

## Ava DuVernay



**Ava DuVernay (August 24, 1972)**, in Long Beach, California, and educated at UCLA, Ava DuVernay is a barrier-breaking filmmaker and social justice advocate. As the first Black woman to win the Best Director prize at Sundance and the first to direct a Best Picture-nominated film (*Selma*), she has redefined modern cinema.

She often speaks about the power of self-determination, famously saying: *"Ignore the glass ceiling and do your work. If you're focusing on the glass ceiling, you're focusing on the hurdles and not the path."* Through her acclaimed projects like *13th* and *When They See Us*, and her collective **ARRAY**, DuVernay continues to pave that path for others, ensuring diverse stories are told and heard.