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# Jessica Lee Gagné Had Us All Gagged with this Historic Emmy Win

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 8, 2025) — The Creative Arts Emmy Awards have been around since 1970, so it is remarkable that after all that time, no woman has won the outstanding cinematography award for an hour-long series. That 55-year streak was finally broken last night by Jessica Lee Gagné, the cinematographer for the hit series, “Severance.”

Breaking the internet with her stunning win, Gagné shattered the glass ceiling for women within the entertainment industry. The win followed her already historic nominations for being the first female to be nominated in both cinematography and directing for the same series. Gagné created an even more memorable moment by speaking about the representation and discrimination women face within the cinematography atmosphere. Facing discrimination early on only served to drive her further in her career.

Gagné retorts, “I did work for a man once who said there are two things women can’t do: Be Formula 1 drivers or cinematographers. And that motivated me a lot.”

Gagné was nominated for her work on the popular TV show, “Severance,” this year’s most-nominated show overall. “Severance” is a psychological thriller that examines employees at a biotech company called Lumon Industries. The employees undergo a process called “Severance,” which grants them memories only for the time they spend at work. This creates two separate personalities of the person: who they are in and outside of Lumon. It was an underdog on Apple TV+ before it blew up in popularity, with 95% of audience members saying that they were hooked on the show within the first episode.

### About the Television Academy

The Academy of Television Arts & Sciences was founded in 1946 — just one month after network television was born. It is a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement of telecommunication arts and sciences and to fostering creative leadership in the telecommunication industry.

The Television Academy, the only major organization devoted to the television and broadband screen entertainment industry, is made up of over 26,000 members, representing 31 professional peer groups, including performers, directors, producers, art directors, and various other artisans, technicians, and executives.

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