



WIFV NEWS

November 2016 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Emiliano Ruprah, Cathy Kades, Adele Schmidt, Carletta Hurt, Marilyn Weiner, Rebecca Howland, Keri Williams, Woreyneh Benson, Faith DeVeaux, Sandra Abrams, Victor Ehienuo, Agnes Erskine, Aliya Jones, Michal Carr, Shellee Haynesworth, Barbara Valentino, Great Nonprofits, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!



Ruprah Completes BEFORE THE BATTLE

Filmmaker **Emiliano Ruprah**'s latest project is a virtual reality film called **BEFORE THE BATTLE**, filmed in the geo-cultural region of Kurdistan in Iraq, right on the front lines. On

the eve of the offensive to recapture Mosul and its surrounding towns, Emiliano interviewed local priests, Peshmerga soldiers and generals, children and fishermen about their expectations for the future of their country, and about their lives in general. This investigative 360 piece spotlights the lives of those most affected by war as the protagonists. He hopes to begin filming Part 2, **AFTER THE BATTLE**, in March. "I sincerely hope and pray," Emiliano says wistfully, "that the situation in the area will have improved by then...but it's more likely that it will have gotten much worse for everyone, including the subjects of this film." Emiliano is currently in talks with PBS and the *New York Times* about possible distribution. [You can view a still here](#) from the introduction to the film, where a Peshmerga soldier sings about his love for country and those he has lost in war atop a crumbling Madrasa near the ancient city of Amediye. For more information, [visit his website](#), email e.ruprah@gmail.com, or call 201-746-5944.



Kades Makes Everyone Look Good!

The first thing that comes to mind when makeup artist **Cathy Kades** thinks about her work, is job satisfaction. "With the last two years gathering speed in the run for president," she explains, "my recent work has been heavily weighted in politics." Cathy has made up almost every presidential candidate in the last year-some, even for their exit speeches; and most of the DC (and some NY) news

anchors at MSNBC, Fox News and CBS in studio and on location. "Being in St. Louis, MO, for one of the debates was very exciting," she says, "as I really love being on location." Shoots with President Obama at the White House, government industrials, campaign commercials, The Women's Non Profit Annual Fundraising Dinner, *60 Minutes* interviews, working at the Pentagon, and recurring shoots with a global security and aerospace company have really kept this dynamo on her toes. "You know," she says, "working on the field with the NFL Network and on the Ice with NHL have been a reprieve from the world of news. I've also enjoyed gigs involving a powerful DC lobbyist, a famous chef, well known actors, an actress and a playwright and an Olympic multi-gold medal swimmer (Katie Ledecky), where I got to hold her many gold medals!" Rounding off Cathy's amazing year are her many regular clients for events such as the White House Correspondents Dinner, White House holiday parties, *Elle Magazine* awards, Fortune 500 Awards and the Kennedy Center Honors. And on Election Day, Cathy

Schmidt Producing Segment 4 of ROMANTIC WARRIORS

Noted video producer, director and editor **Adele Schmidt** is the co-founder and partner of Zeitgeist Media LLC. Her films have won numerous awards, including the TIVA-DC's Peer Award, the U.S. International Film and Video Festival Award, the Telly Award and the Gabriel Award. Since 2011, Adele has been producing ROMANTIC WARRIORS - A PROGRESSIVE MUSIC SAGA, a documentary series on progressive rock.



Three segments have already been released, and the fourth one, ROMANTIC WARRIORS IV - KRAUTROCK - is currently in production. The series has created a unique audience and is being distributed worldwide. Adele is an adjunct professorial lecturer for Film & Video Production at American University's SOC Film and Media Arts Division, where she teaches film and video production and a producing class. She is currently also producing for the U.S. State Department's Media Co-Op program. "Ever since I left film school, back in the late 1990s," she says, "I have loved working as an educator and a consultant for documentary filmmaking. In 2004, Erica Ginsberg and I co-founded Docs in Progress, which, I am proud to say, took on a life of its own and became very successful." Adele has served as a Documentary Coach for several filmmakers, including Nina Shapiro (THROUGH THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE), Sarah Katz (MOOSEHEAD'S WICKED GOOD PLAN) and Ellen Tripler (DYING GREEN). To contact Adele, email her at adele.schmidt@gmail.com or call 240-505-8696.

Weiner Wins BLUE Award



DISPATCHES FROM THE GULF was honored to win the prestigious BLUE WHALE AWARD for Best Broadcast Program at the BLUE Ocean Film Festival. The film was produced by **Marilyn Weiner** and co-produced by **Rebecca Howland**. If you are interested in seeing the film, [visit the film's website here](#).

"went cosmopolitan" by working with a Japanese network, a US network and a Spanish network - all on the same day. "As I can't be everywhere," she quips, "I'm happy to have recommended some fabulous makeup artists to help the WIFV community, when needed." Holiday makeover, anyone? For more information, contact Cathy at cathykades@gmail.com or call 240-481-3161.

Hurt Completes WATER



Kudos to **Carletta Hurt**, Executive Producer of IKAM Productions, who just completed filming her second feature film, WATER. This coming-of-age drama tells the story of a young woman (Tonya Mimms) on the brink of losing her career - and her heart - while searching desperately for a safe space to love. This quirky love story infuses the complexities of life, love, art, and sexuality into one poignant

tale. "If you've seen LOVE JONES, KISSING JESSICA STEIN or PARIAH," Carletta tells us, then you've got to see WATER! We shot the film entirely in Baltimore, MD, and it features local talent, including Billie Krishawn as Tonya, Candice Dillard as Nikki, Wes Hall as Malcolm and veteran actress Victoria Rowell as Aunt Jo." WATER was produced in partnership with Lodge Street Films. For more information, visit www.watthefilm.com or www.ikamproductions.com.

WIFV Board Members at Howard Career Fair

On October 27, 2016, WIFV board members **Keri Williams**, **Woryeneh Benson**, **Faith DeVeaux**, and **Sandra Abrams** represented WIFV at the 2016 Annual Communications Job and Internship Fair at Howard University.

Keri spoke on the panel "TV and Film Production: Help! I Want to Work in Producing, Directing, Editing TV Development, Filmmaking, Etc.," while the other members assisted with working the booth. During the day, they all answered students' questions, reviewed resumes, and met with other vendors and potential partners and sponsors.

New members - **Victor Ehienulo**, **Agnes Erskine**, **Aliya Jones** - were welcomed and they look forward to meeting you at an upcoming event!



Salute to our Foremothers - The WIFV Q&A

For the next several months, we will be featuring interviews with the women who founded and nurtured Women in Film & Video from the beginning to today! It is quite astounding for a professional development nonprofit to celebrate a 40th Anniversary (ours will begin in 2019) and even more astounding to have so many of its founders and leaders remaining actively involved with the organization. We are honored by their support and nourished by their expertise and enthusiasm. Thanks to **Flo Dwek** for this great idea!



Michal Carr

How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?

I've been involved with WIFV forever... since our very first gathering of about 6-8 women lo' these many years ago. We weren't even an organization for the first several months. It was very loose, and sort of grew by word of mouth... no internet then! Yikes - more than 35 years!!! I have made WIFV a major glue in my professional and personal life. The WIFV women I've met, those I've collaborated with, and some I simply read about or met at our many events. they've all inspired me to help push women in our industry to reach higher on the bar.

What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?

Women In Film began in the 70s when our company Hillmann & Carr was a minuscule partnership. Al Hillmann & I incorporated as Hillmann & Carr Inc. in the early 80s. I was a cel-by-cel animator.

Now 42 years later we're still going strong, and loving it. We continue to have wonderful challenging projects creating all kinds of media for museums, visitor centers, expositions ... the public places we all visit. With a wonderful creative staff, we've created programs for the some of the most important institutions in the world. Our Toronto subsidiary, Hillmann & Carr Canada Inc. is always busy. It's very rewarding.

What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?

It's a joy to learn about and from the work others are doing, and watch our members succeed. One of the lasting benefits of our now huge membership is the growth and influence of our industry in Washington. This city would not be the media mecca it now is without Women In Film & Video.

What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?

Ask questions, make every effort to learn as much as you can. Be a mentor to others, and you'll learn from them. Step up and volunteer. It will build your network of colleagues, possibilities and friends. Never say you'll do something, and then not deliver.

Anything else you would care to share?

I was an original Founder, a two-term President when we launched our very first Women Make Movies Festivals at the Biograph and then The Kennedy Center, been on the Board of Directors, and continue to be active today heading the Advisory Council. I think I'll always count WIFV as a very important part of me. It gives back when I give.

Shellee Haynesworth

How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?

I have been a WIFV member since 1998. I joined the WIFV Board in 1999 and from 2003-2004, I served as the first African American president. I was encouraged to join WIFV by my dear friend and fellow Advisory Board member, Rosemary Reed.

What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?

When I initially joined in 1998, I was working as an independent producer/storyteller through my boutique production firm, Indigo Communications. And today, I'm still blessed to be working as an independent producer. However, I'm now producing and developing my own content and immersive storytelling projects at the intersection of technology and narrative.



What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?

The most beneficial thing I have gained from my WIFV membership has been the long-term connections and friendships with local women media makers who have gone through so much and persevered through the ebbs and flows of the local production community. It's been a tremendous blessing to be able to connect with them and hear their insights about this, among other things.

What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?

My advice to emerging filmmakers is to become extremely vested in producing and developing projects across multiple platforms as well as to work at becoming "digital natives" in this truly digital everything world.

Anything else you would care to share?

My proudest and fondest WIFV moment was when the organization honored a living industry legend...Ruby Dee, the late/great actress of stage and film and civil rights pioneer as a 2004 Woman of Vision.

Barbara Valentino



How long have you been a WIFV member, and why did you join WIFV, all those years ago?

That's a good question...it was sometime in the 80's. I was working with a new television project at the National Academy of Sciences and looking for a community to learn from. Two very clear memories pop from that early time. The first was meeting Michelle Delino and Amy DeLouise at the monthly get together. And then came the WIFV Gala, when Hillary Clinton attended!

What were you doing then, and what are you doing today?

I was directing the National Academy of Sciences Television Office. We had just started a partnership with public television. Our production facilities were located in LA, so I was looking for a local learning community. I was at the Academy for more than 10 years, ultimately working on 3 major PBS science series-32 hours of prime time programming that received one national Emmy; and I also co-directed a major event on population with CNN International that included President Clinton and Vice President Gore. It was on "climate change" before we called it that!

In the late 90's, I started Evolving Communications, and we are still going strong, mostly working with non-profits in telling stories about science, technology, and health about wonderful people and from terrific places. Working an event from the White House East Room has never gotten old. And in the past five years, we started to work in Africa on international development. In preparing our new website (it should be launched later this month), I realized that we have actually worked there 8 times - in South Africa, Tunisia and East Africa.

What are some of the most beneficial things about your membership with WIFV?

I'd have to say friends and information. In my early days, learning who was doing what and how was a big help. And through the years, finding and making friends with people you know you can count on - in good times and in bad - has been invaluable. Anyone who has been in the business a while will understand this and have experienced it.

What advice do you have for emerging filmmakers?

First and foremost, this is not a 9-5 M-F job. Working with a small firm, there is always something that can be done. Second, it's about going from having colleagues to having friends in this business - I recommend the "pay it forward" practice. You won't be disappointed.

Anything else you would care to share?

I was most fortunate to chair a WIFV Women of Vision Gala, which I believe was one of the highest grossing. This was the one with Sharon Stone - the week before the Gala, a Komodo dragon bit her then-husband! (Yes, that is correct!) WIFV President Michelle Delino delegated and was incredibly supported in everything - big and small. Jen Nycz [Connor] had the task of wrangling Ms. Stone, her publicist and a horde of press people. We had to call in extra security. Years later, we would still see b-roll of Ms. Stone in front of the WIFV backdrop. I sat next to honoree Jean Picker Firstenberg of AFI on the dais. For reasons beyond our control, we were running about 45 minutes late. And there I was, next to the best of the business in these types of events, with an AFI Life Achievement Award, getting tips on how to pick up time. I think we ended the evening only 5 minutes over!

Thank you!

WIFV is honored to be recognized again as a Top-Rated organization by Great Nonprofits. Less than 1% of eligible nonprofits received this distinction. Because of the reviews WIFV has received, we've been a Top-Rated nonprofit since 2012. **Your review makes a difference!**



We value your your reviews throughout the year. Please tell Great Nonprofits about an experience you've had at a WIFV program, an interaction you've had with a speaker or fellow member, or just what WIFV means to you. [Click here to go straight to the WIFV page on their site.](#)

Call for WIFV Members in the News Articles

What's the best way to brag about your accomplishments? With a Members in the News article, of course. Not only can you include a photo and your website, it is archived at wifv.org and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to director@wifv.org by the 5th of the month.

Call for Award Info

If you have won an award, screened at a film festival, or received a major grant, please let me know so we can share your success. Send the info to director@wifv.org



WIFV is grateful for the annual support of these [companies](#) and our [corporate members](#).

Just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Women in Film & Video. Don't forget to add director@wifv.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

About WIFV

WIFV supports women in the industry by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements.



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