BU Alum Named Most Powerful Woman in Hollywood

Seven alumnae make the Hollywood Reporter’s annual Power 100 list

“I in a given week, 129 million Americans tune into one of [her] channels, many of which also have substantial global reach,” wrote the Hollywood Reporter about Bonnie Hammer (CGS’69, COM’71, SED’75).

Hoop(ing) Dreams

Club raises hooping, toy spinning to an art

Twice a week, a handful of BU students gathers in a small basement gym behind the George Sherman Union. There, hoops, flow wands, and glowing poi balls fly through the air as Ariella Darvish (CGS’13, CAS’15), president of the BU Hooping Project, teaches the flow arts.

“Flow arts is the practice of making your body become one with your toy,” says John Hall (CAS’15), the group’s vice president. “It’s about trying to make your toy do the absolute coolest things it can do.”

The club was launched in 2012 by Rose Kreditor (CGS’12, CAS’14), who bought up every Hula-Hoop on Craigslist in the Boston area and began organizing meet-ups for BU hoopers. Then she approached the Student Activities Office about making the BU Hooping Project an official University club.

Darvish, who took over when Kreditor graduated, says the Hooping Project hopes to make hooping and flow arts accessible to anyone. “It’s kind of like yoga in a sense,” she says. “When you’re flowing, it’s just you and your circle, and nobody can really tell you how to do it. And when you leave, the world starts again.” JOSH JASON (COM’16)

WEB EXTRA Watch the BU Hooping Project in action in a video at bu.edu/bostonia.

It’s about Hollywood, women, and power, a headline trifecta for most publications, and year after year it gets the attention it aims for. When the Hollywood Reporter’s latest annual listing of the 100 most powerful women in entertainment hit newstands in December, seven BU alums were on it, three in the top six positions.

Topping the magazine’s Power 100 list was Bonnie Hammer (CGS’69, COM’71, SED’75), chair of NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment Group. Nancy Dubuc (COM’91), president and CEO of A+E Networks, ranked third, and Nina Tassler (CFA’79), CBS Entertainment president and chair, took sixth place.

According to a behind-the-scenes story published in the New York Times, rankings were determined mainly by numbers, such as the number of employees overseen and box office results. Judges also factored in more subjective data, such as how much clout the women wield in the industry.

Other alums on the list were Bonnie Arnold (COM’78), a film producer at DreamWorks Studios, who was number 38; Beth Roberts (LAW’83), vice president of business operations at NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment Group, who tied for 56th place; Hilary Estey McLoughlin (COM’84), president of creative affairs at CBS Television Distribution, listed at number 67; and Tracey Jacobs (CAS’79), board member and partner at United Talent Agency, ranked 68th.

“This year’s selection was a well-deserved bonanza for Boston University,” says Bill Linsman, site director of the University’s Study Abroad site in LA. “Why? Put simply, it is a great school and has been for a long time...The skill sets of this group have been very much appreciated in entertainment and media in New York and Los Angeles epicenters.”