Carnegie Conversations*, and the arts talks series *Culture Club*.

CONNECT WITH SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE TALKS & IDEAS:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IdeasAtTheHouse>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ideasatthehouse>
Instagram: <http://instagram.com/sydneyoperahouse/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ideasatthehouse>
iTunes Podcasts: <https://itunes.apple.com/au/podcast/sydney-opera-house-ideas-at/id640445035?mt=2>

MEDIA CONTACT:

Julia Lenton / Communications Manager, Talks & Ideas / jlenton@sydneyoperahouse.com / +61 410 748 039