

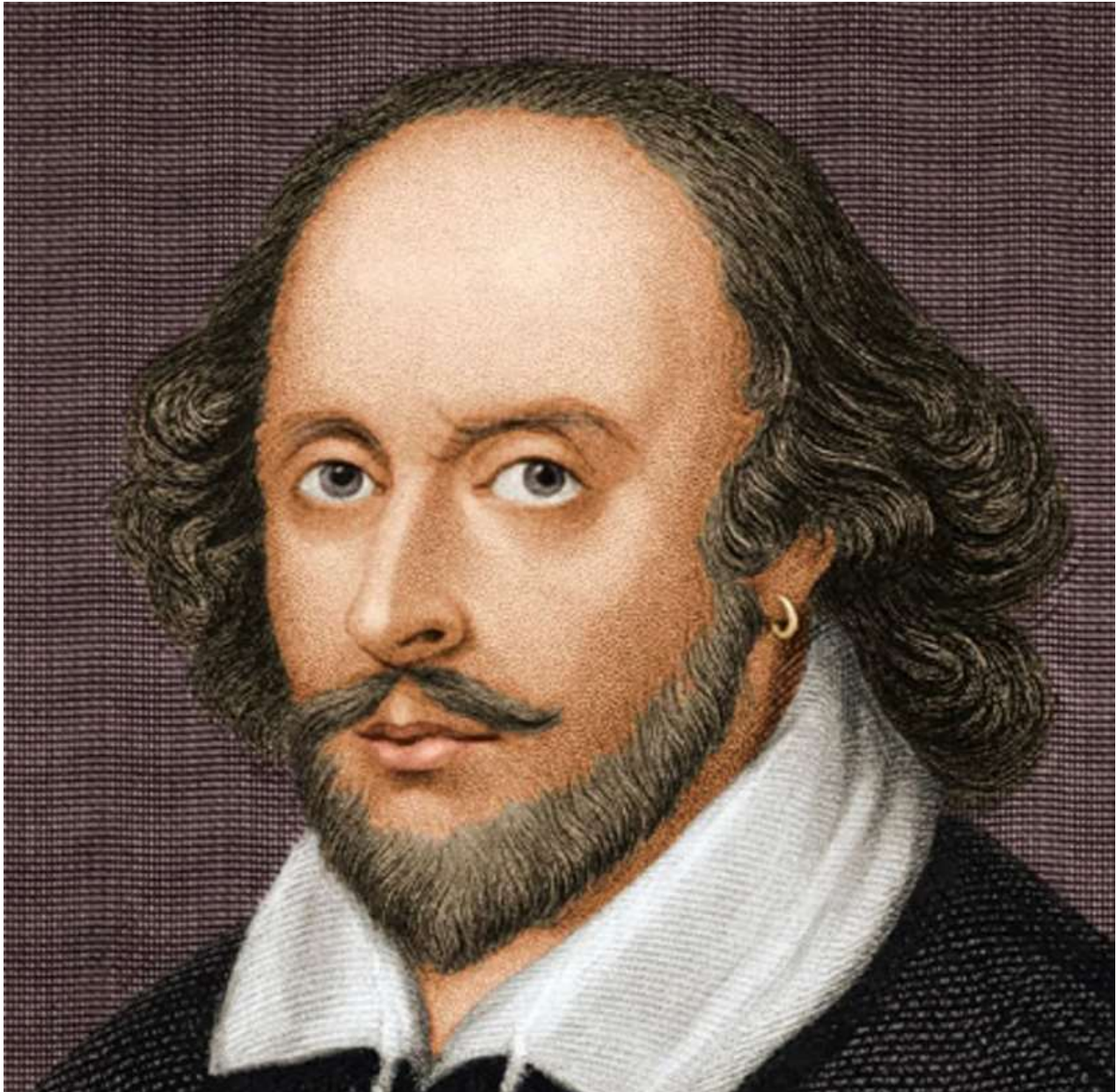
Representation of Women in Art and it's forms.

By Adhya Joshi

Phi/19/1

Art and film appreciation

Literature – Women have been a favourite theme in most of poetry and literature. Numerous texts have been written on women or using women as metaphors for motherhood, fragility, sensuality among others.



“Frailty, thy name is woman”. – William Shakespeare

Cinema – The representation of women in cinema is seen in abundance. There’s always a maiden that needs saving, a beautiful prize to be won.

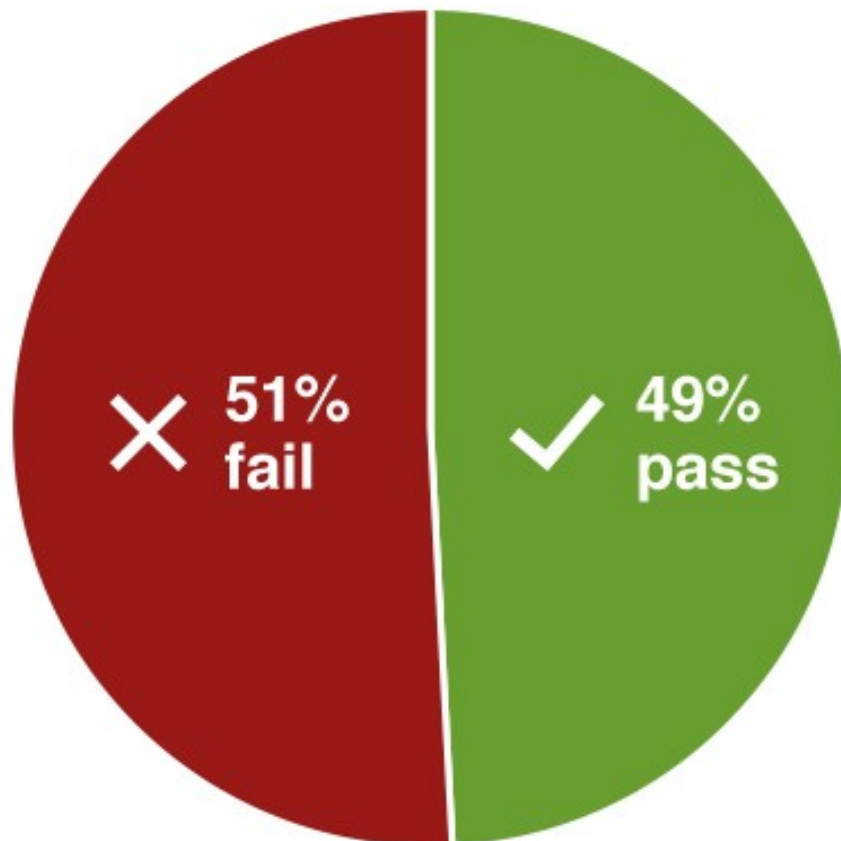


But is this representation correct ? Are women limited to being a motivation or a mere prize for the glorious hero ?

The Bechdel Test, devised by Alison Bechdel, can be used a measure of the representation of women in Cinema. Every time we watch a movie, we need to ask 3 questions –

- 1) Are there at least two women in the movie ?
- 2) Do they talk to each other ?
- 3) If they do, do they talk to each other about anything other than a man ?

## Percentage of Oscar best picture winners that have passed or failed the Bechdel Test since 1929





Frozen is an example of one of the very rare movies that do pass the Bechdel test.

Queen is another example of the same.

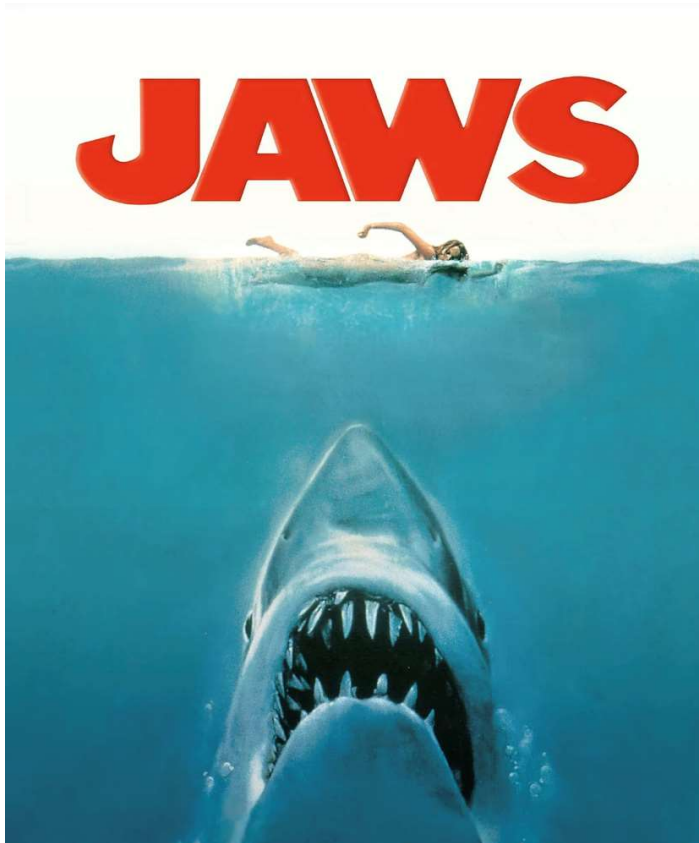




Representation of women is based on what is called the “Male Gaze”. The “Look” of a male viewer. This viewer can be the director, or the co-actor or the audience.



These concepts of representation and the male gaze also contribute to setting beauty standards. Can movies really affect our lives to such an extent ?



When the movie Jaws was released, the fear of Sharks was voted the most prominent phobia among the American youth.

After the movie Brave was released, a multifold increase of participation of women in Archery was observed.



## Median Prices for Female Versus Male Artists' Works

Works created after 1999

■ Female    ▨ Male

