



WIFV NEWS

June 2013 Members in the News

Jesse Achtenberg Completes Major Online Education Event



Jesse Achtenberg is the Senior Editor and a producer at New Media Mill, a creator of digital campaigns for national and international non-profits. Achtenberg recently worked closely with New Media Mill management to develop and produce the *Alliance for Excellent Education's Digital Learning Day*, a live, online

event that brought together 16,000 teachers and more than 2 million students. In April, Achtenberg completed work on a feature documentary, *Refuge: Caring for Survivors of Torture*, with his father, Ben Achtenberg, of the Refuge Media Project. In 2011, his theater company, Factory 449, was given the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Company by Theatre Washington/Helen Hayes Awards.

To contact Achtenberg, call 202-215-0137, email jesseachtenberg@hotmail.com, or visit www.tornadoproductions.tv

Capital Audio Post Open House Success!

The guests included network executives, independent producers and freelance talent from the greater Washington, DC metro region. "We worked hard to prepare for the two day party", said Co-Founder Frank Scheuring, "and it was very rewarding to hear so many positive comments about our new operation".

"The atmosphere was very relaxed, it was nice to speak personally with clients we normally trade emails with, our event was not the typical sales-pitch mentality associated with industry functions", added Co-Founder Chip Sovek, "I can't wait for the next one..." The attendees were free to tour the facility, sit and chat, play ping-pong or darts as well as enjoy the appetizers and assorted beverages.

Capital Audio Post is a unique post facility located in Merrifield, Virginia, just outside the Capital Beltway. Services include video editing, sound design, sound mixing, in-studio and ISDN recording, and many other media related services. Please visit



Stewart: Pumped for Body Builder Doc

As a former staff photojournalist for *The South Bend Tribune*, Janar Stewart is excited to have branched into another form of visual storytelling--documentary filmmaking. Stewart is currently working on her first documentary, *Blind Lifter*, which chronicles



the life challenges and sports achievements of local bodybuilder, Pat Leahy, who happens to be blind. "Pat's grit and determination, despite severe visual impairment, inspires me to strive harder in my own life," Stewart says. "*Blind Lifter* explores Pat's personal life and his preparation for competition to illuminate how he tackles physical and mental obstacles, some of which sighted people take for granted." In a world that sometimes assumes what people with disabilities can and cannot do, the film reminds us all that most limitations reside in the mind. Production duties aside, Stewart still manages to squeeze in time to volunteer for Docs In Progress, as well as for local public access channel productions such as *Fantastic Forum*, *The Knife and Fork Show*, and *Picture Lock*. To learn more, contact Stewart at www.janarstewart.com or email her at janarstewart@gmail.com

WILL Interactive Featured in Forbes

"WILL Interactive Makes Games That Save Lives" in the June 24, 2013 issue of *Forbes* focused on the work of this WIFV Corporate Member. Here's an excerpt from the article written by David M. Ewalt.

"We're trying to develop the muscles that are used in decision making," says Dave Valcourt, a retired lieutenant general in the U.S. Army who is now a vice president at WILL Interactive. The company's products combine the engaging qualities of a film with the interactivity of a computer game, immersing trainees in a way that lets them experience the consequences of their decisions; WILL's clients, which include military and law enforcement organizations, want to simulate morally complex problems without assuming real-world risks. "It's not about teaching you to shoot a weapon; it's about learning to handle a situation that's not black or white but gray," says Valcourt. "On the battlefield that could save a life." [The full article is here.](#)

Focus on New Member Fabienne Lips-Dumas



Whether by accident or destiny, Fabienne Lips-Dumas didn't think she would ever settle in Washington DC. Born in Paris France, she was a writer and a journalist before moving to

Vancouver, Canada. It was a new life and reinventing herself was part of the deal. With an amazing stroke of luck, Fabienne started her new career in the electronic media with CBC French. A few years later, she was a budding documentary filmmaker. Her first broadcasted documentaries took her in the infinite white of the Arctic Circle and the Haida Gwai known as the "Galapagos of the North". Soon the National Film Board of Canada produced her feature documentary; *'Appétit d'Eve/the Nature of Eve*, a personal journey in the world of scientists, meeting with great minds of our time: Richard Dawkins, Nobel Prize recipient François Jacob, and Stephen Jay Gould. Fabienne confesses that her meeting with Stephen Jay Gould was among the most overwhelming moment of her life! Close to her heart is her film, *I Clowne for Yoohoo!* that she filmed in children hospitals, senior homes and refugee camps, looking for the ultimate laugh when life is trapped by tragedy. But it is her feature *Children of Armageddon*, which brought her international recognition and awards, including the 2009 International Federation of Human Rights Award. Lately, she went to film in Cité Soleil, a huge slum in Haiti. Despite being hostage to gang violence and suffering from poverty, Fabienne discovered a resourceful and talented people, with a true passion for life and learned some lessons out of their daily ordeal. Hopefully, Washington DC will see the post-production of this documentary entitled *Heroes of the Sun* soon. Fabienne Lips-Dumas writes for French reviews and has been published by *Le Monde*. Send her a welcoming email to fablipsdumas@gmail.com

Kate Engel: Going to Bat for Cortina

Katie Engel joined Cortina Productions as an Associate Producer in February 2012. Cortina is a full-service creative media design and production company specializing in the museum field. Cortina's work can be found throughout the country, with projects housed in museums, cultural institutions, visitor centers, aquariums, and halls of fame. Most recently, Engel served as Project Manager for all media exhibits for the newly remodeled Little League Museum in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. In this role she oversaw production of eleven media exhibits, including the museum's signature film, *Play Ball!* and signature interactive experience, *Global Connections*. The museum will



Sharon Sloan, WILL Founder and President is a Women of Vision Award recipient (2009). WILL Interactive was founded in 1998 and has 22 employees. www.willinteractive.com

Manoukian Immersed in Productions



Mikael Manoukian, owner of Ear of the Eye Productions in Arlington, VA has been super busy this Spring working on a variety of client productions- everything from camera and lighting work to marketing. In one effort, he provided technical support for a PBS Kids testimonial style promo shot in Lancaster, PA and

Richmond, VA. In another, he captured and produced videos for several professional live dance shows, which is his professional specialty. Manoukian says he is continuing to expand his social marketing footprint in all the usual online networking sites. He also supports the marketing of Les Lieux de Denis (Places of Denis), a personal documentary that he crafted alongside filmmaker Didier Rousselet. What's next on the horizon? "I look forward to doing a time-lapse photography project," he explains, "visualizing the renovation of an athletic field." Before jumping into summer work, Manoukian is heading to Katmandu and Paris, where he will no doubt capture some amazing travel pics. To learn more, visit Ear of the Eye Productions on the web at www.earoftheeye.com.

Thompson: Rooted in the Creative Arts

Anne Thompson is a freelance writer who grew up in a family of artists. "Although I'm an accomplished singer and avid still photographer," she says, "I never saw myself as very creative while I was growing up." That feeling changed over years, as did a stronger interest and connection with her creative ancestors.



Through researching her family's history and their many mysteries, Thompson discovered a love of writing and storytelling. "My grandfather was a studio photographer for a famous delineator in the 1920's," Thompson notes, "and I'm working on a screenplay about that relationship." She is also currently writing a children's book based on a series of whimsical illustrations her grandmother drew in the 1950's. When she's not telling tales or taking photos, Thompson contributes her time to WIFV by working closely with several members and allied groups on Arts Advocacy. You may contact Thompson at 202-255-5042 or email her at anne.s.thompson@gmail.com.

Let's Drive In and See a Movie!

Memories and info shared by WIFV Members on June 6 in honor of the 80th Anniversary of the invention of the Drive-In Movie Theater!

Eulonda Lea - I loved going to the drive-in movie back in Houston, Texas. My parents, three sisters, and I piled into our Plymouth Fury (it was huge!!!) and drove for what seemed like forever to see everything from *Walking Tall*, to *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, to Bruce Lee. The corn dogs and milkshakes were the best!!! Those were the good ole days. Thanks for taking me back...

Felicia Barlow Clar - My dad used to put us all in our pj's, load us in the station wagon and take us to see Frankie and Annette beach movies. We'd bring our own popcorn and put the back of the wagon down, lay down and enjoy! Those were the days!!

Ada M. Babino - I absolutely loooovved going to drive in movies as a child. It was such a great family outing. My folks loved westerns and of course, comedy and Blaxploitation movies such as; *Shaft*, *Coffee, Blacula*, *Let's Do It Again*... Everyone in the family was on-point in preparing for our drive-in outings. Me and my other 4 siblings would take our bath and put on our pajamas. Mom would get the snacks ready, fried chicken and white bread and some popcorn balls. Dad would load the cooler with drinks and get the big brown station wagon loaded down with a few pillows, etc... off we'd go to the drive in which was like 15 minutes away from our house. I remember they'd clip the speakers at the drive-in inside the windows of the car and our connection to the movie would come alive. It was such a treat! Of course by the end of the night we'd be asleep in the back of the station wagon. By the time we got home we were dead tired and ready for bed. Since we already had on our PJ's we'd go straight to bed and asleep. Great times!

Monique Lyons - *Planet of the Apes!*

Charlotte Rinderknecht - Our favorite Drive-In movie is *Doc Hollywood* and *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (was a triple feature but can't remember the third one). The first I saw was *Bambi*, when our daughter Tonya was a baby and I hadn't seen any Disney films in the theater. My girlfriends went with me but didn't want to pay for a "kids" movie, so one hid in the trunk...the other under a blanket underneath Tonya...lol. We were students at the local beauty college in St. Cloud Minnesota and money was tight!

Sharon Sobel - I remember my grandparents taking me to see *The Muppet Movie* at the drive in. They are planning to build a new drive-in down in Caroline County, VA in the next few years, along with a new car track!

Peter Roof - I remember going to the Lee Highway drive in as a kid. It closed in 1984 to be replaced with a megaplex theater. That too closed and now there are new movie theaters in the redeveloped property. Here's a great resource for info on theaters - <http://cinematreasures.org/theaters/12250>

You can still go to a drive in today. It's a few hours west of DC. <http://www.thefamilydriveintheatre.com/>

Yolanda Arrington - Bengies drive in outside Baltimore is still open. I follow them on FB and they just announced they've gone digital. I missed out on the drive in as a kid but I love going now!
<http://www.bengies.com/>

Angela Forest - I never went to drive-ins as a child since they were not part of the local culture. But as an adult I enjoyed the South Drive-in Theater in Columbus, Ohio <http://www.drive-inmovies.com/listings.html> and the Starlite Drive-In Theater in Durham, N.C. The Starlite closed in 2007.

One of the best aspects of going to a drive-in is the experience of watching movies and eating food from your car with friends or significant others in a communal environment with other movie goers. You're outside with others, but you're also inside your vehicle, which offers more privacy than a typical movie theater. It's such a slice of Americana, I would hate to see them all go away.

Linda Robbins - My family used to go to the drive-in at the beach near Rehoboth with my aunt and her family . . . even when it rained! My mom and aunt would put a big piece of plastic between the two facing car doors and slam 'em shut! Then we'd sit in our beach chairs on the gravel between the two cars, under the plastic, turn up the speakers and enjoy the movie and dry popcorn. Not even a rainy night kept us from enjoying a good summer movie outdoors!



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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.

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