



WIFV NEWS

April 2014 Members in the News

Featuring Matching 31 for 31 Donations; Trystin Kier Francis; Sheldon Smith; Robin Reck; Wayne Barbin; Catalina Parks; Carletta Hurt; Kayona Ebony Brown; Faith DeVeaux; Jay Schlossberg; Shellee Haynesworth; Rachel Gordon; Don Hagen; Docs in Progress; Video/Action; Center for Environmental Filmmaking Eco-Comedy Competition

Essenmacher Challenge Extends 31 for 31

WIFV had its third annual 31 Women for 31 Days Campaign in March 2014 during Women's History Month. What started as a grassroots fundraising effort has flowered into a much-anticipated month filled new insights into the lives and achievements of our members, and we are so proud of all of the honorees. [See list here.](#)

If you make a contribution between now and the end of April, WIFV President Erin Essenmacher will personally give a dollar as well. Please support the Essenmacher Challenge and help WIFV continue to provide connections, resources, and advocacy for women who want to advance in their media careers. [You can make your tax-deductible donation here.](#)

Warmly,
Randi Cohen Coblentz
WIFV Board Member and 31 for 31 Chair

Barbin Relocates to NYC



Wayne Barbin has moved to NYC to pursue new EP and producing opportunities. His first project is building part of a production operation for Veria Living, a new health/wellness/ lifestyle network owned by Zee TV/Asia TV. He has just finished creating all systems and processes to produce all network interstitials (120/week x 2:00) and is now producing the interstitials!

Wayne will soon be moving onto producing shorts for a handful of corporate and non-profit clients; developing and executive producing a documentary film; and starting some freelance work with NY-based colleagues of his most recent long-term employer (and "family" :) - Discovery Communications. Send your congratulations to wbarbin@gmail.com.

Carletta Hurt Blogs, Tweets, Reviews!

"House Calls" Features Trystin Kier

DC Designer and WIFV member, **Trystin Kier Francis** provided answers for The Washington Post weekly "House Calls" redesign challenge. [See Trystin's article here.](#)

Smith Voices for CBS Entertainment

Sheldon Smith provided voiceover for two spots produced for CBS Entertainment produced by Studio City in Los Angeles. [You can hear him here!](#)

Reck in Turn and on Stage

Robin Reck was cast in the upcoming AMC series, *Turn* which premiered in April on AMC. "It was so much fun doing a period piece in a cockney accent. I felt pretty confident that I had mastered the accent for my lines by the time I was contacted for my second round of auditions to meet the director. That all changed and any traces of "cocky Cockney" disappeared when Robin walked in and was introduced to the very British director, SJ Clarkson, knowing she could spot a fake accent. "Acting challenge met, and I got the part. The set and costumes were amazing, and the cinematography was breathtaking. [Robin is in the third episode, "Of Cabbage and Kings".](#)



Robin also appeared in the leading role of Madame Rosepettle in *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad* by Arthur Kopit at American Century Theater, March 21- April 12.

Dual Member **Carletta S. Hurt** was recently named the Reel Focus Blog Assistant Editor for Women in Film Video/Television - Atlanta. She is responsible for managing the blog along with writing fresh and relevant content of interest to industry professionals. [See the WIFTA blog here.](#) Hurt was also a featured tweeter for NPR's *Tell Me More* "Women in Tech Twitter Chat" for the month of March. The series generated more than 7,000 tweets using the hashtag #NPRWIT and millions of impressions. Her company, **IKAM Productions**, is currently reviewing scripts for a production in the fall.



DeVeaux Speaks About Double Victory

Faith DeVeaux will speak about her upcoming documentary *Double Victory: Two Warriors in the Fight for Civil Rights During WWII* at the We ♥ Vets! event on April 26. *Double Victory* tells the story of the worldwide tour to visit Black American soldiers taken by A.M.E. Bishop John A. Gregg, an emissary of President Franklin D.



Roosevelt, and his military escort, Chaplain John A. DeVeaux, during 1943 and 1944. We ♥ Vets is an outreach program that provides support services and opportunities to Veterans and their families. The April 26 event, hosted by The Vets Group, NABVETS DC, and Matt Atayi of Combined Insurance, is at 1200 18th Street, NW, Suite LL-100 in Washington, DC from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and is open to all Vets and to the public.

WIFV members working with Faith on the film include John Metherell, Sali Gelestino, Rachel Torgoff, and John Rowles. You can follow their work on [Facebook](#) or receive updates on [Twitter](#).

Black Broadway on U Launched!



As a child, **Shellée M. Haynesworth** was deeply influenced by her grandparents and other relatives' stories about the heydays of her native DC's Black Broadway era within the U Street corridor before, during and after the Harlem Renaissance. Known as the "city within a city" this eradates back to the early 1900s when this affluent, middle-class African-American community was the intellectual, arts, cultural and entertainment hub for Black America. Our nation's capital was still a segregated city; African-

Parks on Picture Lock about Cards

Catalina Parks was honored to be interviewed in the *House of Cards* episode of AIM's TV/Web/Podcast show *Picture Lock* with Host - Kevin Sampson, Casting Director Kimberly Skyrme, WTOP Film Critic Jason Fraley and Actor Lamont Easter. "Lamont and I were thrilled to have an opportunity to plug WIFV and



TIVA. The whole episode is pretty informative and entertaining..." [The link is here!](#) [Catalina's acting profile is here.](#)

Brown Updates Of Music and Men

"DC has the lowest marriage rate in the country... and the highest number of same sex couples. So... if a single girl wants to find love, she might have better luck finding... well, a single girl."

Back in November, DC-based "artistic entrepreneur" **Kayona Ebony Brown** launched a self-contained crowd-sourcing site to help market and raise money for her project, *Of Music and Men*, and today you get to see the results. [Well, at least a teaser.](#) Brown, who wrote, directed and acted in the teaser, plans to continue doing her part to grow this franchise in preparation for the right opportunity to get this project to the world. To get involved with the project, visit [Of Music and Men](#). Brown also recently completed the novel, *Tenth Letter*, [available here.](#)



Cars 'N Coffee Wraps Season in Paris

Jay Schlossberg reports - "We've wrapped our first season of *AutoExotika Presents: Cars 'N Coffee* on the web and this time we're in Paris, France. Take a free trip there, on us, and join our lovely host Anna-Louisa Werner and check out some of the great rides she has in store for you."

Cars 'N Coffee as a whole has become quite a phenomena. We've been invited to shoot at more than 50 other *Cars 'N Coffee* meet ups around the US. But, even more amazingly, we've been contacted by other *Cars 'N Coffee* clubs around the world from Costa Rica, Chile, Germany, Italy, England, Bolivia, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia (both Perth and Sydney) South Africa, Japan and more. We know they'll set up some great cars and real characters for us so you can see what people in other locales are driving these days. Plus you'll get a peek at a some other sweet locations around the planet!

Americans were not "free" to enter "white" establishments. Ironically, it was this very segregation that spawned a "cultural and intellectual revolution" known as DC's "Black Broadway" era.

In celebration of Black History Month, Shellée officially launched her **Black Broadway on U**, transmedia project in late February. The project will celebrate, preserve, educate and enlighten about the under-told story of this era from the early 1910s-1950s. The initial cross-platform components will represent several distinct, yet interconnected multimedia including a 3-part documentary series, mobile app, an interactive website (that will house short films featuring community voices from this era), pop-up performances, special events and a significant social media presence.

To learn more about project or make an online donation visit: <http://blackbroadwayonu.com/>

Gordon Directs *Flozetta* in NY

Flozetta, a one-woman, two character show with music starring Amelia Fowler, written by Nadine Graham, and directed by **Rachel Gordon** (WIFV/NYWIFT) will be part of the First Stories Series presented by the Phoenix Ensemble Theatre on May 10, 2014 at 3pm. *Flozetta* examines the tumultuous mother/daughter relationship of Henrietta, an unstable blues singer with a tragic past, and her daughter Flo, who deals with the legacy of pain her mother unwittingly hands down to her. [More info on Rachel Gordon is here.](#)

We Like You Too!



Thank you for helping us reach 3,000 Facebook likes. Join the conversation, follow our updates and tag yourself in event photos. "Like" us today. <http://www.facebook.com/WIFVDC>

We hope you like it (and don't forget to "like" it on [YouTube](#)) and please share it any way you choose. We're gearing up for season two

Earlier this month, *Cars 'N Coffee* was featured in the *Washington Business Journal* focusing on the local meet up in Bethesda.



Mind if I Interjaculate?



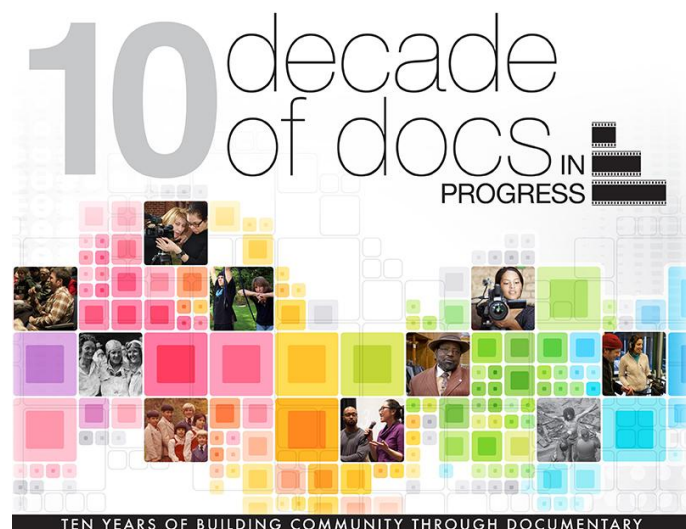
From the work of **Don Hagen**! "To interjaculate means to interrupt. The word is built on the Latin roots jaculari (to throw) and inter (between). So when you interjaculate, you are "throwing in between." Next time your friends won't let you get a word in edgewise, simply ask, "May I interjaculate?" and you'll probably get your chance."

This detail comes from Mark Forsyth's fascinating book, *The Horologicon: A Day's Jaunt Through the Lost Words of the English Language*. Narrating it back-to-back with its sister book, *The Etymologicon*, provides all the historical insights into the English language a narrator might want, and more.

Another one of Don's recent favorites is *When I First Held You*, a series of tender essays about fatherhood compiled by Brian Gresko. [Here's a very short clip from Andre Dubus III's essay, "The Door"](#). [To see what else Don has been narrating this year, check out his website.](#)

Docs in Progress Celebrates First Decade May 20

By Erica Ginsberg



Docs In Progress is celebrating its 10th anniversary on Tuesday, May 20 with **Decade of Docs**, a special evening for the DC area's filmmaking community. This event will honor the past 10 years of Docs In Progress and the filmmakers we have helped to nurture while also looking forward to the future. This special evening will take place in the George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium, the place where it (almost) all began back in 2004 when our only program was our bi-monthly eponymous Docs In Progress screening.

Ten years and more than 1000 filmmakers later, we will be celebrating the achievements of our community with a series of awards for alumni of our film programs, as well as a special award for **Sky Sitney** for her contributions to the Washington DC documentary film community during her eight years with the Silverdocs/AFI Docs Film

Festival. Sky will also join filmmaker **Doug Block** (*51 Birch Street, 112 Weddings*), Documentary Center Director **Nina Seavey**, and Pride Collaborative's **Felicia Pride** for a special panel discussion on the future of documentary film and filmmaking. This program is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Documentary Center at the George Washington University.

Decade of Docs will take place the evening of Tuesday, May 20 at the George Washington University's Jack Morton Auditorium. **This evening is open to the public, but tickets are required.** Special discounts are available to members of Women in Film and Video, as well as Docs In Progress Program Alumni, members of our Docs Insiders program, members of TIVA-DC, and full-time students. [For more information, visit Docs in Progress here.](#)

Video/Action Unveils National Crime Victims' Rights Week Tribute Awards

By Randi Cohen Coblenz

Video/Action and Office of Victims of Crime team up for National Crime Victims' Rights Week Tribute Awards. US Department of Justice's Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) annually recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding service in supporting victims and victim services. The tribute award pieces are produced by the Video/Action team - all WIFV members - headed by former WIFV president Robin Smith. Each year the **Video/Action** team fans out across the country to film the stories of the award recipients. "Working on the tribute videos is a baptism by fire for all new hires at Video/Action - great experience to shoot, write and edit a moving profile that captures the essence in 2 minutes or less," according to Smith.

The pieces are produced for an Awards Ceremony where the US Attorney General casts a national spotlight on individuals and advocacy organizations who have done extraordinary work on behalf of victims of crime. This is the 16th year that Video/Action has produced these tribute videos. The pieces are always broadcast quality, but rarely seen on television...with the exception of one year when the ceremony was on Court TV and two of the tribute videos for special courage each won a local Emmy. [For more information on National Crime Victims' Rights Week and to view the videos click here.](#) [For more information about Video/Action: videoaction.org](#)



Can Comedy Encourage Conservation?

Excerpts from presentation by **Chris Palmer** as part of Environmental Film Festival

Can comedy encourage conservation? I'll make the case that it can, and that paradoxically we can use humor to encourage people to take environmental challenges more seriously. We greenies tend to be too serious. Certainly, there's a lot to be serious about, but zealotry can turn people off. Humor, on the other hand, is one of the most powerful tools available to us. Making viewers laugh is an effective (and fun) way to grab their attention and hopefully hold on to it long enough to get an important message across. Comedy has so much potential, and as advocates for our planet, we must learn to harness this potential to do good.

I want to start by showing you a web video from Greenpeace, *Barbie, It's Over* (2:55), which attacks Mattel's use of virgin paper from Indonesian rain forests in its Barbie doll packaging. The video worked beautifully. The company received 500,000 e-mails protesting their packaging. Barbie's overloaded Facebook page had to be shut down. The result was that Mattel, the largest toy company in the world, announced it would stop using environmentally-damaging packaging. That web video from Greenpeace leads me to the first point I want to make:

Environmentalists should use humor more often. When a person laughs, they become more open to new viewpoints.

My second point: **When we use humor, we must use it effectively.** It should actually be funny and it should make a point. My colleague Professor Katy Borum Chattoo at SOC is using comedy to find new ways to help people around the world to connect with - and take action on - global poverty. She is producing *Stand Up Planet*, a new documentary TV and transmedia project that showcases life in some of the toughest places on Earth through the lens and experiences of stand-up comics. Here are two clips that, in my opinion, use humor effectively - [A History of the 5 Cent Bag Tax](#) and [Clean Coal](#).

My third and final point is that **humor alone may not change behavior.** That doesn't mean we shouldn't use it - it just means we need to use it as part of a broader message. Humor gets people's attention, increases sharing, and starts conversations. Humorous conservation videos should lead an audience to websites and other resources where they can find substantive articles about the issues and become more involved. Here are two examples of using humor to advance a cause: *The Daily Show with John Oliver* criticized the Discovery Channel for its fake documentary *Megaladon* which opened Shark Week in August 2013. To me, this is a good example of humor being used in a great cause - this time to keep broadcasters honest and ethical. It makes you think about the issue and want to learn more. And my second example is from Greenpeace, *Polluters Harmony Ad* graphically draws attention to the corrupting relationship between lobbyists and legislators: Melissa Thompson, Senior Video Producer at Greenpeace, told me that the most gratifying comment she received about that video was when someone wrote, "I hate Greenpeace, but I love this video." Such can be the power of humor.

So, can comedy encourage conservation? Yes, it can play an important role in getting people's attention, and when it is part of a larger campaign, it can more deeply engage people in conservation messaging.

And now, the winners of this year's Eco-Comedy Video Competition. The winner receives a \$1,000 prize from the Center for Environmental Filmmaking.

In third place: **Earth Copz** (Written by Patrick Flynn, Directed by Matthew Lucas and Patrick Flynn, Produced by Matt Sharpe)

In second place we have a tie: **Joe Wakes Up** (Written, Directed, and Produced by Nick Brown), and **Go Green with Eloise** (Directed by Theo Schear, Produced by Tierra Forte and Steve Schear; and Starring Eloise Mae Simons)

And our winning video is **Be a Better Roommate** (Directed by Patrick Gilmore, Written and Produced by Paul North)

Thanks to the judges - Adrienne Bramhall from the Sierra Club, Janice Canterbury from EPA, Josh Kaplan from AU's Office of Sustainability, Fred Grossberg from Mill Reef Productions, and Jamey Warner (my Teaching Assistant) for running this year's competition and doing such an excellent job.



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

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