

July 2020

President's Message



Hi everyone,

Greetings from your new president. First, I just want to say that I hope everyone is doing as best they can these days. These are absolutely amazing times we are living through, and I'm sure each of you are affected at some

level by all that is going on. Within the WIFV community, I've seen so many examples of resilience, determination, resourcefulness, creativity, humor, and strength, and I'm glad we're able to share these qualities with each other.

Special shout out to our own **Isolation Players at the Pandemic Playhouse**, who kept me laughing at times when I really needed it.

I'm delighted to take the reins from our outgoing president **Robin Noonan-Price**, who as many of you know has been a wonderful leader for WIFV. Thanks so much Robin and the rest of the outgoing executive board and board members for all you've done for WIFV!

Our new executive board is terrific. Many of you know **Sara Barger**, our Vice-President, **Monda Webb**, our Treasurer, and **Dylan Comstock**, our Secretary. I'm excited to be working with this great group, as well as with our rock star **Melissa Houghton** and assistant rock star, **Brooke Friedman**.

And, of course, we have an awesome WIFV board, including a great group of incoming directors. It's so rewarding to work with people aligned on making a non-profit group as beneficial to its members as possible.

Just a bit about me, by way of background. I am relatively new to the entertainment world. After graduating law school, I spent two decades working in the financial services industry, which sounds boring but was actually pretty interesting. As I approached the end of my forties, with the kids nearly grown, my interests began to shift. I found myself spending increasing amounts of my spare time with art, history, literature, and film. On a lark, I took a few very basic filmmaking classes. I started researching cameras and making pilgrimages to B&H in New York.

A friend of mine told me "You should join whiff." Or

2020-21 WIFV Board

Executive Committee

Cathie Saadeh, President
Sara Barger, Executive Vice President
Dylan Comstock, Secretary
Monda Webb, Treasurer
Robin Noonan-Price, Immediate Past President/Advisory Committee Liaison

Members-at-Large

John Benedetto
Ericka Boston
Sonya Dunn
Dana Flor
Tara Jabbari
Steve Lack
Anna Reid Jhirad
Giuseppe Lucarelli
Emma Mankey-Hidem
Lauren Menkes
Fran Murphy
Malikkah Rollins
Sharon Sobel
Connie St. John
Sheri Ratick Stroud
Richard Volin

Board Year: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Roundtable Roundup

Screenwriters: *Pitch Practice*

June 29, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This is an online program

[RSVP here](#) and receive login info.

Narrative Directors: *Meet the Filmmaker -*

Michael Justin Lee

July 6, 2020, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

This is an online program.

[RSVP here](#) and receive login info and links to clips to watch in advance.

Documentary: *Trailer Night*

July 13, 2020, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

This is an online program.

[RSVP here](#) and receive login info and links to the trailers to watch in advance.

at least that's what I thought he said.

After about a year of all this, it was my husband who finally said – “You like being a lawyer, you like this film stuff, so why don't you become an entertainment lawyer?” So here we are. I'm now an entertainment attorney, an aspiring documentary filmmaker, and a very appreciative member of WIFV.

WIFV members are among the nicest, friendliest, most interesting group of people I've ever met. I love that our community is diverse (something I did not see in the financial services world, sadly), and that stories from all perspectives are being made. I learn something from every WIFV event I attend.

During my term, I look forward to serving WIFV's membership in the best way I can. My goal is to make us even better, faster, stronger, smarter – and to make sure WIFV is meeting the needs of all of our members, from folks like me who are just starting out to the most senior, experienced professionals in our ranks. It's worth it for all of us to connect, because we never know where those connections can lead. Also, it's great to make new friends, especially in times like these.

To that end, we'll be sending out a brief survey to make sure WIFV's programming is on point, both in terms of format and topic. Please look for the link and spend a few minutes helping us make sure we're being responsive to **your** needs and interests.

With that, I hope you are all staying healthy, strong, and creative during this roller coaster ride that is 2020. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any suggestions for me about anything – feel free to send a text or call (301) 842-6020, or email me at president@wifv.org.

Cathie Saadeh

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

COVID-19 Relief 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 comes available.

WIFV Office Moving in July

At the end of July, the WIFV office will be moving from Tenleytown to Midtown. We are delighted to be forming a media hive with Video/Action at 1200 18th Street NW, between the Farragut Square and Dupont Circle Metro stations.

Submit Members in the News

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. [You can see past issues here](#).



The WIFV Office will be closed on July 3

Upcoming Events

Invisible VFX for Indie Filmmakers - July 22

Invisible visual effects are utilized heavily in storytelling today to both hide distracting production issues and immerse your audience further into the story that couldn't otherwise be told by normal photographic means. In this webinar, **Shaina Holmes** shows us how to make invisible VFX more approachable for independent filmmakers. She will define common invisible VFX and demystify how VFX is involved in all stages of production, including script breakdowns, bidding, and node-based compositing basics in Fusion via the DaVinci Resolve platform.

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 pm

[RSVP here](#)

Free for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$10 for all general public

This is an online event and you will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation. [Download Resolve 16 here](#).

Building Resumes Returns July 14!

You are a creative professional who has a variety of skills that you use differently depending on the project. You are constantly expanding those skills as the chance presents itself. You are one of the reasons this is such an interesting media community to work in! Not sure how to market yourself to employers?

Learn how to best represent yourself during our webinar, *Resume Building for Multi-Passionate People* with **Sangeetha Subramanian**.

[More info and speaker bio here](#)

Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 - 8:00 pm

[RSVP here](#)

\$10 WIFV Members/\$25 Public

This is an online event. It will not be recorded because it is very interactive with the attendees! You will be sent the login link with your registration confirmation email.



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.

Thursday, July 23, 4:30-5:30 pm

[RSVP here](#) Free to participate

This is an online event and you will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.



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.

Tuesday, July 28 at 9:30 - 10:30 am

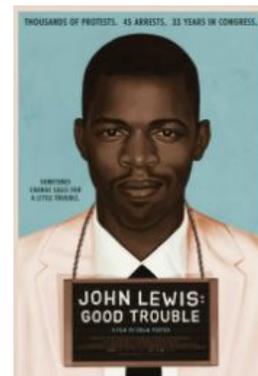
[RSVP here](#) Free to participate

This is an online event and you will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

News You Can Use

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE Available July 3

JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE, directed by acclaimed filmmaker **Dawn Porter** (TRAPPED, GIDEON'S ARMY), chronicles the life and career of the legendary civil rights activist and Democratic Representative from Georgia. Using interviews and rare archival footage, **JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE** chronicles John Robert Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform and immigration. Using present-day interviews with Lewis, now 80 years old, Porter explores his childhood experiences, his inspiring family and his fateful meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1957. In addition to her interviews with Lewis and his family, Porter's primarily cinéma vérité film also includes interviews with political leaders, Congressional colleagues, and other people who figure prominently in his life. [Watch trailer here.](#) [Streaming info here.](#) Ms. Porter is a WIFV Women of Vision Award recipient (2015).



Coming to You - Starting in August!



We are so eager to bring filmmaking resources to this community that we aren't waiting for the return to "normal." And really, how good was "normal" for you anyway? ScriptDC has always been about taking the field for this region's filmmakers by bringing information, resources, and connections that you can use to tell your stories.

So, we're deconstructing the weekend event into a series of 20+ workshops that will be presented across six months or so. Each month will have a theme and the workshops - set aside those Tuesday evenings now - will feature subject-matter experts who are interested in nurturing your talent.

August 11 will be a session with **Dave Trottier** (Yes, the author of *The Screenwriter's Bible* and several other screenwriters' reference books) to explain formatting for screenplays. **August 18** will be a demonstration of **Final Draft 11** when Shelly Mellott and Andrew Schwartz will reveal the latest features and best tips for maximizing this industry-standard software. Registration for these programs will open in early July. There will be significant time for questions (and answers) in both sessions.

September will focus on the foundations of screenwriting - plot, character, feedback. Other themes covered in October, November, January, and February will include Writing for Episodic Television, Documentaries, Writing Features, Producing, and It's On You! We are finalizing the presenters across these themes. An upside of the constraints on travel is that some people we have wanted to partner with for years are more available for you! **Registration will open soon** and there will be multi-workshop

discounts.

SRB Communications Celebrating 30 Years in Media

SRB Communications is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Since starting in the third bedroom of the home she shared with her husband in 1990, the company has evolved into a full-service boutique advertising, marketing and PR agency with offices in Washington, D.C., Baltimore and New York City.



The company and its CEO, Sheila Dean Brooks, have won hundreds of local, regional and national awards. And former employees have gone on to jobs at major corporations, media companies and the U.S. government. During the process, Brooks has gone on to receive her master's degree and Ph.D. from Howard University. Those are all incredible feats, especially considering that one-third of small businesses in the U.S. fail in their first two years of operation, and half are gone in five years.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of being a lifelong learner and saying ahead of the curve," Brooks says. "The digital landscape has truly transformed our world. We can see now, more than ever, how important it is to the way we do business and live our lives."

Sheila Dean Brooks started SRB Communications in 1990 with a business partner in the third bedroom of her home in suburban Maryland after spending nearly 13 years as a television reporter, producer and news anchor in markets in Texas, Washington state, and Washington, D.C.

SRB Communications won two International Communicator Awards of Excellence for its work on Pepco's Annual ZooLights Campaign and the DC Water Hydrate DC Brand Awareness Campaign. Judges of the 26th Annual Communicator Awards received more than 6,000 entries from across the U.S. and around the world. The agency also won a Silver International Telly Award for its work on the Alexandria City Public Schools High School Project Informational Video. The 40th Annual Telly Awards receives more than 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents.

New & Renewing Members: June 1-26, 2020

John Aaron
Sandra Abrams
Bob Ahmed
Julie Allen
Carol Appleby
Richard Bailey
Barbara Ballow
Denee A. Barr
Alison Bauer
Laura Bennett
Molly Blank
Jena Burchick
Lauren Cardillo
Charlotte Corneliussen
Tara Coughlin
Alyscia Cunningham
Carlyn Davis
John Duggan
James Gossard
Jacqueline Greff

Nicole Haddock
Karetta Hubbard
Suzanne Kang
Martha Karl
Katie Kirlin
Adam Krell
Thomas Lawrence
Malkia Lydia
Jay Mallin
Tracy Mazza
Yvonne McGee
Bridget Bell McMahon
Judith Meschel
Cynthia Miller
Anne Montague
Diane Naughton
Julia Neff
Martha Newman
Patti North

AnnMarie Parker
Robin Reck
Caroline Rosenberg
Kathleen Schmitt
Hillary Shea
Caroline Smith
Judith Snyderman
Sharon Sobel
Helen Straight
Birgitta Sunderland
Kamilah Thurmon
Gwen Tolbart
Keri D. Williams
Juliana Yellin

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Send Stories to:
director@wifv.org



About WIFV

Women in Film & Video supports media professionals by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements. We welcome all genders, genres, and experience levels.

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