

# Female Stars Protest On Red Carpet For Equal Rights

CANNES: Dozens of women film stars have held a protest at the Cannes film festival against gender-based discrimination in the industry.

Cate Blanchett, Kristen Stewart and Jane Fonda were among those taking part in the red-carpet demonstration, BBC reported on Saturday.

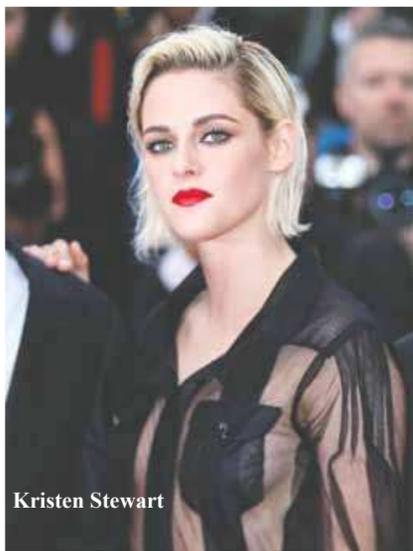
The prestigious Cannes festival has come under criticism for failing to showcase more films by women directors.

The protest comes after a period of turmoil in the industry following allegations of sexual harassment.

This is the first Cannes festival since allegations of sexual abuse were first made against producer Harvey Weinstein last year. He has always denied engaging in non-consensual sex.

The actresses and film-makers linked arms to stroll along the red carpet. Cate Blanchett spoke of the film industry's gender inequalities.

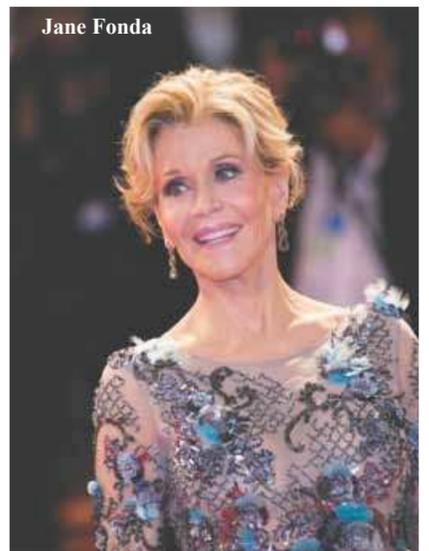
"We are 82 women, representing the number of female directors who have climbed these



Kristen Stewart



Cate Blanchett



Jane Fonda

stairs since the first edition of the Cannes film festival in 1946. In the same period, 1,688 male directors have climbed these very same stairs," the two-time Oscar winner said.

"The prestigious Palme d'Or has been bestowed upon 71 male directors, too numerous to mention by name, but only two female directors," Blanchett remarked.

The women taking part in the protest included all of the festival's female jury members and many women actors, directors and producers.

Producer and activist Melissa Silverstein of Women and Hollywood said the protest was a "massive milestone towards change".

At an event often more associated with the flashy and superfi-

cial, this was a moment of real heft and resonance.

The sight of 82 women walking slowly, silently and purposefully up the red-carpeted stars of Cannes' Grand Theatre Lumiere brought home the shocking under-representation of female film-makers at an event meant to celebrate the totality of world cinema.

The timing was perfect. The evening's film, *Girls of the Sun*, not only has a female director but also tells of a commando unit of female fighters in Kurdistan.

Some of the 82 were familiar. Many were not. Together, though, they sent out a powerful statement that both this festival and the industry that sustains it would do well to heed.

## Aishwarya Rai Steps Out In A Butterfly Gown With Daughter



CANNES: Actress and former beauty queen Aishwarya Rai Bachchan made a colourful statement with a dramatic 'butterfly' gown by Dubai-based designer Michael Cinco for her first red carpet appearance at the 71st Cannes Film Festival on Saturday.

Aishwarya, who clocks her 17th year at the film jamboree this time as L'Oreal Paris brand ambassador, took a confident walk with the exquisite three meter train trailing behind and catching the attention of the crowd. She walked the red carpet for the premiere of Eva Husson's French drama "Les filles du soleil", starring Iranian actress Golshifteh Farahani.

With her lips accentuated by a scarlet shade, and eyes done up with a smoky ef-

fect, Aishwarya kept her hair straight and simple with a neat middle parting. She kept her accessories minimalistic with just danglers and a couple of rings.

In a pre-red carpet video shared on her newly launched Instagram page 'aishwaryaraibachchan\_arb', Aishwarya is seen walking along with daughter Aaradhya who is dressed in a red ensemble. The actress is seen helping the little diva do a little twirl.

"Circle of life," Aishwarya captioned the image. Before she went for the red carpet, Aishwarya was welcomed with a loud cheer from the crowd. She waved out and signed autographs, apart from gesturing the traditional Indian 'namaste'.

## Deepika Stuns Stargazers



CANNES: Deepika Padukone attended the 71st Cannes Film Festival as a brand ambassador for cosmetics giant L'Oreal. She walked the red carpet two nights last week and totally stole the spotlight.

For her first appearance, she opted for an embellished Zuhair Murad gown, which she accentuated with Lorraine Schwartz diamond earrings and Nicholas Kirkwood heels.

On Day 2, she wore a pink dramatic gown by Ashi Studio's Summer/Spring 2018 Collection and left the audience in awe.

At the festival itself, Cannes Film Festival, Deepika wore dresses with patterns, prints and colours.

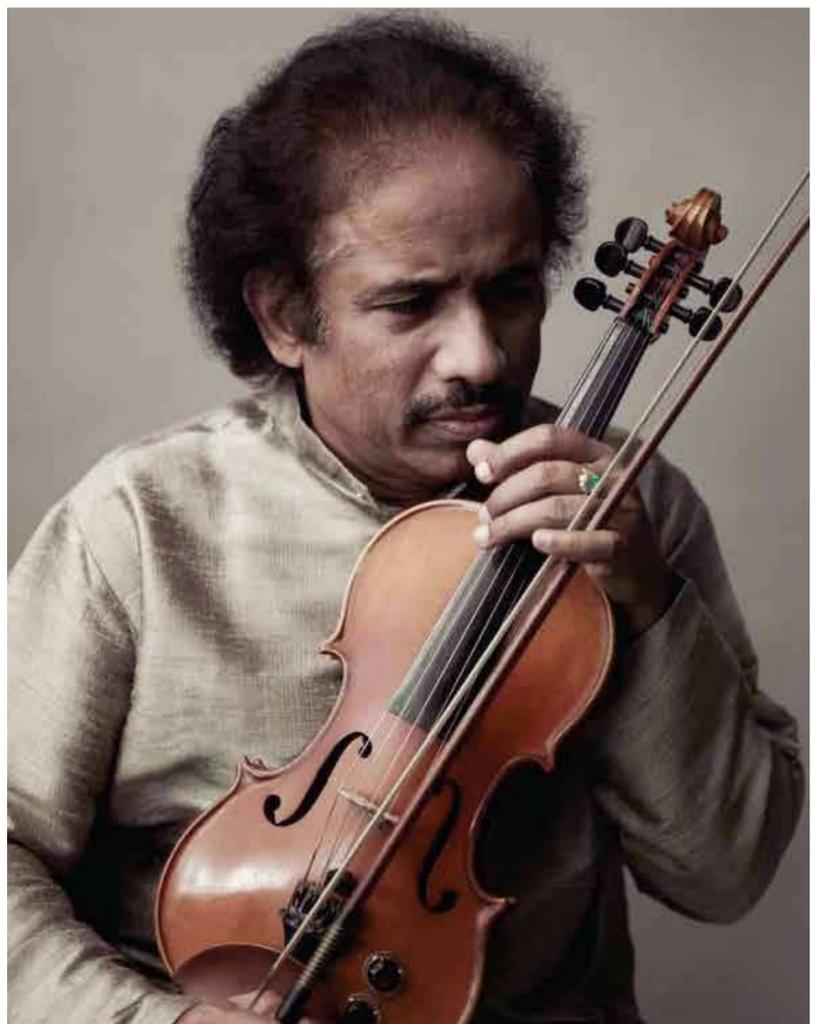
Her solid purple Victoria Hayes pantsuit and the metallic gold Alberta Ferretti gown stood out among other celebrities.

## Kangana Dazzles With Ultra-Bold & Quirky Styles

CANNES: Kangana Ranaut went ultra bold at Cannes. Her showstopping looks from Cannes 2018 prove the Queen actor wasn't afraid of telling everyone she's ready to take on world fashion.

She embraced designs many other actors would have otherwise avoided and this made her a winner, according to fashion analysts. She tackled bright colours and trickier silhouettes with aplomb.

While Kangana's red carpet style erred on the sultry side — body-hugging silhouettes, sheer fabrics, emphasis on plunging neckline, her quirky approach to off-duty streetwear - track suits with sneakers, retro-inspired boyish separates paired with a bra, a gorgeously twinkling black Sabyasachi Mukherjee saree - were noteworthy, to say the least.



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