



WIFV NEWS

April 2012 - WIFV Members in the News Edited by Flo Dwek

Strobel Launches ACM Initiatives



Sylvia Strobel serves as the Executive Director of the Alliance for Community Media (ACM). She is also a founding partner of the law firm Lehmann Strobel PLC, and immediate past chair of the national board of the Alliance for Women in Media (formerly known as AWRT). Strobel is currently busy launching two new national programs

for the ACM. On April 16th, the ACM will serve as a co-sponsor of the Americans for the Arts Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. They will film events for a national program on the importance of local arts to communities--to be available through non-commercial public, educational and governmental (PEG) cable channels nationwide. Strobel is also launching the ACM's new youth media initiative, which will include daylong summits in Philadelphia, San Jose and Minneapolis to showcase digital and news literacy programs administered by PEG centers and their partners for high school and college students. For more information, contact Strobel at 443-352-8653 or at Sylvia@lehmannstrobel.com.

Rackas Promoted at Danya Int'l

Laurie Rackas was recently promoted to Senior Content Writer at Danya International, Inc., where she develops content for MilitaryKidsConnect.org a Website for youth ages 6-18 whose parents were or are currently deployed in the U.S. and abroad--including Iraq and Afghanistan. Rackas



believes it is the only Website that includes social media components to allow military kids to share experiences and coping strategies with their peers. As an adjunct to current offerings, she is now developing psycho-educational modules to assist youth whose parents have been injured or killed, and/or are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. To learn more, contact Rackas at 703-683-7113 or at lrackas@danya.com.

Offutt Starts Sassymo Productions

Kudos to Maureen Offutt, who recently opened her own production company-Sassymo Productions, in Sterling, VA. Offutt was recently chosen as one of the writers to work on an upcoming WIFV Web series--a mentoring program for various aspects of the production process to turn this year's crop of "mentees" into next year's mentors. She has also taken on both writing and directing for her first short film-- *What it Costs to Quit Your Job*, which is currently in pre-production. The film is about three women in their



late 30's and 40's who work together to help one of them return to the workforce. Offutt says it's a comedic look at what it really takes to work and juggle a household these days. "It's about all the thankless jobs you need to do," she says, "to take charge as CEO of your household if you elect to stay at home; or to remain as Director of Operations if you work outside the home." And, in her "spare" time, Offutt is also working on a revision of her full length feature script, *Cracked Mirrors*. To learn more, contact Offutt at 703-901-0321 or visit her website at www.sassymoproductions.com

Making the Story Come Alive for TV



Kim Merritt, currently a production assistant and coordinator at GMU-TV, George Mason University's cable station, has supported many award-winning productions, including the 2011 Gracie award-winning talk show, *Urban Education*, where she worked as Line Producer. For other national TV efforts, she has provided production assistance for A&E's *Hoarders*; and casting for Fox's

upcoming season of *Master Chef*, and for Spike TV's *Auction Hunters*. Merritt is an avid fan of compelling non-fiction film and has volunteered as a Silverdocs screener for 2012. "At the heart of each of these endeavors," she confides, "is a love of story and production, alongside a passion to help others discover how to tell the stories that matter most to them." For more information, call Merritt at 703-268-9195 or email her at kim.merritt@gmualumni.org.

Foundation for Global Inspiration Launched by Padwo-Audick



Dara Padwo-Audick, an educational and feature documentary filmmaker and President of

Creative Strategies Media LLC, recently launched The Foundation for Global Inspiration, a non-profit organization that she co-founded with Darin Olien of Darin's Naturals. Targeted to young people, the organization promotes awareness, information and action tools to support the new global economic paradigm being defined by Bhutan, Brazil and other nations. Padwo-Audick explains: "The new economic paradigm goes beyond the standard measurement of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) to evaluate global wellbeing. It includes the tenets of GNH--Gross National Happiness: Psychological Well-Being, Standard of Living, Good Governance, Health, Education, Community Vitality, Cultural Diversity, Environment, Use of Time, and other dimensions." Padwo-Audick and her team will go to the United Nations April 2-4 to participate in a meeting about well-being, happiness and the new economic paradigm. To learn more, visit: www.bhutanakingdomofhappiness.com/ or www.foundationforglobalinspiration.org/

Bellais Producing & Helping WIFV



Monica Lee Bellais has been instrumental in the WIFV webisode series as a screenwriter mentor. This very exciting project will showcase top talent of WIFV. Monica will be heading to the Cannes Film Festival in May. She's also currently producing a documentary on a historic lighthouse and

another project will be taking her Haiti in July. She's happily juggling married life and raising her three-year-old son, all while dividing her time between DC and Los Angeles, where she worked for James Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment. She truly enjoys helping WIFV and meeting creative and passionate filmmakers in the DC area - send her an email on monicaleebellais@gmail.com.

Slagle On Screen and At Screen



Kelley Slagle recently appeared in the lead role of domestic abuse victim Gail Beahn on *America's Most Wanted* in the "Roger Hart" case. The episode aired on March 30 on Lifetime. She is also happy to announce that she is a new member of SAG-AFTRA! In addition, Kelley just completed the Editing and Post-Production program at the Center for Digital Imaging Arts at Boston University in Georgetown, and is actively seeking employment as an apprentice or assistant editor. For more information on Kelley, see

her website at www.cavegirl.com

Fox "On Our Radar"

Charneice Fox is included in Creative Capital's "On Our Radar" initiative for *The MLK Streets Project - From DC to Dakar* where students from neighborhoods surrounding MLK streets in the US travel to Africa to participate in *The MLK Streets Project - From DC to Dakar*, collecting video and photography to produce a documentary and life size mosaic, that compares and contrasts the legacy of the "dream" to the street named for the King in Dakar. Ms. Fox is working in collaboration with Jazzmen Lee. You can learn more at <http://www.themlkstreetsproject.com/>

"On Our Radar" is an initiative of Creative Capital and provides a searchable, public database featuring nearly 400 noteworthy projects that advanced to the second or third phase of last year's highly competitive grant round for Film/Video and Visual Arts projects. Although the featured projects were not ultimately funded, they feel they are projects to watch. The site will be online through August 31, 2012.

<http://creative-capital.org/onourradar>

Dinners with Advisory Committee

Back by popular demand! Please join WIFV Advisory Committee Members and the WIFV President for a three-course dinner and lively discussion - *A New Mindset: Creating Content in the Era of Abundance*.

Friday, April 20, 2012, 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Dinner for 8-10 at each of six locations in DC/MD

\$40 Executive Members/ \$50 other WIFV Member Classes/ \$65 Guests

RSVP Required by April 15 to secure your place at the table.

31 for 31 - Lots to Celebrate

In case you didn't notice, WIFV celebrated Women's History Month by recognizing 31 of our members. Yes, there are hundreds more who deserve a special shout-out (and don't think we aren't planning for it)! The full list of recognized members is below. As part of the celebration, we encouraged members to contribute \$31 to WIFV to support member programs and new initiatives. March may be over, but those needs and dreams continue! Click <http://ow.ly/9nZaA> to donate.

- 1) Monica Lee Bellais
- 2) Robin Noonan-Price
- 3) Antoinette Tope
- 4) Faith DeVeaux
- 5) Dara Padwo-Audick
- 6) Meagan Healy
- 7) Sarah Katz
- 8) Ada Babino
- 9) Carol Pineau
- 10) Yi Chen
- 11) Carol Rosen
- 12) Susan Kehoe
- 13) Flo Stone
- 14) Kiley Kraskouskas, Leola Calzolari Stewart and Andrea Papitto - National Pi Day
- 15) Roberta "Birdie" Pieczenik
- 16) Susan Barocas
- 17) Jody Hasset-Sanchez
- 18) Wendy Anderson
- 19) Virginia Quesada
- 20) Alison C. Rosa
- 21) Kathi Overton
- 22) Heather A. Taylor
- 23) Kristin Harris
- 24) Kristen Kenney
- 25) Ali Ogden
- 26) Joy Haynes
- 27) Marilyn Weiner
- 28) Elizabeth Andrade
- 29) Connie Dong
- 30) Allison Abner
- 31) Robyn DeShields

Upcoming WIFV Events

April 10, 2012 - **Meet the Funders: National Science Foundation**

8:00 to 9:30 am

National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Ballston, VA

RSVP REQUIRED by 1:00 pm Friday, April 6 to membership@wifv.org

April 11, 2012 - **Conscious Media Roundtable - *With One Voice* Screening**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW, DC

RSVP to sistersatyani@gmail.com

April 14, 2012 - ***Pink Ribbons, Inc.* Screening**

For more information and to purchase tickets see <http://www.filmfestdc.org>

April 16, 2012 - **WIFV Board Candidate Statements DUE**

4:00 pm

More info here.

April 18, 2012 - **WIFV Board Meeting**

April 20, 2012 - **Dinners with WIFV Advisory Committee Members and Board President**

Salon topic: Creating Content in an Era of Abundance

Various locations in DC/MD

\$40 Executive Members/\$50 other WIFV Member classes/\$65 guest

RSVP REQUIRED

April 21, 2012 - **Crowdfunding Seminar by Thinking Forward Media**

9:30 am to 5:30 pm
Interface Media Group
\$105 WIFV Members/\$125 Public
Register here

April 23, 2012 - **Screenwriters Roundtable - Table Readings**
RSVP to sicilyusa@comcast.net

April 25, 2012 - **Student/Transitioning Professional Roundtable**
RSVP to membership@wifv.org

April 27, 2012 - **WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship Applications DUE**
4:00 pm
More info here.

Info on all upcoming WIFV events can be found at www.wifv.org

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.

Contact Us

Women in Film & Video
3628 12th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20017
202-429-9438
director@wifv.org
www.wifv.org

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