SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY SPRING CONVOCATION June 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2015

Convocation Address By Dr. Deepa Mehta

Oscar-nominated screenwriter, director and producer

An honorary D

I am of course talking about feminism, which in its new and recent incarnation has seeped into popular consciousness as never before.

Being a die-hard feminist myself, I have watched this phenomenon catch the imagination of hundreds of young men and women around me and reflected in brilliant books, essays, magazines, popular, and I mean popular, box office bonanza films and not only respected art house variety. No longer, it seems to me, is the word feminism associated with a small group of females and some enlightened men, working tirelessly to raise the world consciousness up and beyond the ever two standards: one for men and one for women. And the standards for women being grossly unfair on every level: from pay to opportunity to equality.

Dear graduates, especie

So, perhaps now dear graduates, you can have empathy regarding the immediate cold feet I experienced when I was informed that I was to address graduates who had excelled in [inaudible] which I had proven to be a failure in. What was I going to say to you which would be even vaguely informative if the subject of your choice was so different from what as a student I had felt so passionately about.

And then I had a eureka moment. I went to see a movie and the movie was **Mad Max: Fury Road**. Have any of you seen it? The film is an apocalyptic vision of the near future and is perhaps one of the most violent films I have ever seen, and at the same time one of the most exhilarating. What makes the film stand out is its one-armed, kick-ass female lead called Furiosa. Do you like Furiosa folks? Have you seen it? She is strong. She is intelligent. She is as tough as nails. She is fearless and is motivated by what she thinks is the right thing to do. A female role model for the 21st century. And guess what? The male lead, who is a friend and not only a boyfriend, is not intimidated by her kick-ass personality. He treats her as an equal, not becaus

Vancouver this year. A feminist looked at the genre that has traditionally been the domain of males.
Why not break the rules of this ph