

## August 2020

FEATURING Malkia Lydia, Catherine Wyler, Kamilah Thurmon, Wonder Pictures, Mya Montgomery, Tonal Vision, May-Mei Lee, Roberta Pieczenik, Maureen Sasscer, Brigid Bell McMahon, Joe Dzikiewicz, Sara Barger, IMG, Adele Schmidt

### Lydia Pitches and Produces



WHAT'S IN A NAME?, a doc in production by **Malkia Lydia**, was selected for Good Pitch Philly 2020. In the film, a performance artist examines his bittersweet South Philadelphia upbringing and considers the names

and legacies he's inherited from previous generations of Black men.

Lydia also just learned that her film REUNION CHOIR has received a DC DOCS Partnership Grant from **HumanitiesDC** as part of the Humanities Grant Program, an initiative funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities to support production. The REUNION CHOIR documentary (working title) shares the story of educator Joyce Garrett and DC's world-renowned Eastern High School Choir. The film, produced by Malkia Lydia and Joyce Garrett, follows the road to a 2018 alumni concert, interlacing history, performances, intimate character portraits, and revelations about the transformative power of choral music.

Through the DC DOCS Partnership Grant Program (DC DOCS), HumanitiesDC supports documentary film projects that tell the stories of the District's history, people, or places. In its second year, DC DOCS provides capacity-building and financial resources to established filmmakers. **WIFV** is honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for this documentary.

### Wonder Pictures Website

Rich West, of West Production Services and **sheri ratick stroud**, of It's Me – sheriii!, pooled their many years of entertainment experience to form Wonder

### deHaviland Remembered



With the notice of Olivia de Havilland's recent passing, **Catherine Wyler** shared a photo of the two of them celebrating Ms. de Havilland's 101st birthday! Ms. Wyler was visiting while in Paris and recounts that "She was amazing: lively, mischievous, sweet!" Gerry Hermann was also at the celebration and noted "She [Ms. de Havilland] was lucid and charming - and drank more champagne than the both of us put together."

### Thurmon Receives DC DOCS Grant



**Kamilah Thurmon** received a DC DOCS Partnership Grant from **HumanitiesDC** as part of the Humanities Grant Program, an initiative funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

to support production. Her untitled short documentary will highlight artistic and cultural communities for African-Americans in Washington, DC: specifically focusing on contributions made within the ballet world. Some of the legends and pioneers that will be included are: Mabel Jones Freeman, Bernice Hammond, Therrell C.

Pictures. Their focus is on film shorts with humanistic themes that shine a light on relationships and range from drama to comedy and all stops in between. [See their website here.](#)



Smith, Doris W. Jones, and Claire H. Haywood. Their lifelong experiences and professional legacies, showcasing their trials and triumphs, will be documented, and the short will explore why DC became a hub for these dancers to live out their dreams while sharing their knowledge and skills with the next generation of District residents.

## Tonal Vision Creating



TERM PAPERS AND PANDEMIC, Alone in her room, Aaliyah tries to navigate her last days of college online during the Covid-19 pandemic. But she can no longer hide her anxiety when the virus hits close to home. [This short film](#) is the brainchild of **Mya Montgomery**, who proposed it when **Tonal Vision** received a PPP loan (forgivable if spent mostly on payroll). See our blog article, "[Remote Filming in a Pandemic](#)" for more background.

## Writers Recognized

**Roberta Pieczenik's** script COYOTE WARRIOR is now a semi-finalist in the **Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting Competition**, hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS). The script is one of 385 still under consideration from the 7,600+ scripts submitted for consideration this year!

**Maureen Sasscer's** HEARD is an official selection in the **Catalina Film Festival** and Finalist in the **Storyline DaVinci international Film Festival**. HEARD is about a woman that was raped and left for dead by a habitual offender. She takes a judge hostage and gives a day for victims.

**Bridget Bell McMahon's** script BEYOND

## Lee's CLUB QUARANTINE

During stay-at-home orders, **May-Mei Lee** wrote and directed *Club Quarantine*. The short film was shot via Zoom with actors logging on simultaneously in multiple cities and countries. With many forced to stay home, people attempted to connect in unexpected, virtual ways from happy hours to birthday parties to clubbing. This film attempted to capture a moment specific to this period. [The film can be found here](#) or just below!



## Barger AMPAS Recognition



Congratulations to WIFV EVP **Sara Barger!** Her short doc LITTLE BY FIERCE was one of the 39 films to advance to the finals of the Student Academy Awards. 1,468 films were under consideration for advancement.

Barger's film is one of 7 films in the domestic documentary category. [You can see a list of the finalists here.](#)

The film was Sara's thesis project for her MFA at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. The film tells the story of Madison, a 9-

LOGIC is a semi-finalist for **The 2020 Page International Screenwriting Awards**. Her script is now one of 25 in the Action/Adventure category still under consideration. **Joe Dzikiewicz's** script for **YANKEE DOODLE ZOMBIE** was included as a quarter-finalist in the same competition. Their scripts are among the top 10% of scripts received by that competition for consideration.

## IMG Sizzle - PBS and GAVI



[Celebrate a century of trailblazing women](#) with American Masters on PBS! IMG crafted a series of weekly combo promos for the highly anticipated "Summer of Trailblazers" programming block. IMG provided edit; gfx; sound design; and final mix

The first ever live virtual **GAVI Global Vaccine Summit** brought world leaders together who made historic commitments to ensure equal access to vaccines for all. IMG provided studio, crew, and live stream services to virtually broadcast Gavi Board Chair Dr. Ngozi, co-host of the event which raised \$8.8 billion.

year-old girl from Hampton, Virginia, who is battling a rare form of brain cancer. Her mother, an ER nurse, is forced to turn to the black market to buy cannabis to treat Madison's pain, seizures, and other symptoms. [You can watch the trailer here.](#) [Follow the film on Facebook here.](#)

## ISO: Production Photos!

WIFV is seeking photos of you working on set. As we refresh the website and close our 40th Anniversary this year, we want to



have production photos handy to keep the stories moving forward and show more positive, inclusive images of independent media makers. Please send jpg format photos with photo credit to [membership@wifv.org](mailto:membership@wifv.org). Thanks to Adele Schmidt for this photo.

## Submit Your Article

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News e-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).

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