

Sexism . . .

"On the other hand, the majority of women actually working in Hollywood do what they have to do to work, so they generally are not producing things that we need. The most successful female film director at this time is Penny Marshall. She has directed some very interesting works, including the important film starring Geena Davis, *A League of Our Own*, which had a successful run with the North American audience. But her last film is the comedy with Danny De Vito, *The Renaissance Man*, evidently she tried a typical product that did not contribute anything special."

"However, some women including big name stars like

Meryl Streep and Michelle Pfeiffer, are showing signs of becoming more conscious and radical, denouncing publicly discrimination and speaking of changes they would like to see. I praise their efforts to make these changes from within, as well as praise the efforts of the independent film women who try to produce films that are a reaction against Hollywood and allow us to see real alternative films."

"Nowadays," says Meryl Streep, "not only are we paid less, we are blamed for the results of a fiasco, whereas our male companions are left unscathed by a failure". Of the same opinion is Sharon Stone, the leading lady of Sylvester Stallone in *The Specialist* for which he received 12 million dollars

whereas Sharon received only five.

"Since this industry started, it has been ruled by men", declared Jodie Foster recently when informed that Schwarzenegger charges 15 million per film, "and he is not required to perform but only to sell himself as a commodity. Michael Keaton received the same amount for *Batman III*. If anyone of us demanded such fees, we would immediately be blacklisted".

Nevertheless some actresses are demanding different roles which question set feminine images. They are engaged in a real search to give value to their profession as well as to honor real women.



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Q: Women like you and I are in our 40s and 60s, how are you holding out?

Isabel: I am enduring it much better. We are helping each other, we are happy, we gather to meditate, exchange books, look for answers to old questions, share experiences.... Menopause is a wonderful thing! We are now more secure, freer, and can begin new lives.

Q: And how do they put up with us?

Isabel: You would have to ask the others.... I find that I am not so difficult and not so hard to live with and the same can be said for the majority of the women that I know. But, of course, I can be wickedly vain.

Q: A few months ago the United States and the world at large was moved by the live television telecast of the hearings on the case against the Latina who cut off her husband's penis, what are your thoughts on this?

Isabel: I ask myself why did she cut off the most insignificant part of his anatomy. This

A glimpse of Isabel Allende

by Patricia Verdugo



guy raped and beat her, sexism and evilness are not contained in this small appendage. She should have cut off his head. Millions of women in the world now are having their genitals mutilated or their vaginas stitched in initiation rites....In more civilized countries the breasts are being sliced for silicone implants or the faces are being cut to remove the wrinkles.

Everywhere magazines or pornographic videos can be bought where there are pictures of women being tortured or mutilated to excite the men. There are countless films of the same. Maltreatment of women is so common it goes unnoticed. But, oh, if you touch a man's penis! The police flew out with lanterns onto the freeway in search of his penis. They would most likely have not troubled themselves so much if they were in search of a woman's head.

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