



December 2014



President's Message

Dear WIFV,

Happy December! I can hardly believe that 2014 is coming to a close. It's been a great year for WIFV and the DC media arts community - from the March dinners honoring

the first meeting of WIFV 35 years ago to and amazing ScriptDC and the publishing of the first **Spotlight on Screenwriters** catalogue, we have much to celebrate as we move into 2015.

ScriptDC, held November 14-16, featured a powerhouse lineup of national and local talent including Mary Jane Skalski from Any Wednesday Films (*The Visitor*, *Win/Win*, *Hello I Must Be Going*), Joan Darling (*Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman, M*A*S*H**), Lane Shefter Bishop from VAST Entertainment, Pierre Bagley, Jack Gerbes, and Mary Nelson (DC, MD and VA Film Offices respectively) and Golan Ramras (*Iron Man*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*). See related article for more info highlights. ScriptDC is a great example of WIFV's growing convening power and our commitment to enhancing the professional development of our members.

This year was also special in that it marks the 35th anniversary of the founding of WIFV. We'll continue the celebration into 2015, culminating in a **35th anniversary dance party** on March 12th. Stay tuned for information, but I can tell you based on the site visit and planning meeting I attended just before Thanksgiving, this will be one for the books - the grooviest party WIFV has ever thrown.

Speaking of our convening power, a few weeks ago I had the honor and privilege of moderating the discussion at **Kids World Film Fest**. KWFF was created by WIFV past president Deborah Redmond in the wake of 9/11 to build media literacy among middle school students as a way of promoting tolerance and cross-cultural

In This Issue

[Member Coffee - Dec 16](#)

[Seed Fund Update](#)

[New Year, New Tech! - Jan 7](#)

[Holiday Party - Jan 26](#)

[DCCAH Support of WIFV](#)

[Doc Roundtable - Dec 7](#)

[Navigating the Film Festival Circuit Tips](#)

[KWFF Update](#)

[ScriptDC Update](#)

[Supporter Spotlight - WIFV Corporate Members](#)

[Call for Articles - Members in the News](#)

[New and Renewing Members](#)

Seed Fund Sprouting

WIFV is raising funds for a new **Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers!**

Your contribution is a seed that will help a film grow!

[Make your donation here.](#)

Applications for the \$2,500 grants will be available in the

Spring (of course). **We hope to give \$10,000 in grants every year for at least the next three years, but that depends on your generosity.**

Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Contributors as of November 30 include: Ben Abdul-Haqq, Nancy Breslin, Rebecca Bustamante, Denene Crabbs, Kathy Dismukes, Erin Essenmacher, Mary Frost, Heather Godwin, Melissa Houghton, Carletta S. Hurt, Cynthia Iris, Judy Kimel, Mary H. Leahy, Hilary Linder, Scott Lunt, Debi Mack, Mary May, Pippa McBride, Regina Meeks, Beth Mendelson, Matthew Radcliff, Carol Savoie, Hillary Shea, Carsten and Ellen Tripler, Bart Woodward, and Catherine Wyler.

[You can add your name to this list and support the work of this community with your](#)



understanding. I think it's one of the most important programs WIFV puts on because it builds critical thinking skills, fosters empathy and gives kids a chance to see and understand how media is made, creating a visible pathway for their own potential media careers. Many of the films featured in KWFF challenge stereotypes. This year we were especially blessed to have producer and director Muzna Almusfer there with us to screen her short film, *Cholo*, and then talk with the children through her creative process. The kids had more questions for Ms. Almusfer than we had time for and their excitement was infectious. It was a powerful and humbling reminder for me of why we do what we do - the power of media to inspire, educate and start or influence important conversations about equality, justice, empathy and perspective. It was also a great example of the power of showing women in leading roles as media makers and the message that sends to our young men and women.

Thank you for being part of this conversation and for tirelessly continuing to create and inspire. Your energy and your works inspires me and the entire WIFV board to continue our charge of sustaining and growing an organization that celebrates your work, creates pathways for getting it out into the world and keeps the conversation about gender equity and images of gender in the media, front and center.

Happy holidays to you and yours!

Best,
Erin



Member Coffee

Tuesday, December 16, 2014
8:30 to 10:00 am
Le Pain Quotidien
701 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
[RSVP here](#)

[contribution.](#)

Weds One - New Year, New Tech!

January 7, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW
\$15 WIFV Members; \$30 Public
[RSVP here](#)



InterfaceMediaGroup

The first Weds One of the New Year will feature flash talks from our friends at **Interface Media Group**. Speakers will highlight new tools and techniques for production, post-production, interactive media, digital advertising, and webcasting.

WIFV/TIVA Holiday Party



Let's shake off the winter doldrums with good food and great company! Registration includes food, drink, and a door prize ticket!

Monday, January 26, 2015, 6:30 to 9:00 pm
Harman Center for the Arts
610 F Street, NW, DC 20004
\$25 WIFV/TIVA Members / \$40 public
Prices will go up on January 17 so register soon!
[RSVP here](#)

Begin 2015 with a little winter magic!

DCCAH Supports WIFV

The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) has recognized WIFV with a Grants In Aid Award. This grant will support general operations and programming.



DC COMMISSION ON
THE ARTS & HUMANITIES

WIFV/Docs in Progress Documentary Roundtable

Making a Living in a Fair-Use-Friendly World

Monday, December 8, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW, DC (Dupont Circle South Metro)

Fair use, the use of unlicensed material in documentary, has become a routine feature of documentary production; broadcasters and insurers are now accepting it as a matter of course. But documentarians now have new questions. When a broadcaster uses my doc to explain their news story, can they do that without paying me? When a media company tells me I have to get clearances for everything, how do I tell them the current realities? Just how risky is fair use these days? And who's got my back if I get a cease and desist letter?



Patricia Aufderheide will share the latest research from the Center for Media & Social Impact, the results of a 500-filmmaker survey that shows a dramatic shift in industry practice, and discuss how knowing the limits of fair use can make it easier to collect a license when it's your due.

Ten Tips: Navigating the Film Festival Circuit

November Weds One featuring panelists Andrea Passafiume, Jon Gann, Karen Whitehead, and Jason Osder

By Liliane Mavridara, WIFV Board Member

- 1) Every film has a film festival but not all film festivals are right for your film.
- 2) Do your research into the best FF for your particular genre and target group; look into past programming and tone of films, as well as photos from the audience and party-goers.
- 3) Include your FF submission fees+expenses in your original film making budget.
- 4) Once you submit your film, focus on the marketing+building of your audience, as well as on how you'll market it if it is premiering somewhere.
- 5) Be clear on what your goal for the film is. I.e. do you want to show it and have Q&A afterwards, or do you want to get free tickets to Australia?
- 6) If you know your audience and you can self-promote through social media and other venues, you don't need a FF.
- 7) Be aware of your run-time because sometimes your film may not be accepted due to programming guidelines. I.e. an 8min short is perfect to add to a feature show or as part of a regular show.
- 9) Once you are accepted, look at the delegates list and whom you want to meet and network with.
- 10) Be prepared for your Q&A with some interesting stories. If you don't know the answer to a question, repeat it back so that you have time to think of an answer.

And remember, "Good work will always find a good home."



Kids World Film Festival Entertains & Inspires

By Amy Johanson, WIFV Board Member and KWFF Chair

A rap star inspires a Turkish teen to stand up to bullies, a young boy in Zanzibar meets his half-brother from Oman for the first time and a Hungarian man judges another unfairly, leading to an uncomfortable shared meal. Two hundred local students were treated to these stories, and more, during WIFV's 2014 Kids World Film Festival (KWFF).



Fifth and sixth graders from DC's Elsie Whitlow Stokes Charter and Oyster-Adams Bilingual Schools, and students from Fairfax's Greenbriar East Elementary School attended the program of short films from the US, Canada, Mexico, Hungary, the Netherlands and Oman. The festival was held in the Enrique V. Iglesias Auditorium of the Inter-American Development Bank in downtown DC.

KWFF was first conceived of by WIFV past president Deborah Redmond and board members following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. They planned the media literacy and film program to use the power of film as a tool for cross-cultural understanding and tolerance, while also honing students' critical thinking and viewing skills.

WIFV volunteers visit each school in advance of the Festival to provide a brief media literacy lesson and share their own work and expertise in media production. This year, Elizabeth Andrade, Kiley Kraskouskas and Nakeesha Seneb shared their time and talents in the classroom.

Students from each school then eagerly assembled for the Festival at the IADB. For the second year in a row, President Erin Essenmacher facilitated discussion at the Festival, helping the students consider and respond to the content and themes of each of the films.

This year, the students were treated to a visit by a filmmaker from Oman. Filmmaker Muzna Almusafaer came to the KWFF to share her short film *Cholo*, the story of two adolescent half-brothers who meet for the first time. The film, set and filmed in Zanzibar, was fresh from its US premiere at the National Museum of African Art, in connection with the program "From Oman to East Africa: Bridging the Gems of the Indian Ocean".



Almusafaer said, " it was the first time, *Cholo* was screened for kids and I liked their reactions and feedback. They were funny, cute and intelligent. It is so important to be inspired to hear stories from the other side of the world and to know more about these interesting places that are filled with magic, culture and fantasy. "

During the Q&A following the film, students asked Almusafaer questions about her equipment, crew and casting. When asked what advice she would give aspiring filmmakers in the audience, Almusafaer told the students, "patience is the best quality that a human being should have in life and as a filmmaker because it allows her to be sensitive towards others, and helps her to understand how the world functions and what is her role in life."

In the days since the Festival, educators have requested encore screenings of several films, and participants and sponsors have shared their enthusiasm. "I am so proud to be associated with this event," said Essenmacher. "The students are lively and engaged with the films and our discussion,

reflecting the power of media to teach kids tolerance and consider their own biases, in media and in life."

Many thanks to the Inter-American Development Bank, the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, DC Commission on Arts and Humanities (an agency supported in part by National Endowment for the Arts), DC Office of Motion Picture & Television Development, participating schools, and the staff and volunteers who made the KWFF possible: Melissa Houghton, Jillian DiNardo, Erin Essenmacher, Elizabeth Andrade, Kiley Kraskouskas, Nakeesha Seneb, Hillary DePuy, Monica Schorn and Sandra Abrams.

If you are interested in participating in upcoming KWFF and media literacy programming, please contact director@wifv.org.

ScriptDC Gathers and Celebrates Talent

November 14-16 saw more than 100 writers, producers, editors, actors, agents, and directors attending ScriptDC. The opening night speaker was **Golan Ramras**, who was very candid about how he has built his career. Even before his discussion, a Directing Master Class taught by **Joan Darling** and an Advanced Dramatic Writing Master Class taught by **Bill Svano** and **Megan Holley** got



Mary Jane Skalski and ScriptDC Organizer,
Jane Barbara

underway! After a full day of workshops and master classes, **Mary Jane Skalski** took the stage for a conversation about her career as a producer of award-winning films. In addition to the visiting speakers, attendees benefited from **local professionals** who shared their expertise. The Saturday sessions started with representatives of the **DC, MD and VA Film Offices** sharing about the resources they provide for local filmmakers and an unveiling of the **Spotlight on Screenwriters** catalogue organized by **Monica Lee Bellais**, WIFV Board Member. [You can see the](#)

[biographies of all ScriptDC presenters here.](#)

Once again this year, numerous actors gave generously of their time to do table reads of five script pages for critiques on November 16. The group was organized by Lynn Raybuck and featured Kenneth Bossard, Sheri Ratick Stroud, Gale Nemeck, Mary Suib, Martha Karl, Diane Williams, Nelson Greg Sayson, David Walsh, Joe Duquette, Ned Read, Kim Tuvin, Mackie Lou Vignal, Linz Marie Schultz, Emily Morrison, Elliott Dash, Jeff Allin, Wendy Anderson, Phil D'Amica, Cyle Durkee, Antoinette Greene, Elizabeth Hansen, Larry Hull, Patrick Joy, Maureen Kerrigan, Jay Lineberry, Tony Quinn, Michael Sandoval, Scott Sedar, Dolly Turner, and Donise Stevens. For many of the writers, this may be the first time they have heard their script in another voice besides their own!

2014 Sponsors include Office of Motion Picture and Television Development, DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (an agency supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts), Interface Media Group, The Actors' Center, The Documentary Center at The George Washington University, InkTip, The Writer's Store, Script Magazine, Laurie Scheer, Dave Trottier, and GemStar Foundation.



Supporter Spotlight: WIFV Corporate Members

Supporter Spotlight recognizes the work and contributions to the industry of WIFV's supporters. As a 501(c)3 community benefit organization, WIFV relies on financial support from companies, individuals, foundations, and government entities. To find out how your company can support Women in Film & Video, please contact Melissa Houghton at director@wifv.org.

This month we celebrate all of our corporate members! Their support and member participation is truly appreciated and allows us to provide more than 70 programs per year for your benefit.

The Actor's Center

www.actorscenter.org

(202) 332-1911

AFI DOCS: Documentary Film Festival

www.afidocs.com

(301) 495-6742

American University, School of Communications

www.american.edu/soc/

(202) 885-1000

Capital Audio Post

www.capitalaudiopost.com

(703) 712-8757

Sustaining Corporate Member

Capitol Prompting Service, Inc.

www.capitolprompting.com

(703) 271-4070

Sustaining Corporate Member

Carlyn Davis Casting

www.carlyndaviscasting.com

(703) 532-1900

Office of Motion Picture and TV Development

www.film.dc.gov

(202) 727-6608

Director Sponsor

The Documentary Center/GWU

www.gwu.edu/doccenter

(202) 994-6787

Sustaining Corporate Member

Double R Productions

www.doublerproductions.com

(202) 797-7777

DUO Media Productions

www.duomediaproductions.com

(301) 221-7874

Flying Colors Broadcast

www.fc-tv.com

(202) 293-5300

Fog Edge Media

Media Central, LLC/Media Central Films

www.mediacentral.net

(301) 217-0049

Star Sponsor

Michelle Delino Media

www.michelledelino.com

(202) 486-7622

O'Keefe Communications, Inc.

www.okeefecom.com

(202) 363-2101

Ott House Audio

www.otthouseaudio.com

(240) 450-1577

Pixeldust Studios

www.pixeldust.tv

(301) 656-0050

Rock Creek Productions, Inc.

www.rock-creek.com

(703) 481-6590

Rocket Media Group

www.rocketmediagroup.com

(703) 645-8889

Sandy Audio Visual, LLC

www.sandyaudiovisual.com

(202) 505-4728

Shine Creative LLC

www.shinedc.com

(202) 408-7575

SRB Communications, LLC

www.srbcommunications.com

(202) 775-7721

Studio Unknown

www.studiunknown.com

(410) 764-6220

TEAM People

www.teampeople.tv

(202) 587-4111

Tess Wald Productions, Inc.

www.fogedgemediacom.com
(240) 839-7694

Future View Inc.
www.futureview.com
(202) 882-7400

Henninger Media
www.henninger.com
(703) 243-3444
Star Sponsor

Hillmann & Carr
www.hillmanncarr.com
(202) 342-0001

idea design
www.ideadesign-dc.com
(240) 247-0086
Donor Sponsor

Interface Media Group
www.interfacemediacom.com
(202) 861-0500
Director Sponsor

Kayak Works, LLC
www.kayakworksllc.com
(703) 881-2804

Maryland Film Office
www.marylandfilm.org
(410) 767-6340

The Maslow Media Group, Inc.
www.maslowmedia.com
(202) 965-1100

www.tesswaldproductions.com
(301) 986-5826

Thinking Forward Media
www.thinkingforwardmedia.com
(571) 421-4901

Towne Group
www.townegroup.com
(202) 253-5996

Video/Action
www.videoaction.org
(202) 338-1094

VideoTakes, Inc.
www.videotakes.com
(410) 714-1231
Premier Corporate Member

Virginia Film Office
www.film.virginia.org
(804) 545-5530
Patron Sponsor

WILL Interactive
www.willinteractive.com
(301) 983-6006

Word Wizards
www.wordwizardsinc.com
(301) 986-0808

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 www.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.

New and Renewing Members

The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership (November 1 - November 30).

Julie Allen
Caroline Allnutt
Sean Bartel
Gayle Berens
Susan Bodiker
Senia Borden
Donna Brant

Katy Garrity
Harriet Getzels
Cecliia Gonzalez
Meena Gupta
Douglas Hanback
Barbara HEintz
Kim Holcomb

Anja Paul
Dianne Duncan Perrote
Luke Persian
Roberta Pieczenik
Brigette Polmar
Matthew Radcliff
Kelly Reilly

Barbara Buchanan
Sandy Cannon-Brown
Erika Christie
Thomas Clement
Wm. David Crosson
Araceli de Leon Herlihy
Michelle Delino
Sheila Dennin
Aditi Desai
Rachelle Fatheree
Susan Fertig-Dykes
Lynn-Jane Foreman
Tara Foster
Nancy Frohman

Carrie Hold de Lama
Anna Reid Jhirad
Andrea Johnson
Kayt Jonsson
Kate LaPierre
Matt LeClair
Elissa Leonard
Terry McConnaughey
Bruce McKaig
John Metherell
Paulette Moore
Jon Napolitano

Judy Rolfe
Chris Sciannella
Christina Sheehey
Karina Stenquist
Mary Stephens
Jaia Thomas
Ilana Trachtman
Carole Watson
Christine Weber
Marie Wiljanen

Corporate Members:
Michelle Delino Media
VideoTakes, Inc.

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.

Contact Us

Women in Film & Video
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Suite 305
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director@wifv.org
www.wifv.org

Send Stories to:

director@wifv.org

