

Action Heroines!

a powerpoint presentation

by Andrew Wire

The Numbers Game

“The action and adventure genres far and away dominate worldwide box office rankings, and only a small percentage of these feature women in leading roles. If ever female stars will cinematically compete with males in strictly financial terms, the action and adventure genres are most likely where it will take place.”

- Andrew Wire

Where to start...

The Blaxploitation movement

Coffy (1973)

starring Pam Grier



Cleopatra Jones (1973)

starring Tamara Dobson



Sigourney Weaver and the *Alien* franchise

Alien (1979)

Aliens (1986)

Alien 3 (1992)

Alien: Resurrection (1997)



Icons of the early nineties

Linda Hamilton

Terminator 2: Judgement Day (1991)



Geena Davis &
Susan Sarandon

Thelma & Louise (1991)



Michelle Pfeiffer

Batman Returns (1993)



2000 - 2009: The Franchises

Angelina Jolie

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001)

Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life (2003)



Uma Thurman

Kill Bill: Vol 1 & 2 (2003, 2004)



Milla Jovovich

The Resident Evil series
(2002, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2012)



Carrie-Anne Moss

The Matrix Trilogy (1999, 2003, 2003)



Kate Beckinsale

The Underworld series
(2003, 2006, 2009, 2012)



Michelle Rodriguez and self-typecasting

select filmography:

Girlfight (2000)

The Fast and the Furious (2001)

Resident Evil (2002)

S.W.A.T. (2003)

Avatar (2009)



“My entire career is made up of those girl . . . I don't mind typecasting because I know what the alternative is. I'm trying to create roles that are the perfect balance between man and woman.”

- Michelle Rodriguez

The Aughts: other notables

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (2000)

Charlie's Angels (2000)

Æon Flux (2005)

Elektra (2005)

Death Proof (2007)



2010 and beyond!

Salt (2010) Angelina Jolie

Columbiana (2011) Zoe Saldana

The Hunger Games (2012) Jennifer Lawrence



Works Cited

"Rodriguez Happy to Be Hollywood Bad Girl." Hollywood.com. Web. 01 Aug. 2013.

Sims, Yvonne D. *Women of Blaxploitation: How the Black Action Film Heroine Changed American Popular Culture*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2006.