



February 2015

President's Message

See Erin's message from Sundance below.



WIFV-MD Merges with WIFV

WIFV is honored to be the new home for members of WIFV-MD which ceased operations in January 2015. We are already planning a Networking Event on February 25 (details TBA) and a series of workshops to be delivered in the Baltimore area. We certainly look forward to being a handier resource for filmmakers in that part of the vibrant DMV region. For many members who maintained dual membership, this will result in cost savings (and fewer emails). The coordination of Baltimore area events will be coordinated by WIFV Board Members, Betsy Royall and Amy Johanson. We are grateful to the leadership of WIFV-MD in making this a smooth transition. Questions? Email director@wifv.org

On-Set Safety PSA

The issue of on-set safety is critical and everyone's responsibility. In order to make it easier for every crew member to be proactive, a PSA and mobile app have been created in the aftermath of the 2014 death of [Sarah Jones](#), a young camerawoman who was hit by a train while setting up a shot on train tracks. [The PSA is available here](#). [You can access the mobile app here](#).

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Roundtable Round-Up

WIFV/Docs in Progress **Doc** Roundtable - **Navigating Public Television**

February 9, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St, NW
[RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters Roundtable

February 23, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St, NW
[RSVP here](#)

Editors Roundtable

February 24, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St, NW
[RSVP here](#)

Talent Roundtable

February 26, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St, NW
[RSVP here](#)



The Women's Media Center is pleased to announce the publication *Unspinning the Spin: The Women's Media Center Guide to Fair and Accurate Language* by Rosalie Maggio.

By combining eye-opening facts plus wit, *Unspinning the Spin* helps you decode the hype and say what you actually mean. Consumers and creators of media are the most obvious beneficiaries, but everyone can benefit from this timely guide on the background, current uses, accuracy, non-biased alternatives, and best practices for choosing and de-coding commonly used words and phrases.

Unspinning the Spin: The Women's Media Center's Guide to Fair and Accurate Language is available in print from WMC Press on Amazon.com or womensmediacenter.com, or in e-book format distributed by Open Road Integrated Media on Amazon Kindle, Apple iTunes, Nook, Google eBookstore and Sony Kobo.

Public Hearing on Public TV and Independent, Point-of-View Docs

At this year's [Media That Matters conference](#) at the Center for Media & Social Impact, a free panel will showcase one of the hottest topics for indies this year: whether *Independent Lens* and *POV*, the two major showcases for authorial indie work, will stay in their primetime slot on PBS. It's an opportunity for indies to explain to PBS why viewers want and need diverse programs for underrepresented viewers. [RSVP here](#)

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 6:30 - 8:00pm
Malsi Doyle & Michael Forman Theater
2nd Floor, [McKinley Building](#)



20 Something Happy Hour

WIFV has a new initiative to connect with the younger members of the DC film community. This is the fifth of many events to spread awareness about WIFV and build a strong under-30 network.

Wednesday, January 26, 2015, 5:30 to 8:30 pm
Lost & Found
1240 9th Street, NW (Mt. Vernon Square)
[RSVP here](#)

Monthly Dinner & Movie!

WIFV is delighted to announce a new partnership with the Woman's National Democratic Club to present a dinner/movie night once a month. In February 27 we present *Tale of the Tongs* by Judith Dwan Hallet and Stanley Hallet.

In 2013, architect Travis Price and his students from The Catholic University of America designed an architectural installation on the island of Inishturk in Ireland. The studio, Spirit of Place, explores the connection between



culture, landscape and the unique history of its inhabitants bringing back meaning into modern architecture - a new architecture of the 21st century. Over nine days, the students build a memorial on this remote, sparsely populated island, interweaving the construction with profiles of the people who live on Inishturk. *Tale of the Tongs* presents an insight into this emerging cultural landscape of modern architecture. Directors Judith Dwan Hallet and Stanley Ira Hallet will be at the screening!

Tale of the Tongs

Friday, February 27, 2015, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Woman's National Democratic Club
1526 New Hampshire Ave, NW (Dupont)
\$25 (Light Supper & program) Cash Bar
[RSVP here](#)

Dinner & Movie will happen the 4th Friday of the month and subsequent events will feature films made by regional filmmakers. So save the dates!



Member Coffee

Tuesday, **February 24, 2015**
8:30 to 10:00 am
Starbucks
1501 North 17th Street
Rosslyn, VA 22209
[RSVP here](#)

Make a 31 for 31 Nomination!

Every March for the past three years WIFV has recognized the work of a member every day as our way of celebrating Women's History Month. The \$31 for 31 Campaign is a fun way to celebrate our own trailblazers. We've started our list and we're checking it twice, but we'd like your input.

If you have a colleague you would like to nominate to be included in the 31 for 31 Campaign, send their name and couple of sentences supporting your choice to director@wifv.org. Members may self-nominate!

Don't hold back. To celebrate our 35th Anniversary we will be honoring 35 members (National Pi Day always gives us a chance to add a few more!). The WIFV Board has also decided that any contributions received as part of this Campaign will benefit the Documentary Seed Fund. You can celebrate colleagues, draw attention to an important funding need, and get a surprise every morning learning about another WIFV Member. Send your nominations by February 15 to director@wifv.org



Thursday, March 12, 2015; 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Policy Restaurant, 1904 14th Street, NW, DC
\$35; \$50 at the door [Registrations required](#)

On the Cutting Edge of Government Productions

February Weds One - February 4, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW, DC (Dupont Circle South Metro)
\$15 WIFV Members; \$30 public [RSVP here](#)

Innovations in government production are as plentiful and diverse as the paths to public sector work. Hear from producers who are using new technology and powerful production techniques to engage and inform audiences at home and around the world. Panelists will share their creative work and reflect on the paths to staff, contract and freelance jobs with government agencies.



Confirmed **Speakers** include:

Nutan Chada is an Executive Producer with the Defense Logistics Agency where she leads a team to produce documentaries, PSAs, and corporate videos, while also working a special detail as a Project Manager of Strategic Outreach and Emerging Media for the Office of the Secretary.

Karen Chaput is a video producer at the Library of Congress where she produces documentaries, educational and promotional videos and video lectures for the loc.gov website. Previously, she was

the Video Production Manager at Peace Corps and a video editor for the White House Communications Agency.

Erin Curtis is the Studio Team Lead in the Office of Digital Platforms for the State Department's International Information Programs, where she develops and directs interactive studio-based webcasts on a variety of streaming platforms.

Emre Tufekcioglu is a Senior Producer for Navy Medicine where he has applied his vast experience in broadcast journalism and feature production to build a state of the art facility producing high end informational, documentary and narrative work.

Erin Curtis is the Studio Team Lead in the Office of Digital Platforms for the State Department's International Information Programs, where she develops and directs interactive studio-based webcasts on a variety of streaming platforms.

Moderator **Judith Snyderman** is currently a contractor for the International Information Programs bureau at the State Department and has also worked on contract and freelance assignments for DoD and Voice of America.

Postcard from Sundance!



By Erin Essenmacher, WIFV President

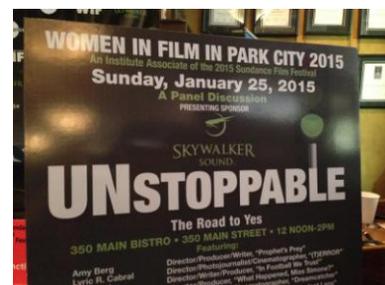
Greetings from Park City! Or to be precise - greetings from 40,000 feet somewhere over the Midwest. I just wrapped a whirlwind 5 days at the Sundance Film Festival. I am exhausted and exhilarated and completely inspired, and I wanted to share with you some of the highlights:

From virtual reality to augmented reality, demonstrations abounded showcasing the next frontier in multi-media filmmaking. HP sponsored an augmented reality lab with plenty of tools for expanding the user experience and educational components of film projects. My favorite feature: using the Sundance app to take a photo of a production still and having a behind-the-scenes video pop up on my phone that explained the backstory. Tools like these are set to completely change the landscape of how filmmakers tell their stories and connect with audiences. [You can read more about it here.](#)

Also on demo: Sundance's new online streaming service, [Doc Club](#). Curated in part by *This American Life's* Ira Glass, it's like Netflix for documentary films. It's poised to be a real breakthrough in distribution for both doc filmmakers and for those audiences looking for often hard to find titles. You can check out their [website](#) for a free trial and more information on membership benefits including free screenings and festival events.

One of those docs that deserves widespread distribution is the new Marc Silver film [3-½ Minutes](#), which explores the death of teenager Jordan Davis, who was shot when he and some friends refused to turn down their music. The film premiered at Sundance with Davis' parents in attendance for a powerful and moving Q & A. In the interest of full disclosure, the film's composer, Todd Boekelheide is a good friend, so I knew the score would be amazing, but I was completely floored by the entire film. Only a month into 2015 and I'm calling it - I think the *3 ½ Minutes* is a strong contender for next year's best documentary Oscar category.

And speaking of the Oscars, in a year when the Academy disappointed with the stark lack of diversity represented in the 2015 Oscar nominees, it was energizing to see so much diverse talent on display in Park City. From French director Celine Sciamma who directed the fierce, fresh feature *Girlhood* (*Bande de filles*) to the bold and lyrical doc *The Amina Profile* from Canadian director Sophie Deraspe, there were many great reminders of the power of female filmmakers to shape the creative landscape.



Our WIF sister chapters were also in full effect, addressing challenges of women in the business. I

was happy to bump into DC's own casting power house and



Essenmacher & Skyrme

former WIFV board member/ long-time WIFTI liaison Kimberly Skyrme. We were both at WIF LA's "Unstoppable- the Road to Yes", a discussion with some of the top female talent at Sundance including Liz Garbus (Director / Producer, *What Happened, Miss Simone?*), Kim Longinotto (Director / Producer / Cinematographer, *Dreamcatcher*), Amy Berg (Director *Prophet's Prey*), Lyric R. Cabral (Director / Producer (*T*)*ERROR*), and Lois Vossen (Founding & Deputy Executive Producer, *Independent Lens*). The discussion focused on how women can succeed in the business. Liz Garbus gave the audience a good

reminder of what lies at the heart of success as a filmmaker "It's about hard work and believing in your story even when others don't. It's a lot of pushing, pushing through. It's about pushing through the darkness in the edit when you think you'll never find the shape of the story and then you do and it's beautiful." WIF LA also handed out \$33,000 in grants and in-kind donations to narrative and documentary filmmakers from WIF LA. [You read more about the winners here.](#)

At a brunch the next day featured a panel with Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda talking about women in Hollywood. Two years after the Sundance Institute released its groundbreaking "[Exploring the Barriers and Opportunities for Independent Women Filmmakers](#)," Fonda had [strong words for the studios](#). The study was conducted by Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California. Annenberg researcher Dr. Stacy Smith was on hand again at Sundance this year, speaking on a WIF Utah panel about women in the entertainment industry.

I also talked with Dr. Smith about Annenberg's brand new report card, launching later this year, which will hold studios accountable for diversity in their ranks and in their work. *The Comprehensive Analysis and Report on Diversity (CARD)* will examine the studios and then assign a grade based on the chain of command at major media companies to examine diversity in executive suite decision-making. The report also scores for several aspects of on-screen diversity across film, TV, and digital content - such as gender, race/ethnicity, and LGBT representation. It's set to be game changer that I predict will shake up the conversation and help move the diversity in Hollywood conversation one step closer to real action and change. [More on the report card here.](#)

And finally I met a lovely young filmmaker at an event sponsored by the New Orleans Film Office. His first narrative feature [Born Again Dead](#) will begin filming in New Orleans in May and is slated for completion this September. Of particular note to those here in DC - the film is produced by DC's own Carol Bidault de l'Isle - former WIFV board member and Founder / Executive Director of the DC Independent Film Festival. I will be following their progress closely with hopes that we can host a DC screening sometime in 2016.



Essenmacher with filmmaker Angela Tucker and Jolene Pinder, ED of the New Orleans Film Festival

All in all it was great trip and I dare say I may end up a Sundance lifer - great films, great energy and amazing dialogue around the creative process and creative economy. [You can check out the full line-up of Sundance films and panel discussions here.](#)

Holiday Party Rings in the New Year!

By Liz Lovern



The WIFV/TIVA Holiday party was held Monday, January 26th in the midst of awards season. Instead of "Who are you wearing?" the topic of conversation among the 180 attendees at the [Harman Center for the Arts](#) was "What are you working on?" Here's a quick rundown:

Producer **Abigail Sharon** recently completed her independent documentary [Rudy & Neal Go Fishing](#) about an American veteran suffering from PTSD who uses fishing as rehabilitation. Abigail is on her way to the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival to screen her

documentary and regrets not better utilizing WIFV's documentary resources.

Cameraman **John Wetmore** stays busy producing his long-running public television series, [Perils for Pedestrians](#), that examines the issues affecting those who would rather walk than drive. A dual member of WIFV and TIVA, John tries to attend every event because it's a great way to network with his peers and cast people for his show.

Former WIFV Board member **Paige Gold** is excited about starting her new style of casting agency, [Triple Threat Talent](#). Using her skills as a formerly LA-based entertainment lawyer, Paige wants to bridge the gap between the highly skilled actors in Washington, DC and producers who are casting for their projects.

As TIVA's Government Liaison, **Todd Clark** works closely with WIFV Executive Director **Melissa Houghton** addressing the needs of the media community when legislation is under consideration by City Council. Todd is also working on increasing the number of WIFV members involved with the [TIVA-DC Peer Awards](#), either to receive awards or participate as judges. The Peer Awards is not a competition, but an acknowledgment and celebration of the exceptional quality work created in the mid-Atlantic region.



Instead of golden globes or bronzed statues, some attendees were awarded prizes that focused on furthering their careers. **Emily Wathen** received the 2015 scholarship from the [Carolyn's First Decade Fund](#), created to advance and support the careers of media professionals working in their first decade. The Fund was established in memory of Carolyn Projansky who was a long-time WIFV member and documentary filmmaker dedicated to mentoring young filmmakers. Most notable among the door prizes was a class donated from the nation's premier digital media training center [Future Media Concepts](#).

And speaking of winning, these attendees received books and classes provided by WIFV and Future Media Concepts:

Peter Roof - *Orange is the New Black*

Ashley Blue - *Bossypants*

Kraig Greff - *The \$11 Billion Year*

Osiris Rebollo - *Five Came Back*

Celine Di Stasio - *And Furthermore...Memoirs of Judy Dench*

Giovanna Chesler - *Kate Remembered*

Stephen Ames - *Hello Gorgeous*

John Roche - Pass to WIFV Anniversary Dance Party on March 12

Hyogi Sun, Rick Bernstein, Neisa Condemaita, and Helen Straight - Passes to WIFV Career Programs (Resume Swap, Media Job Fair, Salary Negotiations)

Blair Dorosh Walther - Class at Future Media Concepts

Women In Film & Video ([WIFV](#)) and the Television Internet & Video Association ([TIVA](#)) are

individual organizations started in the 1970s serving the needs of the media production community in the DMV area. When these two organizations come together, everyone wins.

Supporter Spotlight: Ott House Audio

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.

Ott House Audio Makes Some Noise

Nestled between a craft beer brewery and a tire depot in downtown Silver Spring, a small audio studio is making some big noise. Ott House Audio (or OHA, as it's commonly known,) is a boutique audio studio founded by sound stylist Cheryl Ottenritter. Her goal: to lead an agency that produces stellar sound and is deeply rooted in creative collaboration.

Ott House can accommodate a variety of audio needs for clients from the Smithsonian Channel, to National Geographic, to Audible, Google and TV One. Audio recording, radio, sound design and mixing are just some of the services offered. What first started 2003 in the Ottenritters' basement has now become a technologically superior studio with mix capabilities ranging from mono to 7.1 surround. OHA boasts multiple surround sound mix suites, a record booth, and a fully equipped machine room.

Ott House has a brigade of top sound engineers on hand whose combined experience exceeds 50 years. Cheryl is a member of both the Cinema Audio Society (CAS) and the Motion Picture Sound Editors (MPSE). Veteran Mixer/Sound Designer Jeremy Guryre and Sound Designer/Mixer Alex Roldan round out the creative at OHA. John Ottenritter puts time in the chair, too, and has recently taken over daily operations for the group. In 2011, OHA joined forces with Amigo Media and is now able to offer clients a wider range of post production finishing services -- with Robbie Carman as colorist.



From Left to Right - Robbie Carman, Alex Roldan, Cheryl Ottenritter, Jeremy Guyre, and John Ottenritter.

Ott House has been making a name for itself all along the East Coast. Recent projects have won the agency numerous industry awards, including several Tellys and an Emmy. At OHA we have a deep passion for sound, which is apparent in every project we touch. Visit us at www.otthouseaudio.com, follow us on Twitter @otthouseaudio, or like us on Facebook, but more importantly, come on by and meet us. You are always welcome!

DCCAH Provides Critical Operating Support

By Kathy Dismukes



WIFV has been approved for a \$20,000 Grant-in-Aid from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAH) to support our operations. Operations money is the most difficult to secure, and we are thrilled to have the support of the Commission! It's not only a validation of WIFV's contributions to the DC-based media community, it's an endorsement of the importance of advancing women and girls in DC's creative economy.

Not familiar with DCCAH? Its mission is "to encourage diverse artistic expressions and learning opportunities so that all District of Columbia residents and visitors can experience the rich culture of our city." Funded in part by the NEA, its programs include public art exhibitions, events, and a number of grant programs. The

commission's staff is headed by Lionell Thomas, Executive Director. Moshe Adams, who has been a panelist at a WIFV Wednesday One on finding funding, is Director of Grants, and Steven Mazzola is Grants Programs Manager. They and other staff members provide group and individual technical assistance to applicants, and they become champions for grantees. Regarding WIFV's grant, Mazzola said, "I look forward to getting a front-row seat to all of your activities this year."

Advisory Review Panelists for each grant program make funding recommendations to the Commission Board, which makes final decisions. We are so grateful to the DCCAH Advisory Review Panelists, board, and staff! We look forward to reporting on our accomplishments to the Commission and to WIFV members. [Check out the work of DCCAH here.](#) You can see their [Arts\(202\) blog here.](#)

Seed Fund Continues to Sprout!

WIFV is raising funds for a new **Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers!** [Make your donation here.](#) Applications for the \$2,500 grants will be available as soon as we can fund the grants! **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. Your contribution is a seed that will help a film grow!



Contributors as of January 31 include: 20-somethings, Ben Abdul-Haqq, Nikki Webber Allen, Nancy Breslin, Via Buksbazen, Rebecca Bustamante, Denene Crabbs, Frank Cervarich, Kathy Dismukes, Erin Essenmacher, Joe Fab, Mary Frost, Erica Ginsberg, Carmela Gioio, Heather Godwin, Melissa Houghton, Carletta S. Hurt, Cynthia Iris, Judy Kimel, Lance Kramer, Mary H. Leahy, Hilary Linder, Scott Lunt, Debbi Mack, Mary May, Pippa McBride, Regina Meeks, Beth Mendelson, Judy Meschel, Robin Noonan-Price, Matthew Radcliff, Carol Savoie, Hillary Shea, Flo Stone, Sheri Ratick Stroud, 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 contribution.](#)

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.

Call for Award Info

If you have won an award, screened at a film festival, or received a major grant, please let me know so we can share your success. Send the info to director@wifv.org

New and Renewing Members

The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership (January 1 - January 31).

Fredric Abramson
Erica Arvold
Jax Baires-Diener
Denise Beale
Sharretta Benjamin
Virginia Bertholet
Susan Borke
Edna Snow
Barbara Burst
Claire Callahan
Frank Cervarich
Tina Chancey

Whitney Henderson
Jaime Horrigan
Rouane Itani
Justin Jackson
Chithra Jeyaram
Jeannie Johnson
Aviva Kempner
Rana Koll-Mandel
Krys Kornmeier
Joan Lanigan
Carola Mamberto
Emily Markle

Geri Reinhart
Bill Rinderknecht
Charlotte Rinderknecht
Linda Robbins
Anjum Saad
Rachel Stump
Tracy Suttles
Paula Sweeney
Kristen Udowitz
Phoenix Williamson

Corporate Members:

Patricia Crews
LeeAnn Dance
Jenise Davis
Mehmet Elbirlik
Michael Gabel
Kathleen Gardner
Brian Wilbur Grundstrom

Kathy Martin
Marilyn Munder
Jaclyn O'Laughlin
Kathleen Pearce
Jeffrey Porro
Jen Quintana

arvold
Braun Film and Video, Inc.
Studio Unknown

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
4000 Albemarle Street, NW
Suite 305
Washington, DC 20016
202-429-9438
director@wifv.org
www.wifv.org

Send Stories to:

director@wifv.org

