

*Don't take "no" as a full stop, treat it like a comma.*

~Amma Asante

## Message from the President



I hope you and your loved ones are staying safe and are well.

"Unprecedented Time," "Out of an Abundance of Caution," "Flatten the Curve," "Social Distancing," these are phrases that recently entered my lexicon, maybe yours too and

now these words are used on a daily basis.

I know this is a strange and scary time for many of you, especially if you are a small business owner or a freelancer. And if you're like me and working from home for the first time, it can be frustrating to get up and running when you don't have the regular tools that you use on a daily basis.

We at WIFV want to do our part in easing some of the isolation and stress that you are feeling. Here are some of my tips to stay positive:

- 1) Take a look at the Members Listserv, I've been seeing good information about small business loans and grants in addition to all the great information the listserv provides.
- 2) Take advantage of virtual offerings - so many arts organizations and museums are holding virtual concerts and tours. WIFV will be holding online coffee meet-ups in April. Dates will be announced to Members Listserv.
- 3) Try to use this time creatively. I plan to collaborate on a new project with some WIFV friends. The 48 Hour Film Project is holding a **"stuck at home" film challenge** over the course of the next few weekends.
- 4) During moments that I need a break, I've watched some fun movies. See the suggested films (and books) below!
- 5) Exercise when you can. I've been walking daily, enjoying the fresh air, blossoming trees and blooming flowers. My yoga studio is holding live streamed classes. There are many free exercise classes on the web.

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## COVID-19 Relief Resources

WIFV has been collecting (and suggesting) relief resources for freelancers, artists, and small businesses across the region. **You can see them here.** We will update as new information comes available.

## Roundtable Roundup

WIFV continues to monitor health advisories and will provide program updates to registered attendees, WIFV listserv, and social media if the need arises. The health and well-being of this community is our primary concern.

**Screenwriters:** *Managing a Comedy Writers' Room*

April 27, 2020, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group

[RSVP here](#)

**Documentary:** *Telling Difficult Stories*

New date will be announced soon

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St NW  
(Dupont South Metro)

[RSVP here](#)

**Narrative Directors:** *Shorts Screenings*

New date will be announced soon

Registration will open soon

6) Stay connected. Recently, my grown daughters, their significant others, my husband and I played virtual charades. We're in CA, SC, and DC. Not only was it a great way to feel connected with them, but we laughed a lot! Full disclosure, adult beverages were involved!

7) Stay positive. This pandemic will end. And when it does, it will be exciting to greet one another in person again at our roundtables and WIFV events.

The WIFV Board, Melissa, and I are here for you. [Please feel free to email me.](#)

Stay safe, stay healthy and WASH YOUR HANDS!

Sincerely,  
*Robin Noonan-Price*

## WIFTI Newsletter Online

Women in Film and Television International newsletters are now online. See what your global sisters are doing to improve gender equity, representation, and professional development. [You can subscribe and access past issues here!](#)

**Animators: Using 3D Kitbashing for Fast Storytelling**  
New Date will be announced soon  
V! Studios, 8229 Boone Boulevard  
Suite 420, Vienna, VA

**Makeup/Hair: Topic TBA**  
New date will be announced soon

**Narrative Directors: Stonehenge Auditions**  
June 22, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW  
[More info and RSVP here](#)  
Actors must pre-register for the event and time slots are chosen by lottery. You must register here by Friday, June 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm to be included in the lottery June 22. Lottery results will be emailed no later than Monday, June 15.

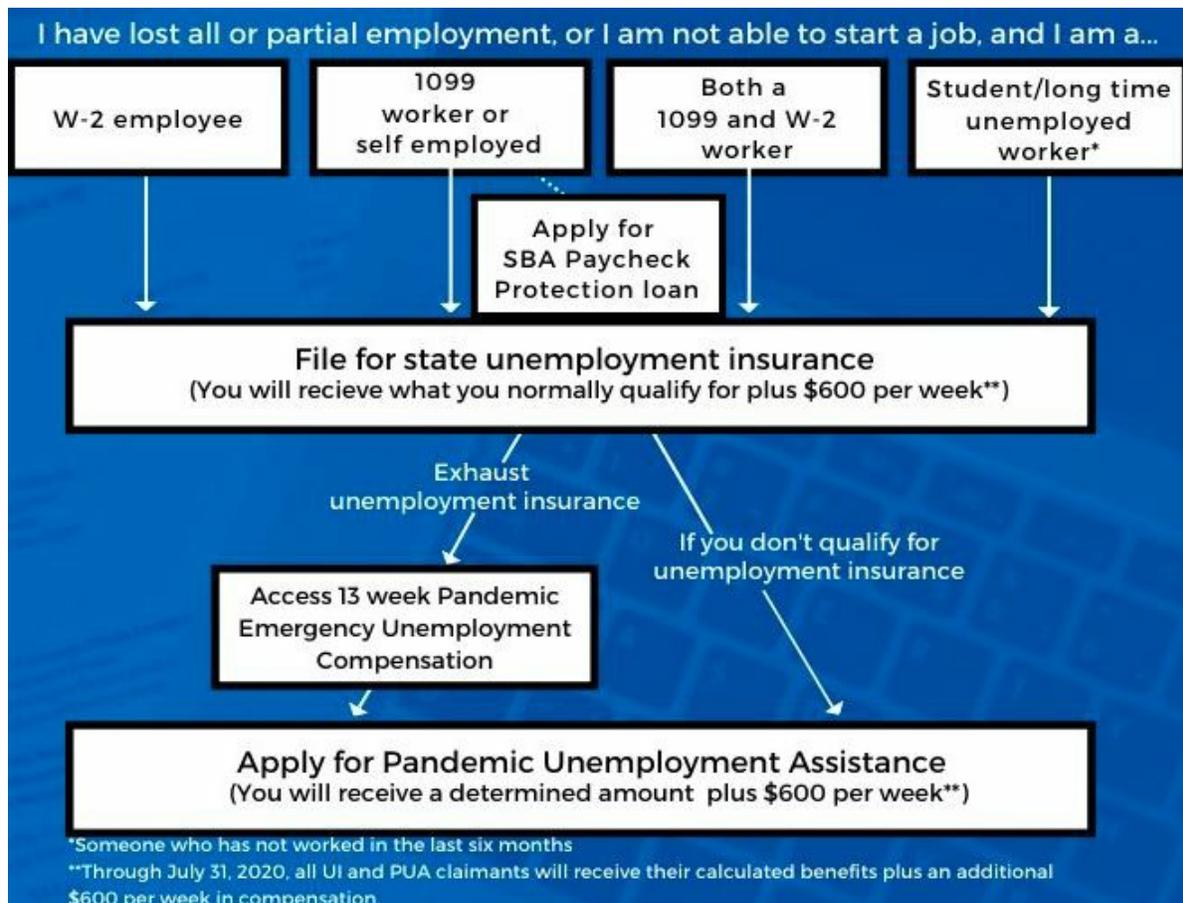
Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. Registration for walk-ins will be available onsite for credit or debit only.

Thanks to our venue sponsor [Interface Media Group!](#)

## Submit Members in the News

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News publication is the 10th of the month. Send your article (100 words or so) and a jpg-format photograph or link to your video project to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). [You can see past issues here.](#)

## Government Support for Creative Professionals



Thanks to Sarah Katz for bringing this graph to my attention! This information is brought to you by:



## WIFV in April

WIFV staff is available to you even though we aren't in the office. Email is the best way to reach us!

While we have had to stop in-person professional development programs this month, we are scheduling virtual coffees and happy hours for up to 10 people per session to support community conversations. Held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the details will be announced in the Monday Missives they are a time to share your successes, your concerns, and to plan for future programming. One-on-one sessions about budgets, proposals, grant applications, and the like are available by emailing [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). We will work to connect you with resources and the expertise you need.

The WIFV members' listserv continues to be a place to exchange info on COVID-19 resources, jobs, project funding, production tips, screening suggestions, and creative prompts. This is a community that knows how to work off-site and WIFV continues to intentionally provide as many opportunities for community gathering as possible.

You are encouraged to take advantage of online resources not usually available for free. For example, **Sundance** has opened its *Collab* master classes, interviews, and webinars to the public. Film Festivals have gone online so you can still see great films even if you aren't at the festival. We don't want to distract you from these opportunities, but rest assured we are here and will be here as we all recover and are able to meet each other again without a screen!

## Sobel Has Tips for You!



HOW TO BE A GOOD GUEST AT A VIRTUAL PARTY is just what you need right now. it's the start of a series that also includes HOW TO BE A GOOD HOST AT A VIRTUAL PARTY. Not only can you pick up some great lighting tips, you'll feel less isolated. The *Tipsy Tips* series is brought to you by Sharon and Dave Sobel.

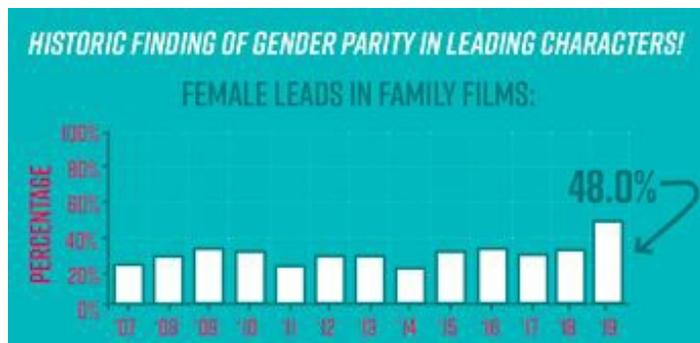
The series is suggested watching for those who will be participating in the upcoming WIFV Member Coffees and Happy Hours during March. Watch for announcements in Member Listserv. (I need to find a booklight!)

**Laptop Cinema, A WRINKLE IN TIME, hosted by WIF LA, April 1**

On April 1, WIF LA will launch their new Laptop Cinema Club, and we invite you to join us! For a couple of hours each week, we'll come together to screen a movie together and chat-without needing to leave the couch! Join us on Wednesday, April 1 as we enjoy Ava DuVernay's visually stunning and emotionally resonant *A WRINKLE IN TIME*. Kids are welcome! Make sure to let them join in the chat, too! [Sign up now](#) to receive more information about Laptop Cinema Club and how to take part!



## Gender Parity Reached in Family Films



The newest study released from the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media **indicates** that 2019 saw just as many female lead characters in family films as male lead characters. In 2007, just 24% of family films featured female characters in lead roles. Last year, 48% of the 100 top-grossing family movies featured lead female characters. See the complete findings [See the complete findings here..](#)

## How Did Film Incentives Fare at Maryland Legislature?

SB192, The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA), passed with \$12 Million for film tax credits for Fiscal Year 2021 and subsequent years. SB192 was an Administration bill and reduced the film tax credit from \$14M to \$10M in FY21. After the bill moved from Senate to House and to a Senate and House conference committee, the final consensus was made for \$12M for FY21 and future years.



SB718, which sought to increase the film tax credits to \$20M, was unable to move out of committee. We are grateful to Senator Melony Griffith for sponsoring this bill and for her work with Chair Guzzone and the Budget and Taxation Committee to get the BRFA reduction partially restored.

HB565, which sought to sunset the film incentive program in FY23, was amended and removed the film tax credit sunset before passing.

HB1284, which sought to remove the ability to carry excess film tax credits into the next fiscal year, received an unfavorable report.

It was a challenging session in many ways. With funding needed for the Kirwin recommendations, tax credit programs were examined as sources. After all was said and done, we have \$12M in available tax credits annually and will work to improve our program next session.

The Maryland Film Industry Coalition thanks all of you for coming out to support the public bill hearings, for writing letters and telling your stories. MFIC, our lobbyists and our advocates do an amazing job joining together to be a voice for the film industry. We will continue our work with legislators and leaders to further educate them on the importance of the Maryland film industry.

Please feel free to email the Maryland Film Industry Coalition with questions - [info@mdfilm.org](mailto:info@mdfilm.org).



## Two Reports Released

[Tools of the Trade: Documentary Equipment Survey](#)

"For as long as stories have called upon documentary filmmakers to tell them, makers have used-and evolved-technology to shape

the art and business of reflecting reality."

So begins the new report from the International Documentary Association in collaboration with CMSI, *Tools of the Trade: Documentary Equipment Survey*. From cameras to audio to lighting to editing software, from production to post-production, this survey of contemporary documentary storytellers sheds light on why and how they make their technology decisions, along with their favorite gear. [Read Tools of the Trade: Documentary Equipment Survey here.](#)

### Milwaukee 53206 Impact Report

What is the role of faith-based communities in social issue documentaries? How can documentaries engage with faith leaders and audiences to address pressing social justice challenges together?

To address these questions, our CMSI research team examined the strategic public engagement and social impact campaign for [Milwaukee 53206](#), an hour-long documentary focused on the intersection of race and mass incarceration in the United States. The film, directed by Keith McQuirter, chronicles the lives of several families and community leaders who live in the ZIP code with the highest rate of incarcerated African American men across the country. The impact campaign, which worked centrally with multi-denominational faith leaders and communities around the country, was shaped and directed by [Odyssey Impact](#), a nonprofit documentary production organization, which also funded the production of the film. We're pleased to release our new report, *Milwaukee 53206 Impact Report: Documentary and Social Justice in U.S. Faith Communities*, along with an opportunity to view the film for the next few weeks. [Read the report here.](#)

## You Can SWAN (Support Women Artists Now) Anytime

SWAN Day is celebrated on the last Saturday of March. Why not keep celebrating by watching or reading work by women? Here are some suggestions to get you started



### Films and Television Shows

- BIRDS OF PREY Directed by Cathy Yan (Amazon)
- BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (Amazon)
- CHOCOLAT Directed by Lasse Hallström (Amazon)
- EMMA. (2020) Directed by Autumn de Wilde (Amazon)
- FLEABAG Created by Phoebe Waller-Bridge (Amazon)
- PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE Directed by Céline Sciamma (Hulu)
- SEX AND THE CITY (Amazon)
- THE LAST LAUGH Directed by Ferne Pearlstein (PBS Independent Lens and Amazon)
- A WRINKLE IN TIME Directed by Ava DuVernay
- WONDER WOMAN Directed by Patty Jenkins (Amazon)

### Books

- DATING YOUR CHARACTER: A SEXY GUIDE TO SCREENWRITING FOR FILM AND TELEVISION by Marilyn Atlas, Devorah Cutler Rubenstein, and Elizabeth Lopez
- DIRECTORS TELL THE STORY: MASTER THE CRAFT OF TELEVISION AND FILM DIRECTING by Bethany Rooney and Mary Lou Belli
- INSIDE STORY: THE POWER OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL ARC by Dara Marks
- MARY AND LOU AND RHONDA AND TED AND ALL THE BRILLIANT MINDS WHO MADE THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW A CLASSIC by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong
- OFF THE CLIFF by Becky Aikman (Yep, about THELMA & LOUISE)
- PRODUCER TO PRODUCER: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO LOW-BUDGET INDEPENDENT FILM PRODUCING by Maureen Ryan
- PRODUCING WITH PASSION: MAKING FILMS THAT CHANGE THE WORLD by Dorothy

- Faidman and Tony Levelle
- RENEGADE WOMEN IN FILM & TV by Elizabeth Weitzman Illustrated by Austen Claire Clements
- TALKING PICTURES: HOW TO WATCH MOVIES by Ann Hornady
- THE FEMALE GAZE: ESSENTIAL MOVIES MADE BY WOMEN by Alicia Malone
- YES PLEASE by Amy Poehler

## New and Renewing Members

The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership February 26 - March 30, 2020

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Bob Ahmed<br/>Meigan Bell<br/>Alice Bershtein<br/>Teresa Bono<br/>Tatiana R Breslin<br/>Shelaney Campbell<br/>Marcella Caro<br/>Jennifer Cortner<br/>Iris Crenshaw<br/>Chloe Nhi Doan<br/>Katherine DuBois<br/>Jamie Fain<br/>Angela Forest<br/>Cheryle Franceschi<br/>Alan Gaffere<br/>Katie Gates<br/>Leo Guillemín<br/>Kristin Reiber Harris<br/>Christina Helm</p> | <p>Jean Isani<br/>Robert Jackson<br/>Karen Kasmauski<br/>Michelle L. Kim<br/>Joanne Lawler<br/>Penny Lee<br/>Diandra Leslie-Pelecky<br/>Jim C. Lewis<br/>Paul Mahood<br/>Niki Mock<br/>Pritidhara Mohanty<br/>Jan Moss<br/>Bjorn Munson<br/>Cheryl Ottenritter<br/>Rena Pace<br/>Dara Padwo-Audick<br/>Carol Paik<br/>Jacqui Porth</p> | <p>Francis Ramirez-O'Shea<br/>Rosemary Reed<br/>Peter Roof<br/>Gary Schonman<br/>Caitlin Schrein<br/>Jennifer Schwed<br/>Heidi Scott<br/>Sheila Smith<br/>Justin Robert Swain<br/>Heather R. Taylor<br/>Michelle Vessels<br/>Diane C. Williams<br/>Yingna Wu<br/>Joanna Zwanger</p> <p><b>Corporate Members:</b><br/>Double R Productions</p> |
|---|--|---|

### About WIFV

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



### Send Stories to:

Women in Film & Video  
4000 Albemarle Street, NW  
Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-429-9438  
[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)  
[www.wifv.org](http://www.wifv.org)

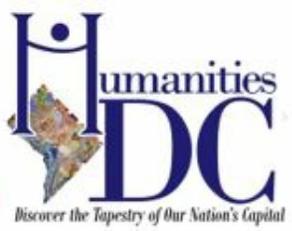
### Support Women In Film & Video Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)

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



You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Women in Film & Video. Don't forget to add [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!