



For Immediate Release:

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TAKE THE LEAD'S 50 WOMEN CAN CHANGE THE WORLD IN MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT ANNOUNCES FINALISTS FOR THEIR 2018 LEADERSHIP COHORT

(Los Angeles, CA)—[Take The Lead's 50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment](#) program's first class of women leaders includes women who are industry executives, award-winning producers, writers, directors, agents, film and media educators, journalists, and on-site production staff.

The cohort includes women like **Maria Giese**, who in 2015 instigated the biggest industry-wide federal investigation around discrimination against women directors in Hollywood history; **Kamala Lopez**, actress, filmmaker, activist and President of Heroica Films, who has launched the movement and film *Equal Means Equal*, to educate Americans about the importance of equal rights under federal law for women; and executives such as, **Winnie Kemp**, SVP of television development at Super Deluxe/Turner Broadcasting, who was among Adweek's 2017 list of female disruptors in media. The #50WomenCan program also includes social change activists such as award-winning producer, writer, and director, **Aisling Chin-Yee** who co-created, alongside actor **Mia Kirshner**, #AfterMeToo, a symposium, series and report that analyzes the issue of sexual misconduct in the entertainment industry, and **Amie Williams** who founded the nonprofit GlobalGirl Media, which develops the voice and media literacy of young women, as well as local media reporters **Alex Cohen**, Southern California Public Radio and **Lolita Lopez** from KNBC.

Project Directors **Tabby Biddle** and **Elisa Parker** worked closely with their advisory board to choose from an application pool to create a balanced cross-section of women in the industry across race, age, sexual orientation and expertise. "We use the word cohort in describing this group," Parker and Biddle observe, "because we see this program creating the kind of strong network women need and want in industries they've been too long the minority in leadership."

The program is based on **Take The Lead's** core curriculum, the "9 Leadership Power Tools to Advance Your Career," that teaches women how to lead with a new definition of power. Created by legendary social justice activist, **Gloria Feldt** in her bestselling book, *No Excuses*, the 9 Leadership Power Tools are proven to accelerate women into leadership. Feldt recognized early on that while numerous studies all analyzed the problem, what was needed was an actionable program that could be adapted to various

industries and sectors and a network for women to support each other when the programming finished. Over a million women have been helped by Take The Lead's groundbreaking programs, moving up in their careers and industries.

The program launches on **February 10th** and will be housed at the program's partner, **Mount Saint Mary's University**, home of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media and the only women's university in Los Angeles.

Take The Lead co-founder and President Gloria Feldt observes: "Women are at an extraordinary moment when long-needed advances in gender equality and power balance can happen. Take The Lead was prescient in launching this program in Hollywood. After we say "#metoo," after the black dresses on the red carpet, and after creating a legal fund to help women once harassment has occurred comes Take The Lead's critical work of giving women leadership tools and skills to create sustainable systemic change for the long term. The media and entertainment industry tells our stories to the world. That's why 50 Women Can Change the World is so vitally important."

As Parker and Biddle, both **Take The Lead** Leadership Ambassadors as well as Project Directors for **50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment**, state "We at **Take The Lead** believe that in elevating women's voices in media and entertainment, the scope of change will go beyond the women in the program. It will shape the culture we wish to see. A more nuanced approach to women's stories from diverse backgrounds will open the door to deeper understanding and a quickened pace to equality for all."

The inaugural [50 Women Can Change the World in Media & Entertainment](#) (full biographies [here](#)):

Aisling Chin-Yee, Producer/Director/Co-Creator After Me Too Symposium, Fluent Films

Alex Cohen, Host, Morning Edition, Southern California Public Radio

Alicia Ontiveros, Senior Producer, Q Creative

Allison Erlikhman, Creative Executive, Walt Disney Studios

Amie Williams, Founder and Executive Director, GlobalGirl Media

Amy Fox, Writer, Screenwriter, Playwright, Professor of Screenwriting, NYU

Amy Kersten, Independent Entertainment Creative, Netflix

Ana Flores, Founder and CEO, #WeAllGrow Latina Network

Asha Dahya, Journalist & Content Creator, GirlTalkHQ.com

Elizabeth (Beth) Osisek, Senior Producer/Writer, Girl Rising

Caroline Edwards, Creative Director, Politics, ICM, ICM Partners

Carrie Lynn Certa, President, Writer/Director/Producer, The Outfit Entertainment

Charo Toledo, Writer/Creator/Producer, Charo Entertainment LLC

Christie Marchese, Founder and CEO, Picture Motion

Diane Robertson, Vice President, Legal Affairs, CBS Television Studios

Dorothee Sophie Royal, Founder, MoonTent Co.

Elisabeth Ness, Performer, Producer, and Creative Entrepreneur, Good Porpoise Productions

Ellen Snortland, Writer/Director/Producer, Beauty Bites Beast

Erica Mandy, Broadcast Journalist, Founder & Host, theNewsWorthy

Gabriela Tagliavini, Writer/Director Film & Television

Geummy Joanna Lee, Producer/Director/Writer, WeGolden

Gina Reyes, Director of Content Development, Story House Entertainment

Greta McAnany, Founder and CEO, Blue Fever

Jen McGowan, Founder, Director, Film Powered

Jenn Page, Director/Producer, Heart on Fire Productions, Inc

Joanna Goldblatt, Head of Industry, Media & Entertainment, Google

Joanna Popper, Media and Tech Executive and Advisor, NBC

Joy Donnell, Media Entrepreneur, Parajin Media Corp

Julie Smolyansky, President + CEO, Lifeway Foods; Writer, Producer, Humanitarian Filmmaker

Jyoti Sarda, CEO/Founder, Nimble Media LLC

Kamala Lopez, Executive Director, Equal Means Equal; President, Heroica Films; Founder & Exec. Director, ERA Education Project

Karin Hayes, Director/Producer, Urcunina Films, LLC

Karla Escobar, Founder and CEO, WiseOwlMedia Group

Kelly Harrington, VP Global Brand Marketing, NBC Universal

Lolita Lopez, NBC Los Angeles, Investigative Reporter/Anchor

Maria Giese, Feature Film Director, Women's Media Summit, WeMAC, and Aegis Films

Monica Wise, Documentary Filmmaker and Video Journalist, Freelance

Munika Lay, Director, Strategy and Business Development, End Cue

Nancy De Los Santos, Writer (WGA), Director, Producer, GT Productions

Dr. Nicole Haggard, PhD, Professor of Film, Media & Social Justice, Mount Saint Mary's University

Penny Segal, Manager, Post Production, Netflix

Rachel Feldman, Director/Writer, Activist, Fair Fight

Rosser Goodman, Writer/Director/Producer, Circle Content

Sarah Moshman, Documentary Filmmaker, The Empowerment Project/Losing Sight of Shore

Sarah-Jane Murray, PhD, Writer/Executive Producer; Anderimage; Assoc. Professor Baylor U;

Shalini Kantayya, Director, 7th Empire Media

Valerie Madden, Creative Director/Art Director, Amazon Studios

Whitney Davis, Director, CBS Entertainment Diversity, CBS Studios

Winnie Kemp, SVP, Originals, Super Deluxe/Turner Broadcasting

Xan Aranda, Filmmaker, Independent

About Take The Lead

TAKE THE LEAD prepares, develops, inspires and propels women to take their fair and equal share of leadership positions across all sectors by 2025. It's today's women's movement — a unique catalyst for women to embrace power and reach leadership parity. Co-founded by Gloria Feldt and Amy Litzenberger in 2014, the organization offers webinars, corporate training, leadership programs, an award-winning newsletter, Virtual Happy Hour interview programs bringing today's top movers and shakers to discuss their careers and lives online. www.taketheleadwomen.com

For additional information on the **50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment**, contact Elisa Parker at elisa@seejanedo.com

For additional biographical material on the cohort:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nFXLGDmyAg09jZotx1iYw8nDMNp2PBWtBEzwnnuacvE/edit>