



# WIFV NEWS

## Members in the News - February 2021

Michelle Bowen-Ziecheck, Via Bia, Serena Lee, Renee Bullock, Ricardo Preve, Jeannie Johnson, Peggy Fleming, Renee Eastman, Emma Mankey Hidem, Interface Media Group, Judith Dwan Hallet, Tonal Vision, Alyscia Cunningham, Angela Pinaglia, Barbara Valentino, Maureen Sasscer

### THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME



**Michelle Bowen-Ziecheck, Via Bia, Serena Lee, and Renee Bullock** worked on another film in the DMV with Paolo Montalban, Prince Christopher in the 1997 CINDERELLA!

THE GIRL WHO LEFT HOME (formerly NANAY KO) is a musical dramedy about a Filipino-American who must put her dreams aside to keep her family restaurant from eviction. It has won the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival Emerging Filmmaker Award and CAAMFest FORWARD Audience Award. It is an official selection of Seattle Asian American Film Festival 2021. The film will be streaming nationwide March 4-14. [More info and purchase tickets here](#). You can learn more at [girlwholeft.com](http://girlwholeft.com) or follow on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @girlwholefthome.

### Johnson Co-Author!

Looking for a juicy page turner on a cold night? Download your copy of **CHURCH PAIN, CHURCH HURT**, available now as an e-book or in paperback on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)...put your feet up...and ENJOY! [See book trailer here](#).



Check out **Jeannie Johnson**, multi-award winning voice and on-camera talent + WIFV and TIVA member's new,

### Editorial Gets Responses



**Ricardo "Rick" Preve** has been working on the development of his next feature fiction, THE NIGHT BEFORE, which is set at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. The feature is the third film in a trilogy of the last night of famous men and what may have transpired.

Preve wrote an editorial in the *Richmond Times Dispatch* about the legacy of racist nicknaming at Monticello which has been, to say the least, controversial. [You can read the piece, and the comments from the public here](#).

### Potomac Travels



**Peggy Fleming** is sharing DOWN THE OLD POTOMAC ON THE C&O CANAL; A Thomas Edison Film (1917) found while

collaborative book project with best selling, Amazon author, Manswell T. Peterson.

CHURCH PAIN, CHURCH HURT, currently #2 and rising, on Amazon's Black/African American Christian Fiction & New Releases on Kindle Unlimited chart, explores that age old question - What do you do when the church (and the people) you love turn on you? For Martha Jenkins, she turns to her God when her pastor... trapped in his sins... does the unthinkable and life crashes down around her. Can one shattered soul begging for mercy and love pick up the broken pieces?

How far would you go, and what would you do to escape CHURCH PAIN, CHURCH HURT?

## Love Is On the Air



Creator and host of DC's THE GAME SHOW OF LOVE, **Emma Mankey Hidem** was interviewed on **FOX 5** to talk about where she got the idea to

start an interactive game show centered on dating. [Watch it here](#). And **WJLA** included THE GAME SHOW OF LOVE in their list of ways to celebrate Valentine's Day! [If you want to be a contestant, you can apply here](#).

These are Hidem's top reasons she suggests using games as a tool for building a connection:

- They can distract from nerves and keep you engaged without having to work too hard at it
- Some games facilitate getting to know each other and asking deeper questions
- Competitive games can fuel a flirtatious rivalry
- Cooperative games make you work together
- Games keep you present, making it harder to check your phone

assembling images of the Potomac as a way of travelling without leaving home.

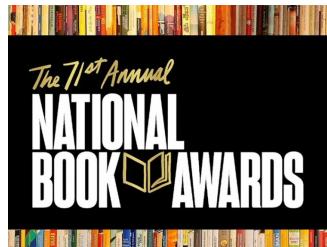
## STELLA Trailer

Check out the trailer of the narrative short film, **STELLA**, [here](#). WIFV member **Renée**



**Eastman** and her husband, Greg Berger, a video editor/colorist/producer, are partners in BergerFilms and this is their first production. It was filmed in Arlington and is being submitted to film festivals. Logline: An emotionally troubled man enlists the help of his neighbors when Stella goes missing and is reminded of what matters most.

## Interface Media & National Book Awards



The time-honored National Book Awards enjoyed a huge, virtual production success!

Upholding ideals that literacy reigns, the highly anticipated U.S. Literary Awards attracted more than 2,000 viewers, tripling the annual in-person event. Hosted by American author Jason Reynolds, in addition to his charismatic coverage of the coveted awards ceremony, over half a million dollars was raised to benefit literacy programs. Kudos to @usefulmedia, for producing such a special program. #nbawards

**IMG Services:** Virtual Set; DP with 4K camera package, Audio Tech, Prompter Operator with Gear and our Zoom Setup for Remote Production; Single host show direct-to-camera.

## THE FORCE BEHIND THE VEIL

**Judith Dwan Hallet** was hired by the The National Democratic Institute to profile two courageous women in Yemen trying their best to make a difference at the grass roots level and filmed YEMEN: THE FORCE



BEHIND THE VEIL in 2005. Amatarrahman Johhaf is the director of Queen Arwa Girls School in Taiz as well as an elected member of the local council in Taiz. Salamah Ba Husein is a Bedouin woman living outside of the small town of El Abr working with the Bedouins in her district. She too is on the local council. Both Amatarrahman and Salamah are trying to improve the lives of women in their country at the local level bringing educational and economic opportunities to both men and women.

The film resonates as conflict continues in Yemen. [More info on the project is here](#). Judy will have a chapter about the making of the film in her upcoming memoir!

## Tonal Vision Hired For Orange County Virginia Campaign

Nationwide, this past year has been unusually challenging for small businesses to keep their doors open. To combat this and promote shopping local, the Orange County Economic Development Department in Virginia set out to inform residents and visitors that local businesses were open and ready to welcome back customers for the holidays safely. Developed by [Platinum PR](#), the “Retail Ready” social media and blog campaign employed [Tonal Vision LLC](#) of Baltimore, MD, to film and edit the creative marketing project’s video content.

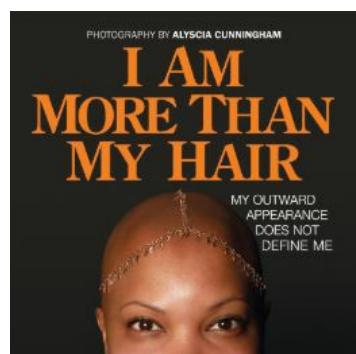


“It was a pleasure working with Tonal Vision on this campaign. They were able to capture our concept for these videos and perfectly highlight Orange County business in a safe, COVID-friendly manner,” said Sandy Dubay, Founder and CEO of Platinum PR.

Launched in November of 2020, the compelling [series of four videos](#) supported the final campaign by capturing the safety precautions b-roll and scripted footage of 13 Orange County businesses. A total of 50 businesses were featured during the two-month campaign.

Tonal Vision is a woman-owned video and music production company in Baltimore, MD that works with small businesses, advocacy groups, and performing artists to create high quality video messages to promote their cause, their passion, and their livelihood.

## Expanding the Experience of Beauty



### Artist Challenges Concepts--and Accessibility

Alyscia Cunningham rocked the art world with her 2018 book *I Am More Than My Hair* in which she explored the beauty of women who (for health reasons) have embraced baldness. In 2018, she helped create a fashion show, in which the male, female and child models were all proud bald. In 2020, she brought those voices and images to the moving screen, with her documentary of the same name. Now, in 2021, she has lifted the barrier of accessibility—for the vision and hearing impaired—in a groundbreaking

gallery show that conveys the powerful images of women whose glory is more than their hair--in multi-sensory portraiture.

“The lack of accessibility in art exhibitions—for vision and hearing impaired persons—is an area that most artists feel helpless to correct,” said Cunningham. “After becoming aware of this gap, I wanted to find a way to make my visual art accessible in new formats, that would open the experience of the art to people often barred from it.”

Alyscia investigated the rarely used process of Lithophanes, three-dimensional imagery that interacts with light to create a unique visual experience. While the process has been

used for centuries, Alyscia conceived of using it to transform the two-dimensional photographic portraits into three-dimensional “touch-scapes,” creating both a tactile and a visual experience.

Accessibility is built into every part of the exhibition. Braille embossing will accompany written descriptions. Audio description of the images will be provided for visitors who have vision impairment. Interpreters in ASL (American Sign Language) will facilitate at the opening reception, and at the artist talk (TBD). The screening of the film, I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR, will include closed captioning and audio description for both hearing and vision accessibility. WIFV is honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for this documentary.

**You can make tax-deductible donations to the project here.**

The exhibition will debut on Friday, March 19 at the Sandy Spring Museum, and will run until May 30, 2021. The facility and the show will be highly accessible, one of the “must haves” for the artist. **Event details are available here.**

“It has been challenging to create accessibility—the cost alone is intimidating,” Alyscia explained. “The journey has made me realize why many artists may not consider it.” To raise funds for the substantial costs, the artist held events in homes, applied for numerous grants, did crowdfunding, and other creative methods. “I felt I must be part of the solution. The impact of such an exhibit for people in these communities will be immense. Artists create change by making unseen things visible. I hope this exhibition will inspire many to build inclusion into our artistic and creative process.”

## Docs in Progress Announces New Staff

The Board of Directors of Docs In Progress is pleased to announce the appointment of **Lynn O'Connell** as Executive Director. O'Connell has more than 25 years of nonprofit management experience, including 19 years as an executive director. She previously served as Executive Director of Computer CORE, working to fulfill its mission to help low-income adults acquire the technological and life skills needed to pursue career aspirations. A Fulbright Scholar, Lynn also served as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer for 12 years.



Docs is also pleased to announce that **Angela Pinaglia** has joined as Docs In Progress's first Artistic Director. Angela, who is a documentarian and educator, has a rich history with Docs and many of our firsts. Besides being selected as a 2018 Fellow, in 2020 Angela served as the first Facilitator for the Fellows Program, teaching artist for our virtual teen filmmaking workshops and virtual festival coordinator for Community Stories.

**Barbara Valentino**, who has served as Docs' Interim Director for the past 15 months, returns to the organization's Board of Directors as its Board Chair.

## Try to do something positive in a difficult time



By Maureen Sasscer

I'm very proud that my script HEARD won the Award of Excellence at Catalina Film Festival. It is currently a selection for the Loudoun International Film Festival and the Artemis Women in Action Film Festival. I was shocked when I received notice that HEARD was selected for SoCal Film Festival and that CRACKED MIRRORS was selected as well.

It's right for us to be proud of our accomplishments and it's important to share our news about how our work is moving forward. It's critical that we each stay motivated and one thing that helps is entering the festivals and putting our work out there to be read.

My script HEARD has done really well, but I was elated for CRACKED MIRRORS to be selected in festivals as well. It was validating to me as a writer to see that more than one of my scripts would be selected for competition. My suggestion to all the writers is go on

[filmfreeway.com](http://filmfreeway.com) and put it out there and see how far it can go. Also look at the festivals that give notes because those notes can be fantastic.

Every successful writer I have talked to has said the most important part of being a writer is to write something everyday. I feel that is very true but I also feel it is very important to put your work out in festivals.

The morning I finished HEARD Melissa Houghton said "It doesn't matter how it looks right now just put it out there." I put it in a few festivals right after I hung up the phone. The script won the first two festivals I entered. I would never have known that it could win if Melissa hadn't pushed me to submit.

Upload your script and enter a few festivals, work on your next one while this one is out there and write something everyday. It's your passion, let it shine.

## Thanks to our sponsors



### News Deadline

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).



### About WIFV

Women in Film & Video (WIFV) 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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