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For Immediate Release:

Nominations Now Open for Hollywood's 50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment

Amidst Sexual Harassment Turmoil and #MeToo, Take The Lead, a national women's leadership organization Provides Tools for Women to Change the Balance of Power by 2025

(Los Angeles, CA)—The statistics don't lie: women in Hollywood face steep odds according to the Center for the Study of Women in TV and Film: of the top 250 films, only 7% of the directors are women. Women accounted for 13% of writers, 17% of executive producers, 24% producers, 17% editors, 5% cinematographers, 3% composers, 8% supervising sound editors, 4% sound designers. And for women of color the statistics are even more daunting.

In a year when the release of Wonder Woman and its attendant box office success is put against the still disproportionate numbers of women still not represented in the movie industry, Take The Lead, a nonprofit women's leadership organization, is bringing a one-of-a-kind program to Hollywood aimed at changing those numbers: [50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment](#).

The **50 Women Can Change the World** program, created by [Take The Lead](#) co-founder and President Gloria Feldt, and directed in Los Angeles by [Elisa Parker](#) (activist and co-founder and host of the award-winning program "See Jane Do") and [Tabby Biddle](#) (bestselling author of *Find Your Voice*), both Leadership Ambassadors with the three year old nonprofit, is now accepting nominations and applications for a four-month personalized leadership program. **The deadline for nominations is December 10th**. Details on the process can be [found here](#)—women are encouraged to nominate colleagues or themselves.

"Who tells our stories, shapes the culture," Feldt says, "And where better to have an impact on the culture than here, in Los Angeles, where so much of our narratives are born. The timing was prescient—but all the controversy about sexual harassment that started with this industry, shows how urgently we need to address the imbalance between men and women and how it helps all when we make these kinds of systemic changes. We are excited by the reception we've gotten so far with the large number of women coming to us to be a part of this game-changing program and look forward to seeing women move those statistics in all areas of this business to 50% representation."

This innovative training delivers [Take The Lead's core curriculum](#), the "9 Leadership Power Tools to Advance Your Career." The program teaches women how to lead themselves, their careers, their organizations, and their industries with a new definition of power, shifting from an outdated, oppressive "Power Over" to an expansive, positive and innovative "Power To." Based on co-founder [Gloria Feldt's groundbreaking book, No Excuses](#), [the program](#) has

successfully been used with corporate groups, professional organizations and in a newly created individual [online course](#).

Who should be nominated and apply? Project Directors and Lead Trainers Parker and Biddle say they are “are looking for women in the media and entertainment industry who have exemplified leadership, commitment, professional dedication and creativity throughout their career. From seasoned professionals to buzz-worthy newcomers, we know women benefit from sharing insight across the spectrum of experience. The entertainment business requires a unique set of skills and we recognize there is a courageous spirit required to jump into this highly competitive field. We are looking to build a meaningful collaboration of diverse women across the industry.”

The [advisory board](#) for the program includes Margie Moreno of YouTube Red, Diana Means of Warner Bros. and producer Suzanne Farwell of critically-acclaimed films and box-office hits like *Something's Gotta Give*, *The Holiday* and *It's Complicated*, as well as other prominent women who have been active in all parts of the industry and hail from industry leaders including Warner Brothers, Paramount, Lionsgate, as well as independent filmmaking and prominent industry organizations. Dr. Nancy O'Reilly, founder of Women Connect4Good, Inc. was an early supporter of the program's move to Hollywood. As a founding partner and presenting sponsor for the program, [Women Connect4Good](#) has contributed critical seed funding to develop the program infrastructure.

Taking place both in person and online, **50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment** will take place in Los Angeles over a four-month period, from February - May 2018. On February 1, the program will host a launch reception at NeueHouse Hollywood, followed by program instruction at a two-day immersion in early February, and one-day trainings in March, April and May, as well as online webinars. The program will end with a Partners for Parity Soiree at the Doheny Mansion at Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles. The four-month special program will cover critical areas of professional change including:

- *Asking for what you want (funding and financing);
- * Legal insight for women in the industry;
- * Tools to navigate difficult people and situations within the industry;
- * Supporting industry game changers—and becoming one;
- *Self-care and personal development;
- * Creation of a personalized action plan that will be aided and followed up on throughout the year by the program's managers.

50 Women Can Change The World in Media & Entertainment is partnering with many organizations throughout Southern California including Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU), the only all-women's college in Los Angeles and fiscal sponsor to the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media. The majority of their in-person immersion programs will be held at MSMU and their Partners In Parity Soiree will be held at MSMU's Doheny Mansion on May 12th, 2018.

Additionally, Dr. Ann McElaney-Johnson, President of the University, who in 2011 led the creation of the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California, the first report of its kind to examine gender gaps in the state and provide recommendations, will include 50 Women Can Change the World in Media & Entertainment in the March 2018 annual

presentation. A one-year collaborative research study assessing the impact and efficacy of the 50 Women Can Change the World in Media & Entertainment is in the planning stages.

The hunger for this kind of systemic approach was evident when the organization [hosted a salon with partner NeueHouse in November](#). Filled to the maximum, the gathering brought women representing all areas in the industry who came to hear Gloria Feldt as well as organizers Biddle and Parker speak about why Take The Lead had chosen Los Angeles specifically for the program.

“We need stories told by women and supported by women that can show and mirror a better humanity. I feel inspired to be with a group of women who are ready to take on the challenges of this incredibly powerful industry and to create change from the inside out in a way that’s sustainable and that can change the world,” says Kate Neligan, former VP of On Demand & Digital Marketing at Lionsgate, and founder of Synergy TV. Kate currently sits on the #50WomenCan Advisory Committee, a team of nine industry professionals who will help select the finalists for the 50 women cohort.

“This year what I found is everywhere I turn, groups of women are getting together to figure out how they can address the issues of the day. I haven’t seen this in 30 years of being in corporate America,” says Jyoti Sarda, former executive at Paramount, and champion of this initiative. “It feels different this year,” says Sarda, who is currently working on a documentary series about women of color in politics. “What I’ve concluded is that we can really harness our collective power to address whatever issue that we see out there in the world we feel needs changing, and there are so many.”

For more information on the nomination process and the Take The Lead 50 Women Can Change the World in Media & Entertainment program please visit: <https://www.50womencan-media.com/>

[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. Join us online, sign up for our newsletter and have insightful news and advice delivered weekly, and check out our Virtual Happy Hour, our leadership programs and other offerings.