Effects of lack of female influence within the film industry:

- ratio wise, you'll have **5 main guys and 1, maybe 2, women**
- **you don't have female characters without expecting that they're gonna hook up with male characters** at some point in the film
- **I can only name two female directors**, that I know, that's **Sofia Coppola and Kathryn Bigelow**.
- **I only know the one who did Hurt Locker**.
- **One man would probably have more power than all of those women in the film**
- **if they're seen as making their own decisions or something like that, there's something bad that's behind that, rather than it just being normal**.
- **[the statistics] don't surprise me**
- **I expected it to be like that**.
- **It was like a confirmation of what you already knew anyway**.
- **when you watch the BAFTAs and Oscars** and stuff**, the amount of amazing female actors there are, it's quite surprising that it is that different**.
- I think if I was wanting to go into the film industry **behind the screen**, then in the **forefront in my mind there would always be, that above me there's a huge majority of men**
- in mainstream films, its **usually the woman who's the damsel in distress, or the bloke's sidekick, or trophy**
- **you got films coming out like Wolf of Wall Street and American Hustle** where the women are literally playing **hookers and receptionists**
- Katniss Everdeen is a strong character, **she is strong but**t's like what Kitty said before is that, **she ends up getting with...like the whole romance thing -**
- I suppose you can argue it either way in that when **[Carrie Mathison from Homeland] gets distracted by** *love,***she kinda goes off the rails - could be portrayed as being like that's what women do**
- often its **LOOK THIS IS A STRONG WOMAN THEREFORE SHE DOES THIS, there's no intrinsically strong character that are just strong**.
- **there has to be something special about them**, like **critically it would be pointed out more that she is a strong woman, like its not just a normal thing**
- **Female characters aren't allowed to make mistakes**, you got male characters who are like 'the fallen heroes' who aren't perfect and **still do shit wrong but you still love them**, but that **doesn't happen with women if they do something wrong**
- **you hardly ever have a film that has a woman in and there's no type of romance - it's disproportionate**

- He's normally like a broken, emotionally broken, character, and **the woman is normally a sort of person who's in touch with that side and is able to connect with it more than the man is**
- **makes me want to change it, especially with theatre - all of the monologues** I can find for my casting **are about men and how I'm in love with a man**.

Reasons:

1. **Milly: female characters are mostly portrayed as a certain number of archetypes**. - **it's a** part of what our society is. **It's not necessarily about the amount of women**, **it's about** how men and women are.
2. **Cameron: you gotta take it away from the film and arts industry and bring it back to just normal jobs**...women and men….**men are paid more**, so that will **obviously be affected in Hollywood** and that, so it's **just taking it, in a way, from the norm of society**. It's not a good thing, it's a bad thing but yeah, **it's nothing to do with Hollywood**
3. as well its about **the stereotype of having a family**, that **women just can't dedicate themselves as directors and writers** - **men have more freedom**
4. in the **forefront in my mind there would always be, that above me there's a huge majority of men** and that it's **very very hard to make your way up the ladder** as a woman just because they think, when you're in that kind of **directorial position**, you've **got to have a lot of respect** and you **gotta have people who are gonna listen to you** - **she's gotta have a certain amount of prestige, before men will start listening to her**
5. **the whole film industry**, in terms of acting and stuff, it kinda **reflects the whole atmosphere of today's social context**. You got **predominantly men in the police forces, predominantly men in the army, in these kind of glorified roles within society which are reflected in the show business industry**, or the film industry.
6. And so you get male actors, and its **often to do with egos -** you get these **big actor egos**, and y**ou get women who are sort of more real**. People like **Helen Mirren**, she's **not someone who's gonna go on a show and just show off**, but someone maybe like **Russell Crowe** would go on Graham Norton, you'll get this **big bravado** thing from him. **People kind of respect that, they buy into that**,
7. you have **guys who are allowed to be like, 'im the shit', 'Im worth this amount of millions of quids'** or whatever and **'if I'm in this film it'll be worth this amount of money'** but if a female actress was like that,everyone would be like **'oh my god what an up herself bitch' and no one would like her and no one would sell anything**.
8. **We love these male characters**, regardless of what they do and yet when you see a woman do it, you start freaking out...that **just says something about society**
9. **Film is like a mirror on society and audiences**, it **reflects what people think**. - are **mostly only made to make money** so you **have to make a film which normal,**

'Fred and Frieda' at home, will like. - **gotta go to norm**.: **Men are powerful in the film**, good looking girl, **good looking girl has problem, men fixes problem**

10. **there's industries that are dominated by males anyway generally in life**, and **film is obviously a representation of life in most cases - film shouldn't be directly blamed for doing it**, it should **come back to more of the wider picture**

11. **I'm more comfortable writing men but that's just cos of who I am and the gender I am as I am a man so I write about men**.

12. I think also maybe that men don't write females, not **because its confidence**, **the way they're writing about a female is not right, it's their point of view of a male**. - maybe sometimes they're writing and **the woman is that Trophy Girl, bla bla bla, they're stereotypical as a man, that's why they're writing**. - **Because that's what they're feeling**. - **that's what they see in life**.

13. **thousands and thousands of films are written in America for Hollywood, I don't think anyone realises how few get made - they pick, however many they make a year**, I mean it's nothing, if you think about **how many films that are actually in the cinema within a year**, it's **very very few** - out of all those thousands, **there's got to be hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of them, that represent women equally**, there must be but **they don't get chosen**

14. the less female writers and female directors employed, the less female roles there'll be

15. it's a slow progress of change but **that's how life goes, that's how you evolve**. **It's not going to be tomorrow**, [clicks] all of the films are gonna be very very balanced and it's all gonna be happy-dandy

Summarized reasons:
- not necessarily the lack of women - more so the _relationship between men and women in our society_
- the film industry _reflects the level of pay and employment rights_ of normal jobs _in society_
- the stereotype of _having a family_ = makes women seem _unable to dedicate enough time to become directors and writers_ because it's seen as their responsibility to raise the children
- many women are probably _discouraged_ by the fact that the _industry is dominated by men_ and that its _harder for a woman to make her way up the ladder_ and _earn enough respect and authority to become a director or producer_
- reflects _today's social context_ - _men are predominantly_ in _the police + army - glorified roles in movies_ - predominantly men in these roles which are reflected by the film industry

- Male actor's tend to have _large egos_ = they put on a _big bravado_, show-off act which _fans often respect + buy into and come to expect_ - the consumer-love for confidence and big bravado - society
- because of long-term dominance of the industry, male actors are _allowed to promote themselves and treat themselves with the most importance_ in securing film roles - women are not able to do the same
- the fact that male characters are loved, regardless of the mistakes they make, _reflects the opinions of society_.
- Film is a _mirror on society and audiences_ - it _reflects what people think_
- most films are _made for money_ - so they are _aimed at the most general audience_ - are _not especially challenging or revolutionary_ in thinking
- most industries are dominated by males generally - as most movies try to reflect society, films themselves shouldn't be blamed for lack of female influence - its the fault of the wide society
- some men are more comfortable writing about men as they are men themselves
- some men wish to express the general point of view of men or their own stereotypical view of women - how they personally view/feel about women
- out of the thousands of films that are submitted to Hollywood each year, only very few are selected and the ones about women or written by women, which there are probably hundreds, are rejected - perhaps for a number of reasons - women seen as creative risk?
- the less women employed in the top roles of producers, directors and writers, the less female roles there will be
- the process of change is just very slow like evolution - the entire film industry, in terms of balance and equality, can't just change overnight.

Key issues:
- the views of Society
- the traditional expectations of women
- the long-term effects of male dominance within the industry
- the consumer-love for big-bravado
- the amount of male writers and how they choose to represent, or rather under-represent, women
- the 'creative chokehold' of the mainstream industry aiming at most general audience -
- women seen as creative risks
- the incredibly slow progress of change within the industry.

Counters:

- even if there was a **massive number of women involved in the film**, they'd **all be centered around one man**.
- I don't think that any girl in this room, or pretty much any girl that I know, thinks, like perhaps they would have done 30 years ago, that **we will leave here, maybe get a degree, and then get a husband**. And **I think that actually the family thing, I don't think has as much of an effect**.
- I'm going to use **The Hunger Games** as a perfect example here because you've got Jennifer Lawrence as this **strong, almost soldier-like character**
- **then again you got films coming out like Wolf of Wall Street and American Hustle** where the women are literally playing **hookers and receptionists** and stuff and that's **fine, because its representing a certain period**
- Jennifer Lawrence again is **playing both the housewife and then the strong soldier-like woman. So** with **actors playing the same roles, that's the actors choice** because the **roles are written, whether or not the actor is around - there are strong roles for women out there, the actresses just need to find them**.
- I also think **there's always a stigma attached to a woman falling in love with a guy** in a film. - **people should look at it a lot lighter** in the sense of, **men also fall back in love with the woman**
- **it encourages you**, knowing things like [the stats] **encourages us to change it**.
- it's **made me want to prove something**.
- It **encourages me to write things, like scripts or whatever**
- **I'd kinda like [the view of female films to carry an edginess] to be diminished**, I'd like it **to just be normal** and for it just to be okay and **not to be like a 'feminist-crazy' thing**.
- I see it as **more opportunities for women because there's less of them in the industry**
- **you can't get production companies to proportionally make films that are good with women and good with men**.
- **it's slowly getting there**, and it's got better than the black and white films, so **give it another 50 years**…
- But **we shouldn't have to wait another 50 years**.
- **then it's going to be the men who're complaining**.

Solutions:
- **I'd kinda like [the view of female films to carry an edginess] to be diminished**
- **I do believe in a thing called the Bechtel test**, you have **two or more women in your film**, yes or no, and **do they speak about anything else, other than a man, and do they share a scene together in which that subject isn't spoken about**? - **if you can try and install that then it does slowly make an industry better for women**
- **if you employ more female writers and more female directors, there'll be more female roles**.

- **give it 50 years, and it'll be better - maybe it'll be quicker now with technology like the internet**
- **you've got to give it time**. And **now we got people like us who're young like us and thinking like this, when we grow up and we start correcting that, we're the next generation with that new idea**.

Summarized reasons:
- (1) not necessarily the lack of women - more so the *relationship between men and women* *in our* **society**
- (1) the film industry *reflects the level of pay and employment rights* of normal jobs *in* **society**
- (2) the stereotype of *having a family* = makes women seem *unable to dedicate enough time to become directors and writers* because it's seen as their responsibility to raise the children
- (3) many women are probably *discouraged* by the fact that the *industry is dominated by men* and that its *harder for a woman to make her way up the ladder* and *earn enough respect and authority to become a director or producer*
- (1) reflects *today's social context* - *men are predominantly* in *the police + army - glorified roles in movies* - predominantly men in these roles which are reflected by the film industry
- (4) Male actor's tend to have *large egos* = they put on a *big bravado*, show-off act which *fans often respect + buy into and come to expect* - the consumer-love for confidence and big bravado - society
- (3) because of long-term dominance of the industry, male actors are *allowed to promote themselves and treat themselves with the most importance* in securing film roles - women are not able to do the same
- (4) + (1) the fact that male characters are loved, regardless of the mistakes they make, *reflects the opinions of* **society**.
- (1) Film is a *mirror on society and audiences* - it *reflects what people think*
- (5) most films are *made for money* - so they are *aimed at the most general audience* - are *not especially challenging or revolutionary* in thinking
- (1) most industries are dominated by males generally - as most movies try to reflect society, films themselves shouldn't be blamed for lack of female influence - its the fault of the wide society
- (6) some men are more comfortable writing about men as they are men themselves
- (6) some men wish to express the general point of view of men or their own stereotypical view of women - how they personally view/feel about women

- (5) out of the thousands of films that are submitted to Hollywood each year, <u>only very few are selected</u> and the <u>ones about women or written by women, which there are probably hundreds</u>, are <u>rejected</u> - perhaps for a number of reasons - <u>women seen as creative risk</u>?
- (3) the <u>less women employed in the top roles</u> of producers, directors and writers, the <u>less female roles</u> there will be
- (7) the <u>process of change is just very slow</u> like evolution - the entire film industry, in terms of balance and equality, <u>can't just change overnight</u>.