

Girl Gang Heisting: Film Commentary on Ocean's Eight

In the wake of the Women's March and the #MeToo Movement, the issues of gender equality and women's representation in the film industry demand redress. Seventeen years after the release of *Ocean's Eleven* (Steven Soderbergh, 2001), audiences are finally getting to see a woman-led version of the film: *Ocean's Eight* (Gary Ross, 2018). The all female reboot is glitzy, fun, and it's got a kickass cast of my favorite high power A-list actresses.



Photo courtesy of [Cinevue](#)

Admittedly, I was a bit wary when I read the synopsis that boiled down to a film about women stealing a necklace. I wondered why women couldn't rob a casino like the men did in the original movie. That said, after watching the film, the

women's target being a very [expensive piece of jewelry](#) wasn't so much of an issue. Having the heist take place at the [Met Gala](#) gave the film an overall splashy and modern twist. More importantly, it's refreshing to see a female leader like Debbie Ocean (played by Sandra Bullock) who doesn't fall into stereotyped female roles of a virtuous, wronged wife or victimized mother pushed to her breaking point. She assembles a girl gang to heist with her simply because she's capable of pulling the job off.



Photo courtesy of [Pop Sugar](#)

The real problem with the film is that Debbie's story is only being told through rebranding the Ocean's franchise. [With *Ocean's Eight*, the women are expected to do everything the men](#)

succeeded in doing while also having to clean up traces of subtle sexism in the first film.

This is the issue with the construct of a gender-flip reboot: audiences are reminiscing on stories told by and for men.

Ocean's Eight is a fun movie but, personally, watching it reiterated the notion that the film industry is a business. I wish we could see an all female heist film that doesn't need to be branded as part of a franchise to be played in theaters. I'm waiting for the day Hollywood makes another cool girl gang movie that wasn't re-written for an all-male cast movie.

Maybe I'll write it myself.