



“I’m not going to continue knocking that old door that doesn’t open for me. I’m going to create my own door and walk through that.”

Ava Duvernay
Filmmaker
(b. 1972)

We all have dreams and aspirations and believe we know what directions to take to achieve them. We receive advice from others, do our research, and lay out a plan that appears to take us in the direction we need to go in order to achieve our goals only to hit a roadblock. When this happens, we review the plan, make adjustments and try again. If we are lucky, we make headway and begin to reap the benefits of our plans. But if not, we keep trying and trying and continue to fall short of what we are hoping to achieve.

Ava Duvernay is a black American film maker, producer and publicist who knew that she would not have people knocking on her door to fund her film projects, so she set out to create her own and won critical acclaim in the industry for many of her short films, documentaries and movies. She chose to stop trying to get funding for films but began creating small budget short films while continuing her day job and her work paid off. She is the first black American woman to win at the Sundance Film Festival, to be nominated for a Golden Globe for best director, and to have a film nominated for the Academy Award for best picture. She was also nominated for 16 Emmy Awards for a limited series on Netflix.

The door may not be opened for us no matter how long we knock, so there comes a time to quit knocking on that door and **create our own doors in which we can be successful.**