

SISTERHOOD

b o o k s t o r e

1351 Westwood Boulevard • Los Angeles • CA 90024 • 310-477-7300

Dear Robin -

Here is the page

from LA Parent.

You look + sound GREAT!

Thank you so very much
for all of your support
for our store.

We are looking forward
to your being here

Thank you -

Simone

WOMAN

Wise

■ “You should be a script girl,” was the advice Robin Swicord received when she first sought work in the New York film industry. But jotting down secretarial notes on a script didn’t appeal to her creative spirit, so Swicord set out to write her own screenplays. The result? Such Hollywood hits as *Little Women* and *Matilda*, and a recent offer from Paramount to write and direct her own film.

Swicord couldn’t understand her early lack of success at breaking in to Hollywood. “I saw so many terrible scripts that became movies,” she recalls. But then she had a revelation: “Every year the Writer’s Guild sends out ballots to vote on the best screenplays of the year,” she says. “In 1985 I counted, and there were only *four* women screenwriters for more than 200 movies. I realized I wasn’t the only one who was up against the male majority running the film industry.”

But Swicord says the industry began to change as women “came of age” in Hollywood and moved into influential positions where they could make a difference. No one person or movie paved the way for women’s entry into Hollywood, she says. “It’s been a collective action—women working together to get certain kinds of movies made.”

Little Women made it to the screen, says Swicord, “because when I went to the marketing people, I mentioned films like *Beaches* and *Steel Magnolias*, and convinced them that a female audience *did* exist and would come back for a movie like *Little Women*.”

Screenwriting With the Big Girls



***Little Women* screenwriter Robin Swicord is making it big in Hollywood.**

“Women want to see films where females take an active role—where they’re not just the ‘prize,’” emphasizes Swicord. “And they want movies with a strong narrative *and* emotional line. Boys have all the fun—we want to see actresses in great roles, too.”

Swicord’s outlook on the future of women in film—as both moviemakers and on the screen—is positive. “I feel extremely hopeful that we’ll get away from tokenism where the studios say, ‘We have to make X amount of women’s films this year.’ Instead, I think women’s talent will win out.”

Swicord speaks out about her career and her latest project, a screenplay adaptation of Alice Hoffman’s *Practical Magic*, at the *Sisterhood Bookstore* May 18 at 2 p.m. 1351 Westwood Blvd., L.A. (310) 477-7300.