

*The Melbourne Screen Studies Group and the Melbourne Women in Film Festival (MWFF)*  
Proudly Present a Workshop by  
Dr Deborah Jermyn, Reader in Film and Television, University of Roehampton, London

**The most successful filmmaker you've never heard of? (And her daughter).  
Understanding Nancy Meyers**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1-3pm  
Deakin Downtown, Level 12, Tower 2, 727 Collins Street,  
(reception will advise of the room on the actual day of the workshop)

RSVP to Sean Redmond by Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April : [s.redmond@deakin.edu.au](mailto:s.redmond@deakin.edu.au)

*Note: the workshop is restricted to the first 20 applicants*

Having recently published the first full-length monograph on the so-called 'Romcom Queen', Nancy Meyers, in this workshop Deborah Jermyn will reflect on some of the challenges posed by writing about a filmmaker who has been so widely disdained and marginalised. Deborah will reflect on the criticisms made of Meyers's work (including its repeated milieu of white privilege), how often the framing of these criticisms can be understood as gendered in nature, and the ways in which despite the low critical esteem she is held in, Meyers very much merits the greater acknowledgement long enjoyed by many of her peers. More recently Meyers has been focussed on producing, for her daughter Hallie Meyers-Shyer's first film, the Reece Witherspoon romcom, *Home Again* (2017). A film which is itself partly about intergenerationality and Hollywood, it facilitates reflection on Hollywood's 'next generation'. In this interactive workshop, Deborah will ask us to consider these questions:

What are the difficulties posed by a feminist authorship study?

Why and how has Meyers been marginalised by the patriarchal structures of Hollywood?

How is the mother-daughter relationship writ large on *Home Again* - from the text itself, to the marketing of it, and its reception?

And what might this uncommon matrilineal directorial relationship mean in terms of slowly unravelling the industry's male-apprenticeship system?

In preparation for the workshop we would ask participants to read an extract from Deborah's book about Nancy Meyers, published by Bloomsbury in 2017, which can be read on Melissa Silverstein's 'Women and Hollywood' website here: <https://blog.womenandhollywood.com/book-excerpt-nancy-meyers-74c82a9bb1c6>



**Deborah Jermyn** is Reader in Film & Television at the University of Roehampton, London, where she is Co-Director for the Centre for Research in Film & Audiovisual Cultures. She is the author and editor of ten books, including *Sex and the City* (2009) and *Prime Suspect* (2010), many of which have focussed on issues pertaining to women, feminism and popular culture. In recent years, much of her work has centred on representations of ageing femininities, including her co-edited collection, *Women, Celebrity & Cultures of Ageing: Freeze Frame* (2015). In 2017 she published *Nancy Meyers* for the Bloomsbury 'Companions to Contemporary Filmmakers' series, the first book-length monograph on the director. Her next book project is an exploration of transatlantic romance in popular culture.