

December 2020

President's Message



I recently Zoomed into ScriptDC to listen to Catherine Hardwicke describe how she directed TWILIGHT, THIRTEEN, and other films and television productions. It was a great presentation, moderated by *Washington Post* film critic Ann Hornaday. I learned a lot. But oddly enough, as Hardwicke spoke, I kept thinking back to a former coworker from my corporate days, my old company's CFO.

He was basically a brilliant genius, or so I thought. Each quarter, he would present our company's financial results to the board, and he did so effortlessly, with a complete grasp of the details. If questioned about any particular item, he was able to drill down and immediately offer a sharp and clear analysis.

One day, I was sitting next to him at the conference room table. From my vantage point, I saw that his spreadsheets were peppered with notes upon notes. Afterwards, when I asked him about all those notes, he explained that he spent hours preparing, and that those notes were absolutely essential to being able to keep everything in his head.

I told him that I had been always in awe of what I had assumed was his effortless command of his material. He shook his head. "Nope, just a lot of hard work," he said (or words to that effect).

So, how does that relate to Catherine Hardwicke? Well, listening to her talk, I learned the following:

- She started in the industry as a production designer, working for years learning various aspects of filmmaking before directing her first feature.
- She gets to set 30 minutes early, and stands where the camera will be to help crew position their equipment.
- She took acting classes, so that she could better understand how to direct her actors.
- She's been known to move furniture on set herself, to maximize flow, positioning, and light.

In This Issue

1. Roundtable Roundup
2. Reel Moms and BIPOC groups being formed
3. COVID-19 Resources
4. Submit YOUR News
5. Based on a True Story - Dec 2
6. Executive Member Coffee - Dec 11
7. ScriptDC Resumes in January
8. Online Happy Hour - Dec 10
9. Online Coffees - Dec 1 and 15
10. Cunningham Receives Amex Grant
11. HOME FROM SCHOOL Receives Better Angels Lavine Fellowship Award
12. FILMS ACROSS BORDERS in December
13. Grateful for You!
14. New & Renewing Members
15. THANKS



Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: *Olivia Hunt and TO HANNAH screening*

Monday, **December 7**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This is an online program.

[RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Experience to Activism*

Monday, **December 14**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

This is an online program in collaboration with Docs In Progress.

[RSVP here](#)

Reel Moms Coffee

Friday, **December 18**, 10:00 - 11:00 am

This is an online program

[RSVP here](#)

· She creates detailed set diagrams, so that she knows in advance all the possible camera angles.

· She builds in as much rehearsal time as the budget will allow, focusing on rehearsing the scenes that she is most worried about.

· If her budget doesn't fully support storyboard artists, she storyboards her scenes herself.

· Her mantra: "Fix it in prep."

Like my former colleague, Hardwicke puts in a lot of behind-the-scenes work to make her final product look effortless. She doesn't just waltz onto set and expect amazing things to happen. She put in the work.

I appreciated her candor and honesty. She didn't make the process sound easy. She shared the reality of what it takes. On a personal level, her talk left me with a renewed determination to roll up my sleeves, dig in, and do all the things that need to be done on all of my projects. That's certainly not the result I expected when I signed up to attend the ScriptDC event! But in these dark winter Groundhog Days of the pandemic, it's the result, that I needed. I hope that you will have a similar opportunity to be educated, informed, and inspired by one of WIFV's many upcoming programs.

Respectfully,

Cathie Saadeh

Reel Moms and BIPOC groups are being formed. Email membership@wifv.org if you want to join their roundtable listservs.

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. **You must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.**

COVID-19 Resources

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

Submit Your News & Photos - We Want to Celebrate!

Deadline for Members in the News is the 10th of the month. Send an article (100 words or so) and a photograph or link to your director@wifv.org. **You can see past issues here.** Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of the month. Send your article (see guidelines above) to director@wifv.org.

And we still welcome receiving photos of you at work - writing, filming, acting, being a stellar PA - membership@wifv.org is where you should email them. Please provide project name and/or photo credit.

Upcoming Events

Based on a True Story - December 2



Not every true story is best told as a documentary. Sometimes you need to work from the basic facts and write the rest. Adaptation requires deep knowledge of the story, feel for the time period and circumstances, and decisions about what is important to include to move the story along.

Jeremy Kagan, writer/director of **CONSPIRACY: The Trial of the Chicago 8** (1987) will share how he made those decisions. It will be an interesting exploration of the form given the recent release of **THE TRIAL OF THE CHICAGO 7**. **Kagan's film is available for viewing on Vimeo** and Amazon Prime. **Read Mr. Kagan's bio here.**

Wednesday, December 2, 6:30 - 8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

\$10 WIFV Members / \$20 Public

This is an online event. We will send you the link to join the webinar with your registration confirmation and a reminder the day before. **You must register** to receive the link.

Executive Member Coffee - December 11

This event is only for WIFV Executive Members.

The beverage will be in your cup at your house, but the conversation will be online! Board Members look forward to conversing with you to hear

how you are coping, how you have changed your professional practice, and how you are finding time to nurture your creative soul.



Friday, December 11, 9:00 - 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

This is an online event. We will send you the link to join the webinar with your registration confirmation and a reminder the day before. **You must register** to receive the link.

New Year Welcomes ScriptDC!



January - **Producing Workshops** featuring two workshops by **Maureen Ryan** and others.

February - **It's Up to You!** so we are doing workshops on making your projects in the Mid-Atlantic and will include local producers, pitching tips and practice, fundraising, etc.

Registration will open in December for the January and February programs.

Workshop fees - \$15 WIFV Members & Students / \$30 Public

Baker's dozen discount available!

These are online events. You will be sent the login link with your registration confirmation.

ScriptDC is sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).



For those of you who don't want to face a conversation in the morning, WIFV will be hosting Happy Hours online. They are a chance to see new faces and discuss what's on your mind! Collaborations have already been formed. These are free, online events. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

Thursday, December 10, 4:30-5:30 pm
[RSVP here](#)



The beverage will be in a cup at your house, but the conversation will be online! Board Members look forward to conversing with mediamakers to hear how you are nurturing your creative soul. These are free, online events. You will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

Tuesday, December 1, 9:30 - 10:30 am
[RSVP here](#)

Tuesday, December 15, 9:30 - 10:30 am
[RSVP here](#)

News You Can Use

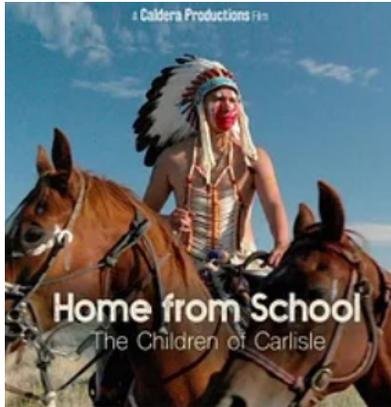
Cunningham Receives AmEx Business Grant

WIFV member **Alyscia Cunningham**, was awarded a \$25,000 grant from American Express for her company, **Her House Media**. AmEx has awarded 100 black women owned businesses \$25,000 grants for their 100 for 100 program, in partnership with **iFundWomen**. The program includes the award of funds, marketing of their businesses, and participation in their 100 day's worth of educational content, consisting of videos, articles, and opportunities to pursue mentorship sessions with industry experts. Alyscia will use the funds to support distribution efforts of her documentary film I AM MORE



THAN MY HAIR, and to create an Accessible exhibition of the portraits from the [book](#), for upcoming exhibit at Sandy Spring Museum (March 17 - May 31, 2021).

Caldera Receives Better Angels Lavine Fellowship



We are so thrilled to recognize HOME FROM SCHOOL: The Children of Carlisle with a Better Angels Lavine Fellowship Award. This new fellowship program is a part of the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, which recognizes excellence in American history documentary filmmaking. Our goal is to collaborate with filmmakers telling America's stories and provide them with resources and support. Like the Lavine Family, who makes this fellowship possible, we at The Better Angels Society recognize that our democracy is strengthened and enriched when more Americans see films like HOME FROM SCHOOL. -- Courtney Chapin, Executive Director, The Better Angels Society

Synopsis: In 2017 a Northern Arapaho delegation travels from the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming to Carlisle, Pennsylvania to retrieve their children buried there a century ago. With the unearthing of the remains, the film journeys through the troubled legacy of Indian boarding schools and follows the brave efforts of these native peoples they seek to heal historic wounds.

Founded in 2015 by writer and filmmaker **Geoff O'Gara**, **Caldera Productions'** mission is to find original stories rooted in the West and bring them to life on the screen. We produce independent documentary features and shorts as well as work with clients to develop their filmmaking ideas. Our subjects range from endangered species (FERRET TOWN) to cowhands (THE DRIFT) and take on issues such as Native American boarding schools (HOME FROM SCHOOL) and the first women allowed to vote (THE STATE OF EQUALITY).

FILMS ACROSS BORDERS Stories of Resilience and Hope



Films Across Borders, a showcase of critically acclaimed films, documentaries and shorts from around the world, launches virtually this fall. In its sixth year, the theme for 2020 focuses on *Stories of Resilience and Hope*. The film series is co-presented by American University in partnership with 19 embassies, cultural organizations, arts institutions, and environmental groups. All are free to the public and viewable on a variety of online platforms through December. Films are listed here FilmsAcrossBorders.org.

Films Across Borders: Stories of Resilience and Hope events are co-presented by the following organizations: **American University**, **National Gallery of Art**, **National Geographic**, **Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital**, **We Are Water Foundation**, **The Nature Conservancy Pennsylvania/Delaware**, **Anacostia Riverkeeper**, **Embassy of the Argentine Republic**, **Delegation of the European Union**

to the United States, Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain, Mexican Cultural Institute, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Sweden, Japan Information and Culture Center, Goethe-Institut Washington, Embassy of Switzerland, Immigration Film Fest, DC LaborFest, Women in Film & Video, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.

We Are Grateful!



Thank you for being a part of this community of bold, courageous, and dedicated media change agents. Women in Film & Video is proud to stand with a diverse set of innovators and creators along with organizations that support the work we do.

The WIFV Board and Staff

New & Renewing Members (Oct 28 - Nov 23, 2020)

Ellen Adams
Lori Baluta
Sara Barger
Maria Barnes
Alexandra Bellamy-Cesar
Donna Brant
Felicia M. Barlow Clar
Deryl Davis
Celia de la Vega
Susan Donnelly
Daphne Glover Ferrier
Robert Ferrier
Tim Flaherty
Kirk Flashner
Lynn-Jane Foreman

Laetitia Gainsily-Doyle
Pamela Hoevel
Katherine Kerr
Debbi Mack
Naa Adei Mante
Lisa Mao
Sara Rose Moustaid
Dawn M. Morgan Neary
Geoffrey O'Gara
Jennifer Oko
Shyla C. Palm
Andrea Passafiume
Anja Paul
Melanie Pipes

Jack Reilly
Shoshana Rosenbaum
Jean Rosolino
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Sam Sheline
Samantha Spittle
Betty Sullivan
Leon Swerdel-Rich
Jamille Wallick
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VIRGINIA IS FOR FILM LOVERS



Send Stories to:
director@wifv.org

About WIFV

Women in Film & Video provides educational and networking opportunities for screen-based media makers, celebrates women's creative and technical achievements in media, and advocates for parity both in front of and behind the camera to ensure that all voices can be heard.

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