



WIFV NEWS

February 2016



President's Message

Awards season kicked off with the Spirit Awards in November, and will end with this year's controversial Academy Awards in February. In light of the growing criticism about the lack of diversity in nominees and

a boycott announcement by Jada Pinkett, Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs issued this statement:

"As many of you know, we have implemented changes to diversify our membership in the last four years. But the change is not coming as fast as we would like. We need to do more, and better and more quickly. . . . This isn't unprecedented for the Academy. In the '60s and '70s it was about recruiting younger members to stay vital and relevant. In 2016, the mandate is inclusion in all of its facets: gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation. We recognize the very real concerns of our community, and I so appreciate all of you who have reached out to me in our effort to move forward together."

CONCUSSION star Will Smith, who joined his wife Jada in saying he would not attend this year's awards ceremony, responded to the Academy's announcement last week in a BBC interview, which was promptly followed up by an *Entertainment* article. "This is far beyond me. This has nothing to do with me. This has nothing to do with awards," Smith said. "Awards are a really frivolous reason for me to put my hand up and make a statement. For me, this is much more about the idea of diversity and inclusion."

For the second straight year, all 20 men and women nominated in the Academy's acting categories are white. Although it's impossible to map the Golden Globe or Academy Awards perfectly to the SAG Awards because of the difference in award categories, this year's SAG Awards provided a broader opportunity for actors of all ethnicities to both participate and be

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Field & Studio Lighting

Wednesday, **February 3**, 2016, 6:30-8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW
\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 Public

[Register here](#)

Barbizon Capitol's Brad Minardi will discuss the basics of setting up lighting for several different field and studio applications at February's Weds One. A heavy emphasis will be put on the new Studio LEDs that are sweeping the market as the industry is moving towards that direction due to their energy saving properties and advanced features. Q&A and hands on demos will be available after the presentation.



We recorded the discussion on Diversity and Inclusivity from the Jan Weds One. It features panelists Nikki Strong, Tanya Hutchins, and Montre Missouri and a great audience discussion.

[You can see it here.](#)

Roundtable Round-Up

recognized for outstanding performances. Focused on performance only, the SAG Awards also highlighted films snubbed in this year's Academy Award nominations.

Predictably, Leonardo di Caprio took home another leading actor trophy for THE REVENENT at the SAG Awards. However, Idris Elba won both for his supporting role in the Netflix film BEASTS OF NO NATION, and also garnered top honors for his work in the television show LUTHER. Leading lady Brie Larson stayed on top, adding "the Actor" award to her Golden Globes win for the feature film ROOM. Other wins included Viola Davis for ABC's HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER, Uzo Aduba for ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK, and Queen Latifah for her portrayal of blues singer Bessie Smith in HBO's BESSIE. It's important to note that the SAG Awards are decided by a vote of peers, rather than a select group within an institution. Along with more award opportunities in film and television categories, peer-voting may influence the more diverse nomination and award results.

The same night the SAG Awards were being held in Los Angeles, the Sundance Film Festival was busy awarding Nate Parker's slave-revolt film THE BIRTH OF A NATION both the grand jury prize for narrative film and audience prizes in Park City, Utah. Parker's award sweep gave a nod to diversity. The New York Times quoted his onstage remarks: "An issue film succeeds when it touches people. I've seen that people are open to change." And in that moment, the race for the 2017 Academy Awards began.

Changing media one story at a time,
Rebecca

Documentary Roundtable - *Documingle*
February 8, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Doc House, 8700 First Street, Silver Spring
No RSVP needed

Screenwriters Roundtable - *First Five Pages*
February 8, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW
[RSVP here](#)

Editors Roundtable - *Green Buzz Agency*
February 11, 2016, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Green Buzz, 700 N. Fairfax St., Ste 304,
Alexandria, VA
[RSVP here](#)

Education & Children's Media Roundtable - *Meet Callaloo*
February 17, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW
[RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters Roundtable - *Writing Synopses*
February 22, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group
[RSVP here](#)

Talent Roundtable
February 25, 2016, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group
[RSVP here](#)

Narrative Directors Roundtable
March 7, 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

Member Coffee



Tuesday, **February 23**, 2016
8:30 to 10:00 am
Bagel Place of College Park
7423 Baltimore Avenue
College Park, MD
[RSVP here](#)

Film & TV Training - Production Assistant

Virginia Film Office, the Virginia Production Alliance, and Film and Video Studies at George Mason University present FTVTS: Film & TV Training Seminar

Saturday and Sunday, **February 20 & 21**, 2016 - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM (both days)
Harris Theatre at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive MS 4C1, Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
\$125 Per Person / \$75 Per Person for Students, Veterans and members of VPA - Virginia Production Alliance, WIFV, and TIVA.

[Register here](#)



Film & TV Training Seminar (FTVTS) is a two-day workshop designed to provide practical training for an entry-level Production Assistant job in the film and television industry. Participants will gain valuable knowledge and insight into the entertainment industry and will learn about on-set etiquette and protocol from seasoned filmmakers. The course will also include information on how to create a film-friendly resume, search for local VA productions and interview effectively.

Learn how to work on set or in the production office and become "the unforgettable PA." The training includes:

- Understanding the motion picture industry
- Who's who on a film set
- Script breakdown
- Scheduling procedures and techniques
- Film set language, protocol and etiquette
- Production paperwork overview
- Health and safety practices
- Production Assistant responsibilities
- Creating a film friendly resume
- Finding a job

This film industry training course was designed by Gary Romolo Fiorelli, founder of the Production Assistant Training Seminar (PATs), and will be taught by Gary with other working professionals in the film industry. Gary has worked extensively as an Assistant Director for film and television projects including *SONS OF ANARCHY* and ABC's drama, *MISTRESSES*. His film credits include *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN*, *BLADES OF GLORY*, and the Virginia-based Lifetime movie, *UNANSWERED PRAYERS*.

FTVTS is part of a workforce development initiative produced by the Virginia Film Office in association with the Virginia Production Alliance, and for this particular event, the Film and Video Studies at George Mason University.

A Record-Breaking, Award-Winning, Viral-Watching Year for Double R

Double R Productions recently presented gold and silver Television, Internet & Video Association of DC Peer Awards to the National Association of Broadcasters for the NAB Congressional Public Service Announcement Campaign. We broke our 2013 campaign record in 2015 with 307 senators, representatives and their families recording a total of 566 spots. The NAB distributed the 30-second PSAs to radio and TV member stations throughout the nation. Participants represent 49 states and three U.S. territories. Double R is proud to have produced this project for the NAB featuring hundreds of Congressional members and their families every off-election year since 1985. [Check out all eight PSAs on the NAB PSA Campaign website.](#)



Rosemary Reed, Michael Gionis and Catherine Baum present the TIVA Gold Award for "Start the Conversation," a PSA focusing on mental health awareness, and TIVA Silver Award for "Reading: Your Window to the World" to Suzanne Raven, Ann Marie Cumming and Dan Lemle of the NAB.



The Double R crew hard at work during the DARPA Robotics Challenge in a trailer at Fairplex in Pomona, California.

A week after Double R wrapped production for the NAB, the team hopped on a plane to California to produce, shoot and edit videos for the DARPA Robotics Challenge. On behalf of Booz Allen Hamilton and Big Picture Media & Events Inc., Double R produced 54 videos for the big screens and social sharing before and during the Challenge. One of our favorites is a [Celebration of Risk](#), or a compilation of falling robots! The video went viral quickly with more than 150,000 views to date.

[See what else they've been up to at the Double R website.](#)

Horizon Awards: Four Young Filmmakers to Watch

By Laura Berger | Women and Hollywood

The winners of the 2016 Horizon Award have been announced. This year's recipients are emerging filmmakers Macarena (Macqui) Gaona, Shanice Malakai Johnson, Juliette Gosselin and Florence Pelletier. [Read more here](#)



Independent film producers Cassian Elwes (DALLAS BUYERS CLUB), Lynette Howell (MISSISSIPPI GRINDG) and Christine Vachon (CAROL) created the Horizon Award last year in an effort to diversify the male-dominated field of directing.

Street Sense Rising Film Cooperative Screening

By Rana Koll-Mandel

First a bit about Street Sense in their own words: We have been changing the story about homelessness in our community since 2003. We offer economic opportunities to people experiencing homelessness through media that elevates voices and encourages debate on poverty and injustice. Our innovative approach harnesses the talents, aspirations and hard work of men and women who are homeless. At Street Sense we define ourselves through our work, talents and character, not through our housing situation.

I am neither a filmmaker nor a scriptwriter yet I attended the Street Sense Rising screening of two-30 min. films screened at Miss Pixie's on Jan 8 were "Fairness Rising" by Reginald Black and

Robert Warren and "Raise to Rise" by Sasha Williams. Discussion with filmmakers followed the screenings. The films were short and, not surprisingly, emotional but what really struck me was the awesome power of film to communicate and tell the loud and quiet stories of these lives. We have all read and seen so much about homelessness that the "real" simply becomes "unreal". Those "others" become a narrative or backdrop. Each of the films depicted stories about homelessness and were directly told in the voice, face, pictures and actual sounds of an individual person's life.



The production cooperative they call CAPTURING HOPE enables and encourages the homeless in the Nation's Capital to share their stories through original cinematography from the viewpoint of the street. And the stories told are of real living people; a significant number of whom perish annually because of hypothermia. The three films showed what life is really like living in a shelter or on the street. And each of the filmmakers, who spoke after the screening, had been in and out of homelessness themselves. Like the films, the messages were short, to the point and did have some uncomfortable moments but depicted a remarkable tenderness to the humanity of their struggles.

I attended because I already help run an all-volunteer, community, non-profit, which for the last 40 years has collected monetary donations, toiletries and warm coats for the homeless annually, but wanted to be re-educated about how powerful the tool of film, storytelling and advocacy can be when combined with the human spirit to keep moving forward and survive.

If you are interested in seeing these films or learn more about CAPTURING HOPE, contact Shira Hereld, Coordinator of Events & Audience Engagement via email at shira@streetsense.org.

-Rana Koll-Mandel is Founder of We R 1 Communications that specializes in PR and Marketing services for film festivals and filmmakers.



From February 24 - March 6, the largest Washington Jewish Film Festival to date will feature 69 films, 150+ screenings and events, 12,000+ attendees

Now in its 26th year, Washington Jewish Film Festival (February 24 - March 6) explores gender, migration, the supernatural, Arab citizens of Israel, artists' lives, and LGBTQ themes. In addition to the groundbreaking lineup of films, the Festival will host talkbacks and panel discussions with over 50 domestic and international filmmaker guests. The Festival is one of the region's preeminent showcases for international and independent cinema. [Take a look at selected films below or look at the full lineup at \[wjff.org\]\(http://wjff.org\).](#)

Local filmmaker represented in festival!

MIRIAM BEERMAN: EXPRESSING THE CHAOS

Dir. Jonathan Gruber (53 min, USA, 2015)

Mid-Atlantic Premiere

Documentary

At 90, Miriam Beerman is a survivor. This groundbreaking artist and Potomac, MD resident has overcome personal tragedy to inspire friends, family, peers, patrons and students about how to remain defiant, creative and strong. Miriam has struggled with her artistic demons to create haunting images that evoke the suffering of generations of victims. The film is a memorable profile of an artist who has elevated her empathy for the plight of the world's cast-offs into powerful portrayals of

dignity.

Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 pm - Bethesda Row Cinema

Thursday, March 3, 6:15 pm - DCJCC

[Purchase tickets here](#)

Oscar Mired: The Peaks and Pitfalls of an Awards Campaign

By Darianna Cardilli - from IDA Newsletter (Jan 20, 2016)

This year, a staggering 124 documentary feature films were submitted to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Oscar consideration. In early December, this number was winnowed down to a short list of 15. As if making a documentary were not hard enough, upon reaching completion and release, filmmakers have to rely on a separate skill set to promote their work and rise above the fray. Documentary turned to previous winners and nominees, as well experts in the field on how to navigate the murky waters of awards campaigning. [See full article here](#)

Call for Submissions - Gallery of Member Work

We are calling on all members: from directors and producers to makeup artists and sound recordists to submit their best work. If you can get it onto YouTube, you may submit it

Submission requirements:

- * You must be a current WIFV member in good standing;
- * Submissions must not exceed three minutes;
- * Videos may contain a combination of moving images and still photos of your work or the best three minutes of your film/project;
- * Submissions may be from any year;
- * Submissions must currently be housed on a YouTube channel;
- * Your submissions may not contain copyrighted material that does not belong to you;
- * One entry per person (please select your best work and send us only one link).

Submitting your video: WIFV members who wish to showcase their work should email a YouTube video link here no later than 5 pm on **March 1, 2016**. In the email, include your full name, the title of your video and a caption explaining the work in 150 words or less for use on YouTube.

If your video is selected, we will email you a web button that you can add to your website or use on social media to highlight that your work is featured. Look for that web button to be emailed during the week of March 20. [See who is already in the WIFV Gallery of Member Work here.](#)

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 31 for 31 Nominations



Every March WIFV recognizes the work of a member every day during the month as our way of celebrating Women's History Month. The \$31 for 31 Campaign is an important way to celebrate our own trailblazers and to raise donations for WIFV programs. We've started our list and we're checking it twice, but we'd like your input. [You can see past honorees here.](#)

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. The WIFV Board has decided that any contributions received as part of this Campaign will benefit the Documentary Seed Fund as we are getting ready to announce our Call for Applications! 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 16 to director@wifv.org**

WIFV/TIVA/CINE Holiday Party - February 5



Revive your spirits and get energized at the WIFV / TIVA / CINE Holiday Party on Friday, February 5. Celebrate the New Year with friends, food, door prizes, and networking.

Let the laughter ring!

Friday, **February 5**, 2016, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Harman Center for the Arts, 610 F Street, NW (Gallery Place Metro)

Online registration is closed. Walk-ins will be accommodated.

New and Renewing Members

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

<p>Donna Andrade Tracy Baumgardner Ahsante Bean Sharretta Benjamin Stephen Bier Susan Borke Connie Bransilver Sheila Brooks Barbara Burst Sharon Burtner Cintia Cabib Frank Cervarich Tina Chancey Yi Chen Robyn DeShields Faith DeVeaux Anne Marie DiNardo Kathy Dismukes Maxine Downs</p>	<p>Carol Federman Erin Finicane Itzel-Marie Gourmelon Nicole Haddock Sally Heldrich Jaime Horrigan Heather Jones Sarah Katz Sheila A. Keenan Susan Kehoe Lauren Klein Krys Kornmeier Karen Lillard Bethany McMahon Regina Meeks Edie Meyers Laurie Miller Daniel Mills Marilyn Munder</p>	<p>Catalina Parks Jessica Rambo Kiyoka Rhodes Bill Rinderknecht Charlotte Rinderknecht Linda Robbins Katharine Roman Patrick Sammon Joan Smyth Paula Sweeney Torrell Taylor Ben Weinberg Catherine Wyler</p> <p>Corporate Members: SRB Communications Studio Unknown</p>
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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
www.wifv.org

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