Penn State athletic doctor clarifies
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has experienced the bias against female filmmakers, sometimes in highly awkward fashion.

ﹾMore often than I care to think about, Iﹾm mistaken for someone in the makeup department, ﹾ the New Zealand-born director told Yahoo Entertainment during our Game Changers interview filmed in March, just days before the coronavirus would shut down movie theaters and delay Mulan, her latest and most high-profile project yet, for nearly six months. ﹾIﹾve been kind of shoved aside because Iﹾm a woman on set. Itﹾs shocking.

ﹾThose who shove, and those who observe the shoving, when they find out Iﹾm the director of the film, Iﹾve seen jaws hit the floor. Iﹾve seen people scurry away in embarrassment. But you know, itﹾs changing. ﹾ

Caro has long been part of that change. Now with Mulan, Disneyﹾs highly anticipated $200 million live action remix of the 1998 animated favorite, the filmmaker who first burst onto the international film scene with her tearjerking 2003 drama Whale Rider has made the most expensive film ever directed by a woman. ﹾThat I got a great budget to do my work with made my work easier, ﹾ says Caro of Mulan, which stars Yifei Liu as the titular maiden who disguises herself as a man and enlists herself in the army to protect her elderly father from certain doom. ﹾThis film I think is the only film of this size to be run by women. A lot of the department heads were women. The three voices on the floor ﹾ which is director, DP and first AD were all women. So it was a very female-led movie. What was amazing for me was I got to take the vision in my head out onto this huge canvas for the first time in my career. ﹾ

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