



# WIFV NEWS

## July 2017 Members in the News

Featuring Kristin Reiber Harris, Krystal Tingle, WIFV 48 Hour Film Team, Frances A. Cheever, Arlette Thomas-Fletcher, Katie Lannigan, Hanan Daqqa, Alan C. Drummond, Yi Chen, Maya Pearson, Caroline Halligan, Netty Brinckerhoff, Amy Oden, DCEFF, Docs in Progress, Dianne Duncan Perrote, Zohar Rom, Giovanna Chesler, Keisha Jackson, Lisa Thrasher, Rebekah Mejorado, Call for Members in the News Articles and Awards Info, WIFT Alberta!

## 2017 WIFV Seed Fund Recipients

Thanks to the generosity of members, WIFV is able to provide a Seed Grant for Documentary Filmmakers to assist in the development of new projects. Applications are reviewed by a committee composed of WIFV Board, Advisory and Legacy Committee Members. The 2017 grants have been awarded to **Kristin Reiber Harris** for **Anim8Nature**, a series of animated shorts and projects showing the life cycles of plants and animals for young children through middle school students, and to **Krystal Tingle** for her feature-length documentary film O HAPPY DAY about the first gospel song to be a major crossover success.



The Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers recognizes a major need of independent mediamakers to find early support of their projects putting them in a better position to gain major funding and bring their projects to audiences. WIFV is the only media organization in the area to provide direct financial

support to its members through the Seed Fund, Randy Goldman Scholarship, and Cardyn's First Decade Fund. This support would not be possible without **your donations**, accepted throughout the year.

## Cheever Wins GIFF17 Pitchfest

Major Ret. **Frances A. Cheever** pitched a cable prime time episodic military ensemble concept and screenplay winning the prize at GIFF17's Pitchfest. Soon after winning that recognition, Cheever headed to LA to take a few meetings. She's diligently working on her "Bible" per Shonda Rhimes Master Class teachings, "an informative, awesome class".



*Speaking of awesome! Monica [Bellais] not only taught me the elements to write a strong script, one worthy to be selected for the Spotlight contest and have it provide me with a platform to showcase my screenplay, and win the award for Spotlight on*

## Kudos to WIFV 48 Hour Film Team!

For the 5th year, WIFV fielded a team in the DC 48 Hour Film Challenge. They had a fun weekend creating THE TENURE GAMES and the screening on July 14 at AFI Silver was well received. The film drew the most sustained, authentic laughs of any film shown! It's a battle to save the arts! Rap! Bop! Pop! Who will prevail?



## THE TENURE GAMES

CREW:

Director: Diane Williams

Producers: Dianela Urdaneta de Ratha, Diane Williams

Story Development: Nancy Breslin, Celia de la Vega, Stephanie House, Martha Newman, Diane Williams

Scriptwriter: Diane Williams

Editor: J.B. Torres Medina

Composer: John Rowles

Director of Photography: Greg Letiecq

Camera Operator: J.B. Torres Medina

Second Camera: David Crosson

Sound Mixer: Greg Letiecq

Gaffer: Anne Saul

Script Supervisor: Stephanie House

Production Assistants: Nancy Breslin, David Crosson,

*Philanthropic screenwriters: Monica taught her class in the setting of a production meeting, it was there that I learned valuable lessons, such as the importance of understanding the industry, the business of "Show". I went back to school at age 53, received a Masters degree in Producing Film & Television from American University. I continued to take her classes, through her guidance and encouragement to not be afraid to market myself as a screenwriter. Own it girl! Know the importance of embracing your story, telling it your way and never give up.*

*When I retired from the Army in December 2012, I returned to Maryland a few months later, lost, disconnected without my military community. It was through meeting Monica, her pushing me to get up and write and joining Wifv that I found a new community that allowed me to connect with other creative, likeminded storytellers. #Thankful*

Read more about what Frances is up to these days [here](#).

## Thomas-Fletcher Wins Best Screenplay



Congrats to writer, director, producer **Arlette Thomas-Fletcher** of Fruits of The Spirit Productions, Inc, whose period Western feature film script **THE LONESOME TRAIL** won "Best Screenplay" at the Christian Film Festival! This screenplay also was featured at the Los Angeles Lift Film Festival, and the Los Angeles CineFest. *Charisma Magazine* the number one Christian magazine in the world has

written a feature article about the production of **THE LONESOME TRAIL**.

Arlette worked on **THE KEY**, a dramatic script co-written with Charles Germain, a story surrounded by liberty and love that was featured in the 2016 Spotlight on Screenwriters catalogue. Arlette is a Silver Telly Award Winner and has produced more than 30 short films. Arlette also has volunteered her services in the film industry judging at film festivals for Telly Awards and Our City Film Festival. Her films have been featured in the Christian Film Festival, Inspired Faith Film Festival, Great Lakes Christian Film Festival, Baltimore Women's Film Festival, Attic Film Festival, Torpedo Factory Art Center Female Shorts & Film and Video Showcase, The Phoenix International Christian Film Festival, and World Music Independent. She is a past president of Women in Film and Video of Maryland.

You can congratulate Arlette Thomas-Fletcher via email, phone 410-627-6511 or at the Fruits of The Spirit [website](#).

(WIFV-MD has disbanded and WIFV is honored to provide services to filmmakers across Maryland.)

## Drummond Joins SRB

**SRB Communications** welcomes Alan C. Drummond, who joins them as Brand Marketing Manager. Drummond brings the SRB team, a rich background of experience in advertising marketing and graphics, both nationally and internationally. Prior to joining SRB Communications, Alan was a marketing consultant. He has worked in Buffalo, NY; for Octopus Advertising in Dubai; at Gulf Marcom in Oman, BackLite Media in Dubai, and Publicis Graphics in Kuwait. Alan was raised in Stirling, Scotland, 12 miles from the epic



Brian Duffin, Tonya Pettigrew, Aseem Ratha, Jennifer Shim

CAST:

President Crumb: Martha Newman  
Executive Assistant: Michael J. Reilly  
Trustee Brown: Yvonne Paretzky  
Music Lover Rapper: Greg Crowe  
Music Lover Bubble Wrap Buster (Paul Franciosa): Robert Gudauskas  
Music Lover Boxer: Jim Ruwaldt  
Dancing Diva Rapper: Lorrie Smith  
Dancing Diva Bubble Wrap Buster: Martha Karl  
Dancing Diva Boxer: Celia de la Vega  
Drama Queen Rapper: Shahrzad "Sherry" Sari  
Drama Queen Bubble Wrap Buster: Christie Starley  
Drama Queen Boxer: Nancy Breslin

## Lannigan Awarded Humanities Grant



**Katie Lannigan**, director/producer of **THE LAST DAYS OF BROOKLAND MANOR**, has been awarded a Humanities Council of Washington DC Open Humanities Grant. The funds will help support the production of a 15-minute video module for use at

community meetings this Fall and development of a project website. **THE LAST DAYS OF BROOKLAND MANOR** chronicles the redevelopment process of an affordable housing community in Northeast DC through the eyes of the residents who are organizing to keep their homes affordable. The project received a WIFV Seed Fund Grant in 2016. Katie will be sharing a trailer and launching a crowdfunding campaign soon! To learn more, contact Katie at [ISMediaDC@gmail.com](mailto:ISMediaDC@gmail.com) or visit [katielannigan.com](http://katielannigan.com)

## Daqqa - MY JOURNEY IN AMERICA

**Hanan Daqqa** recently finished taping two episodes of **MY JOURNEY IN AMERICA**, an original and dynamic show that focuses on immigrant women's stories from their country of origin to their



entrepreneurial successes in America. The show highlights resources for immigrant women and provides them an opportunity to discuss their challenges and receive feedback from a panel of experts. Daqqa, an immigrant herself, says: "People underestimate what immigrant women go through. Which is why this show was developed. What hurts me the most is that when immigrant women suffer, their children suffer. It takes immigrant families generations to feel normal again."

The talk show will be available on Facebook in the

battle in BRAVEHEART that featured Mel Gibson in the title role. He received his degree from Forth Valley College in Falkirk, Scotland.

"We are very happy to welcome Alan and his wealth of knowledge and experience to the SRB team," says Dr. Sheila Brooks, founder, president and CEO. "He brings not only great experience in advertising and marketing, but he has an incredible range of experience at international agencies."

## Meet the New Women at WIFV Office!



L-R: Maya Pearson, Cardine Halligan, Netty Brinckerhoff

WIFV welcomes its 2017 summer interns **Maya Pearson** and **Caroline Halligan**. Maya is a rising sophomore studying Radio/Television/Film with a focus on screenwriting at Northwestern University. Outside of the office, she can be found watching the newest superhero blockbuster.

Caroline is a rising junior

studying film at Johns Hopkins University. While not interning she loves watching her favorite film: BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (2005).

Caroline and Maya have been instrumental in researching and promoting this year's WIFV nominations to the National Film Registry. You can see the results of their work [here](#), along with a link to the online submission form so you can send your nominations to the Library of Congress (you must enter the title of the film its production year on the online form).

**Annette "Netty" Brinckerhoff** joins WIFV as the new Membership/Programming Coordinator. Netty grew up on a butterfly farm in the countryside of Costa Rica where she had a foot in two worlds; the small rural town and the large expat community. This experience fueled her interest in the connection between the local and international and eventually led her to pursue a degree in International Relations from American University. Through her background in social advocacy she became interested in how people's stories are told and shared, bringing her to WIFV! When she's not in the office she's making her own beauty products, trying her hand at photography, planning her next trip abroad, or scheming on how to befriend your dog.

## Call for Submissions: Short Docs on Local Topics

**Docs In Progress** is seeking submissions of short documentaries which are about people, places, history, and events which take place in Washington DC and its Maryland and Virginia suburbs. Selected films will be screened in their Community Stories Festival which takes place in Montgomery County, Maryland November 15-18. Submit your short before the early bird deadline on July 31, and Docs in Progress will waive your entry fee. Simply use Waiver Code DIPCS2017. [Find out more and submit.](#)

## WIFV at VPA Meeting

near future. To support MY JOURNEY IN AMERICA by donating skills or funds, please email Hanan [here](#) or call 978-241-0779.

## Chen Screening at DC Ideas Fest



**Yi Chen's** award-winning documentary **CHINATOWN: A CHANGING NEIGHBORHOOD** screened at this year's DC Ideas Fest. After the

screening, she talked to Greater Greater Washington's Joanne Pierce on her experience working with the residents at DC Chinatown's Wah Luck House and Museum Square to preserve their homes, and the on-going struggles of senior immigrant residents living in Chinatown. [Here](#) is the recently published article by Greater Greater Washington. Following more than 30 festival, broadcast, and community screenings, the documentary is now available to educational institutions worldwide. [Click here](#) for more information.

## EXOTIC now on Amazon

**Amy Oden's** EXOTIC, a portrait of an island's sexual economy is now available to stream on Amazon. You can see it [here](#).



Guam is unique for many reasons, but the particulars of sex work there are not always at the top of the list. A seemingly perfect backdrop for a strip club, the island should sound ideal to any girl coming from Portland, Atlanta, or Anchorage to work as an exotic dancer. But is it? EXOTIC foregrounds the stories of workers, as they discuss this fluid and secretive world. The film has fiscal sponsorship with WIFV.

## DCEFF Launches WATCH NOW

Exciting news! The **Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capitol** has just launched the official WATCH NOW page on the Festival's [website](#).



This new destination space features a dynamic collection of past Festival films that are currently

available for streaming. Some of the films are available to stream directly from our website or the film's website, while others are available on iTunes, Amazon, Netflix, Vimeo, YouTube and Sundance Now.

They will be updating the WATCH NOW page, based on the availability of films (many are only available online for a limited time). They will also be doing



Several WIFV members were at the recent Virginia Production Alliance - Northern Virginia Branch meeting featuring a great presentation by **Andy Edmonds**, Director of the Virginia Film Office. The meeting was hosted by Thundershot Studios in Fairfax, VA. We took some time out from networking to have our photo taken! L-R (front to back): Dianne Duncan Perrote, Zohar Rom, Giovanna Chesler, Melissa Houghton, Keisha Jackson, Lisa Thrasher, and Rebekah Mejorado.

## 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 [wifv.org](http://wifv.org) and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) by the 10th 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](mailto:director@wifv.org)

weekly promotion on our homepage, social media channels and via email, as part of #WATCHNOW Wednesdays.

## Thank you!

WIFV is honored to be recognized again as a Top-Rated organization by Great Nonprofits. Less than 1% of eligible nonprofits received this distinction. Because of the reviews WIFV has received, we've been a Top-Rated nonprofit since 2012. **Your review makes a difference!**



We value your your reviews throughout the year. Please tell Great Nonprofits about an experience you've had at a WIFV program, an interaction you've had with a speaker or fellow member, or just what WIFV means to you. [Click here to go straight to the WIFV page on their site.](#)

## Stories with a Global Perspective - WIFT Alberta

By **Pina Robinson**, Director, OLD COUNTRY



I live in Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada, I am a hairstylist for film and television as well as an aspiring film maker.

In Winnipeg, we have a smaller film community compared to Vancouver or Toronto, which doesn't always reflect the number of productions shooting throughout the year. There is, however, a strong independent film making community in Winnipeg, and a great love of the craft within the industry itself.

I took my start many years ago in the hair department and am still actively working as a head of department hairstylist. I knew early on that I wanted to make my own films but in all honesty, the writing, directing, casting, well actually the whole process, seemed quite daunting to me. I had my own ideas but did not consider myself a writer until a friend of mine asked me if I'd written anything. When I said "yes", he then said "well, then you're a writer."

OLD COUNTRY is a project that is dear to my heart, not only because it is my first official film, but it's also lightly based on a few stories my father had told me of his youth. Writing it happened quite quickly and it was easy to find the motivation to complete this project even though I was travelling with work at the time of pre-production. I had originally thought I'd like to produce but the excitement I felt as a director, and the connection between story, cast and the look of the show, all have since lured me towards directing.

My children, who've been extras and seen me work crazy hours since they were young, as well as friends and fellow crew members, joined with me to bring my dream to life! For me, writing, directing and finally making OLD COUNTRY, was the push I needed to believe I could actually be a filmmaker!

The film community in Winnipeg is eager and willing to help film makers at any level. With available grants, a variety of locations and crews that are passionate about their craft, it is an ideal city to make film and television happen. The industry in Winnipeg, as well as Canada, embraces a diversity of filmmakers and stays true to the craft. As a female film maker, I have been met with encouragement, potential resources and professionals who value the female storyteller.

I am currently writing, again while working full-time, and looking forward to bringing more stories to life.



WIFV is grateful for the annual support of these [companies](#) and our [corporate members](#).

Just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Women in Film & Video. Don't forget to add [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

## About WIFV

WIFV supports women in the 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

[www.wifv.org](http://www.wifv.org)

**Send Stories to**

[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)

## Support Women In Film & Video Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

[amazon smile](https://smile.amazon.com)