



WIFV NEWS

June 2017

If there's specific resistance to women making movies, I just choose to ignore that as an obstacle for two reasons: I can't change my gender, and I refuse to stop making movies.

- Kathryn Bigelow

President's Message



Credit: Liz Roll Photography

This month's message is a celebration of success and a welcome message for the new members onto the board. After six years on the Board of Directors, and two as President, I'm feeling both

nostalgic about the past, and excited about the next steps for Women in Film & Video. Special thanks to Immediate Past President and Advisory Committee Liaison **Erin Essenmacher** and departing board members **Karen Whitehead, Judy Meschel, Keri Williams, and Ann Zamudio** for their amazing commitment and service to Women in Film & Video. Below are some highlights from the last twelve months, or this "board year".

- **Top-Rated Non-Profit Award** - WIFV won a spot on the prestigious Top-Rated NonProfits List for the fifth year in a row. The Great Nonprofits Top-Rated Awards is a people's choice award where volunteers, donors, and people served cast their vote in the form of a review to express their appreciation. **Keep voting for WIFV!**
- **Women of Vision Awards** - In the Fall, WIFV recognized the outstanding technical and creative achievements of independent film producer **Christine Vachon** at the 24th edition of the Women of Vision Awards held at George Mason University and moderated by producer

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Roundtable Roundup

Talent: *Monologue Slam*

June 22, 2017, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media, 1233 20th St, NW

Monologue slots filled

[RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: *Five Page Table Readings*

June 26, 2017, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media, 1233 20th St, NW

[RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

and GMU/FAVS director **Giovanna Chesler**. This Spring, WIFV honored accomplished filmmaker **Julie Dash**, whose feature DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST (1991) was the first film by an African American woman to receive a general theatrical release in the United States. It was added to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry in 2004. This event was moderated by WUSA9 anchor **Lesli Foster** at Howard University. Special thanks to board member **Carletta Hurt** for her coordination of this event.

- **DC Mayors Arts Awards** - The 2015 recipient of the Excellence in Service to the Arts Award, WIFV was invited to participate in the 2016 awards ceremony. I joined Brian Kenner, DC Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development, in presenting the Excellence in the Creative Industries Award to **Stone Soup Films**. This annual event is an opportunity to see some of the District's most talented performers and industry leaders in a single setting, and it's free for the public.
- **TIVA Peer Awards** - Since Executive Director Melissa Houghton received the 2015 Community Partner Award, WIFV was invited to participate in the 2016 event. I was honored to represent WIFV as a featured speaker at this prestigious annual event, focusing on the need for media community solidarity, artistic collaboration, and gender equity in the DC metro area. Many of our members were honored with Peer Awards.
- **WIFV Service Awards and Scholarships** - Beloved ScriptDC conference organizer and past board member **Jane Barbara** received the President's Award for her outstanding volunteer service to the WIFV community. The amazing **Gwen Tolbart** received the Liesel Flashenberg Award for Community Service, **Yi Chen** received the Carolyn's First Decade Fund, and **Krystal Tingle**, received the Randy Goldman Scholarship. True to WIFV's two-fold mission, the service awards raise visibility of member achievement, and the scholarships provide mentoring opportunities and advance the media careers of the

Weds One: Transitions - Shifting Focus and Careers

SOMETHING NEW was a cute rom-com some time ago about stepping out of your comfort zone or following your heart. When you lose a job or have to figure out how to re-purpose your skill set, that's something new. During this program, our panel will discuss how they leveraged their media skills for a position and how they got into media from another field. The career pivot is here. The question is are you ready, prepared, and open ...for something new?

Wednesday, **June 7, 2017**, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St NW
(Dupont South Metro)
\$15 members; \$30 general public
[Register here](#)

Speakers:

Erin Essenmacher serves as the chief programming officer for the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), responsible for oversight and execution of more than 60 education programs and events a year. Essenmacher is also an award-winning



writer, director, and producer with nearly 20 years of experience in writing, research, outreach, and broadcast and non-broadcast production. She has written, directed, and produced films for PBS, The Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, the History Channel, and Court TV. She serves on the boards of Women in Film & Video, Reach for College! and is co-chair of the board of Gandhi Brigade.

Jan Fox came from an old house in Shelbyville, Indiana, all the way to the White House and Hollywood, interviewing many celebrities and U.S. Presidents. This is a life she never could have imagined. Jan earned 3 Emmys at WUSA TV9, CBS, in Washington, DC. At the NBC station in Portland, ME, Jan helped the



recipients. Each award and scholarship was established in the memory of a WIFV member or past president whose self-less passion, creativity, and commitment to storytelling inspired our community.

WIFV advisory committee members **Monica Lee Bellais** and **Amy DeLouise** continued to spearhead important initiatives that help bring national and international focus to the work of WIFV members. The third edition of *Spotlight on Screenwriters*, founded and created by Monica Lee Bellais, was revealed on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at American University. A highlight of the evening was Monica's presentation of community service awards to screenwriters **Linda Robbins**, **Diane Williams**, **Beryl Neurman**, and **Frances Cheever**. Amy DeLouise continued the success of #GalsNGear, a pop-up event that features tech savvy women as role models who share their tools, skills, and community to help others succeed in their chosen craft. Once again, the #GalsNGear Live! event at NABShow 2017 in Las Vegas was live-streamed by *Broadcast Beat Magazine*.

Never one to rest on laurels, the second annual Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers application process is in full swing. Two filmmakers, **Katie Lannigan** and **Kimberly McFarland**, were selected by the inaugural Seed Fund Committee, chaired by board member **Karen Whitehead**, to receive grants last year for their films *THE LAST DAYS OF BROOKLAND MANOR* and *PYRAMID ATLANTIC: THE STATE OF THE ARTS*, respectively. Both films share a theme of community, an appropriate topic for grants that are funded by WIFV members and partners. Each awarded filmmaker receives a \$2,500 grant to help with the research and development for their respective films.

For those members who have decided to run for the board in June, I wish you every success and hope you will experience the same leadership growth in your term as I did. Last, but not least, none of this would be possible without the WIFV Executive Director **Melissa Houghton**, who reaches out to bring people, leaders, and media makers together daily. As I move into my role as Immediate Past President and Advisory Committee Liaison, I'm looking forward to another year of celebration and recognition of the very important work that the narrative and

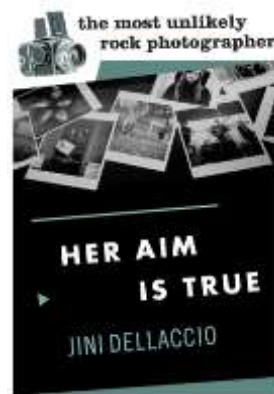
news ratings jump from # 2 to # 1, with a huge 51% market share! In Boston at ABC, she hosted an Emmy Award winning talk show. Invitations to speak and coach kept coming, so Jan started her business: **Fox Talks**.

HER AIM IS TRUE Screening

As part of the DC Film Society Sunday Series, meet local filmmaker and WIFV Board Member, **Karen Whitehead**, and join us for a post-film discussion with her and representatives of WIFV and the DC Film Society.

Sunday, **June 4, 2017**

Bethesda Row Cinema, 7235 Woodmont Ave
9:30 am breakfast; 10:00 am screening
\$15 (cash or check only) at the door which includes coffee, bagels & cheese and a post-film discussion. Discounted price of \$5 to high school students presenting a valid student id.



Synopsis: Jini Dellaccio was a 48-year-old, self-taught photographer when she began her improbable career shooting album covers for hard-edged rock and roll bands like The Sonics, in the early 1960s. She rejected classic portraiture in favor of a do-it-yourself approach, resulting in darling and innovative

images that are timeless masterpieces. Soon she was photographing the likes of Neil Young, The Who, and Rolling Stones. In *HER AIM IS TRUE*, Karen Whitehead goes behind the scenes of Dellaccio's fearless life sharing an enduring story about love, creativity and breaking the rules. Eddie Vedder (Pearl Jam) is an executive producer.

WIFV Member Coffee

documentary media communities are doing in the DC metro area. I'm so very honored and proud to have had the opportunity to serve as your President.

Changing the world one story at a time,
Rebecca

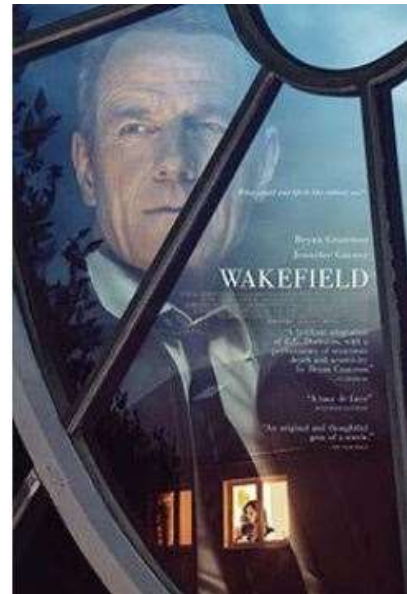


Tuesday, June 27, 2017
8:30 - 10:00 am
Silver Diner, Clarendon
3200 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201
[RSVP here](#)

Power of Purse WAKEFIELD Screening June 1

WIFV Advisory Committee member and Spotlight on Screenwriters founder/creator, **Monica Lee Bellais** is a Co-Executive Producer of WAKEFIELD, which is screening at E Street Cinema May 26 - June 1, 2017. She will be at the 7:20 pm screening on June 1 so [get your tickets!](#)

Synopsis: What would your life look like without you in it? Outwardly, Howard Wakefield (Bryan Cranston) is the picture of success. He has a loving wife (Jennifer Garner) and two daughters, a prestigious job as a Manhattan lawyer and a comfortable home in the suburbs. Inwardly, though, he's suffocating-bored with routine, obsessed with obligations and jealousies. One day, something snaps and Howard goes into hiding in his garage attic. Leaving his family to wonder what happened to him, he compulsively observes them from the attic window-an outsider spying in on his own life. As the days of self-imposed isolation stretch into months, Howard begins to wonder: is it even possible to go back to the way things were? Driven by a tour de force, darkly comic performance from BREAKING BAD's Cranston (Oscar nominee for TRUMBO), WAKEFIELD is a perverse and provocative look at what it means to walk away from it all. Written and directed by Robin Swicord (writer/director of THE JANE AUSTEN BOOK CLUB, Oscar-nominated writer of THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON), adapted from a story by E. L. Doctorow.



Monica is a Screenwriter / Producer and a world-class media expert with experiences in Hollywood, Washington, DC, and international markets. Monica has worked at James Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment, DreamWorks, Warner Bros. Records, Discovery Communications, Smithsonian Networks, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), and TeleProductions International (TPI).



THE
**American
History**
FILM PROJECT



WIFV members will be provided free passes to The American History Film Project National Exhibition 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 3, at the Angelika Theater (Mosaic District), 2911 District Ave,

Fairfax, Virginia. The event is a special screening of student films exploring local history throughout the United States. Expect to see documentaries, dramas, and comedies.

Can films help unite Americans? Yes, that's one of the visions of the [American History Film Project](#). Students all across America, from kindergarten to 12th grade, produce a short film about something in their local history. They connect with elders and historians in their community. They take it back to that community and share their common stories. Then at our national exhibition, they share their short films and regional cultures with each other. Founder **Martha Barnes** explains, "The American History Film Project isn't a competition. It's simply a chance for young people to learn new skills and share a story from their community heritage." [Email Martha](#) to secure your free tickets.

The Business Side of Media Master Classes

WIFV is honored to bring the expertise of **Linda Maslow** for the benefit of WIFV Members in a three-part master class series - **The Business Side of Media!** All classes will be held at Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW (Dupont South Metro) and will begin with check-in/networking at 6:30 pm. These workshops are equally valuable if you are starting a business with anticipated staff/contractors or working as a freelancer. [Register here.](#)

Please bring a business plan if you have one, or at the very least bring an idea, on paper, of what your intentions are for your business, and hard questions about everything else. We want to hear your ideas and provide the information to bring them to reality.

June 20 - BUSINESS PLAN: This is the roadmap for everything you will do and spells out the management's recipe for success for the new business. This plan is what you will bring to your banker, or the SBA, or whomever, and it will also keep you in line with your original goals, even years down the road. What is included in a Business Plan? Everything!! This should include ALL the anticipated expenses of running your business, i.e. staff, marketing, equipment, rent, including home office, payroll, and more. More importantly, where will your revenue come from? We'll talk about how to approach a banker and why owning a home might get you somewhere! Everything in this section will be relevant for the one-person band too!!

July 25 - OPENING AND OPERATING THE BUSINESS: The focus in the earliest days will be getting your office in order, having all software in place, and marketing. This will be when you actually launch your brand. What will that take? Will you have collateral materials? Do you need them? What about social media? Please bring your ideas.

August 8 - LAUNCH AND PITCH! All participants will make a pitch to the banker! (Linda Maslow will be your pitch recipient.) Sessions one and two will provide you with all the information you will need for this crucial step.

Series Presenter:

Linda Maslow, founder of MASLOW MEDIA GROUP, led a successful business from the ground up, starting from nothing, to become an award winning multi million dollar woman owned first of its kind MEDIA STAFFING, CREWING, AND PAYROLL COMPANY. This curriculum was developed by Ms. Maslow, for a class she created, and taught at George Mason University called *The Business of Film and Video*.



North Beach American Film Festival, June 23-25

The North Beach American Film Festival is a three-day festival taking place in Calvert County's North Beach, Maryland arts and shopping district area from June 23rd to 25th. There are 43 films scheduled to play at North Beach's Town Hall as well as special event waterfront screenings. We are sponsored by The Arts Council of Calvert, North Beach Business Loop, and Sweet Sue's Bakery & Coffee Shop. We work in partnership with Southern Maryland Film Festival as well as Washington DC's popular DC Shorts Film Festival and Reel Independent Film. The festival features a diverse collective of American Filmmakers with varying domestic experiences and point of views. NBAFF will also present the 2017 Southern Maryland Student Filmmaker Grant recipient winner's short films that were created specifically to premier during the opening night waterfront presentation. [Click here](#) for more information on the festival.



The Content Farm Launches ALLCAST MEDIA

The Content Farm has grown into distribution as well and, with two partner companies, has formed ALLCAST Media. [Learn more here.](#)

ALLCAST is the first company of its kind to offer guaranteed distribution via all leading streaming services - Amazon Prime, Netflix, iTunes, Hulu, and more - and, in some cases, linear distribution (via the Discovery Channel family of networks and/or PBS) as well. This offers a combined audience reach of over 1.1 billion viewers nationwide. You will continue own your project, and can still take it to festivals, theaters, cable TV, etc. ALLCAST offers leading-edge technology in SEO & enjoys preferred placement with streaming services, so your content will be seen. ALLCAST also uses streaming services' geo-blocking technology, so foreign distribution rights are not infringed, and provides enhanced content and content monetization opportunities. ALLCAST is currently slowly rolling out content, with a large release to commence later in 2017, accompanied by an extensive media campaign, including paid media, social media and earned media already secured through articles pre-seeded with leading publications.

If you have a high-quality short film, series, feature film, documentary, animated film or any other kind of video content - whether for first-run or a second window release - and are seeking an audience or distributor, this should be of interest to you. We can only accept finished works - no scripts, ideas or pitches at this time - and you must have all US digital rights to your project. [Contact us here.](#)

Global Perspectives: Notes from Abroad

This is the next installment of a continuing series of articles from women's film organizations from around the globe, coordinated by Judy Meschel and LeeAnn Dance of the WIFV International Committee. Enjoy!

Being a Female Film Maker in a Man's World

By Anja Celine Pederson, WIFT Sweden



I'm born and raised in Oslo, Norway. I've always had a passion to express my feeling through moving images and decided to become a film director at an early age. I grew up in a society where we had this unwritten rule called "Janteloven"; *Janteloven* is a cultural term that literally means "The Jante Law" but it doesn't have a direct translation to English. If one were to describe it, one could say it's a principle which places importance on equality and egalitarianism while discouraging individuality and personal success or in other words, standing out.

I've never liked this rule and I decided to fight this and become the director I always wanted to be. The Norwegian industry is dominated by men, and dealing with *Janteloven* as well as being a female has made it hard. I decided to do my bachelor in Australia and it all became a lot easier. I made my first short film ISABELLE right after I finished my degree, a script I was working on for over 2 years. My passion is to capture the reality of life and turn it into fiction. I've talked to two homeless men living on the cold streets of Norway and I took their stories and made it into a script. I sent the script to a big producer by the name Nathan Hill, who loved it and decided to produce the film. I later got introduced to Australia's biggest location manager, Mike Mclean, and he gave me a job with a TV show called *Mako Mermaids 2*, where I was working until my visa expired.

Coming home was hard. The reality hit me again and I had to fight to build up the reputation I had in Australia. Yet again, *Janteloven* was in my way and a lot of men struggled to have a female "boss" on set. Its hard to get a foot inside the industry here in Norway since its so small, its not based on what you have on your resume, its more about who you know. Ever since I got home, I've made lots of films. I always seek new opportunities and nothing will bring me down.

Never give up is my advice to all female film makers out there. Its easy to give up by a few setbacks from society, but it also makes it more fun with a bit of challenge.

I have one big dream at the moment. I'm writing a script that plays out in Fiji and my goal now is to find someone who is willing to make it with me. So if you're out there, contact me. Here are a link to 'Isabelle',



Isabelle

Celebrating Graduates Across the Region!

Catholic University of America (CUA)

Facundo Montenegro Award - Eman Alghamdi

George Mason University (GMU)

Jury Awards

BEST OF FEST - Scott Kotwas STOP THE TIME

Best Drama - Scott Kotwas STOP THE TIME

Best Experimental - Marie Karkehabadi SUNNY SIDE UP

Best Documentary - Jose Jimenez Alvarez AGAVE: THE CULTIVATION OF TRADITION

Best Comedy - Kyle Finnegan LOST SOCKS
Best Animation - Jacob Roberts POWER FREAK
Honorable Mention Jury Awards - Kiefer Inson INTRUSION, Amanda Bowen SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN
Best Digital Pitch - Erblin Nushi BINI
Best Delivery - Jason Gilligan YOGURT
Best Story - Mitchell Hartigan WIDE EYED

Audience Awards

Audience Favorite Block 1 - Marie Karkehabadi SUNNY SIDE UP
Audience Favorite Block 2 - Kiefer Inson INTRUSION

Technical + Faculty Jury Awards

Best Cinematography - Jamie Sullivan BUNSO dir Roberto de Cecco
Best Editing - Tara Tung INTRUSION dir Kiefer Inson
Best Sound Design - Scott Kotwas STOP THE TIME dir Scott Kotwas
Best Producing - Livia Elgart PARALLEL dir Cameron Perrier
Best Production Design - Darcelle Larkin LOST SOCKS dir Kyle Finnegan
Special Technical Award for VFX - David Mason and Nathan Taylor SUNNY SIDE UP dir Marie Karkehabadi
Best Short Screenplay - Roberto de Cecco and Josh Denty BUNSO dir Roberto De Cecco
Honorable Mention, Faculty Recognition - Michael Kamel TEA PARTY

Capstone Awards

Distinction in Cinematography - Andrew Jorgenson
Distinction in Editing - Mikayla Fridley
Distinction in Producing - Chris Rothgeb
Distinction in Screenwriting - Austin Crooch ENTREPRENEUR

Academic Achievement Awards

Academic Excellence - Amanda Bowen
Academic Achievement - Marie Karkehabadi
Professional Achievement Award (outstanding accomplishments in professional preparation) - Janay Flemming, Michael Kamel, Darcelle Larkin
FAVS Service Award - Andrew Jorgenson

The George Washington University, Institute for Documentary Filmmaking (GWU)

BERNING LOVE (2016)

Producers: Katherine Chivers and Christopher Neubauer
Cinematographers: Sujatha Bagal and Jared Davis
Writers: Nicole Gray and Avani Mack
Director of Research: Jennifer R. Myhre
Official Selection: Berlin Independent Film Festival, Green Mountain Film Festival, Rincon International Film Festival (WINNER, Overall Best Documentary Short), Bay Area Women in Film and Media's International Short Films Showcase

EVERYTHING BETWEEN(2016)

Producers: Kaitlin Lange and Paul Warner
Editors: Rachel Chilton, Zahid Khattak, Juri von Bonsdorff, and Will Warren
Writers: Zinhle Essamuah and Will Warren
Directors of Photography: Rachel Chilton, Zahid Khattak, and Juri von Bonsdorff
Sound: Rachel Chilton, Zinhle Essamuah, and Zahid Khattak
Director of Research: Will Warren

Official Selection: Northern Virginia International Film and Music Festival (WINNER, Best Documentary Under 45 Minutes) and North Beach American Film Festival

HEALING RIVER(2015)

Kate McCormick, Producer, Editor
Hollie Noble, Producer, Director of Photography, Editor
Valentina Pereda, Director of Photography, Editor
Kan Yan, Director of Photography, Editor, Sound
Francesca Baronio, Director of Photography, Editor
Megan Bannon, Editor, Writer, Director of Research
Jessica Marcy, Editor, Writer, Sound

Howard University (HU)

Outstanding Achievement

Audio Production - Judayah Murray
Print/Online Journalism - Miesha Miller
Broadcast Journalism - Danielle Solomon
Photojournalism - Eileen Salazar
Best Narrative Film, THE CIVILIAN - K. Giselle Johnson
Best Narrative Film, (MFA), ORCHID BOYS - K. Rory Padgett
Best Documentary Film, MISGUIDANCE - Anthony Richard
Best Documentary Film, (MFA), RENAISSANCE MAN - Ziad Foty
Best Directing, THE CIVILIAN - Raeshon Morris
Best Cinematography, ORCHID BOYS - Ladawn Manuel
Best Editing, SAME FRUIT, DIFFERENT TREE - Mansur Rashid

Towson University, Department of Electronic Media and Film 2017 Media Arts Festival

Animation, THE SHIELD WALL - Berlin Waechter
Audio, THE CUTTER CHRONICLES, PART 1 - Matthew, Terry, Keelia Keeting, Alex Hyman
Corporate/Television, LKT News Package - Sean Mullen
Dance for the Cam, Footnotes, Gianna, Cirillo, Doug Steinman, Madison Bonvissuto
Documentary, MAN OF GREEN - Matthew Tennyson
Experimental, APPROACHING ... CONSTRUCTIVISM - Eli Hutton
Music Video, BEGIN THE BEGUINE: VISUAL MUSIC - Berlin Waechter
Music/Music Mix, LAVENDER - Michael Caddigan
Narrative Over 10, LEADBEATER - Tyler Peterson, Jeb Burchick, Andrew Capino
Narrative Under 10, WELCOME HOME - Svefn Seviny, Dominic LaFrancesca, Sean Mullen
Pitch Me, LEADBEATER (Trailer) - Tyler Peterson, Jeb Burchick, Andrew Capino
YOUTUBE... - Pete, Matthew DeHoff

Federal Judge Rules in Favor of Seavey



Follow up from the May Documentary Roundtable: A federal judge ruled May 16 that the FBI must provide copies of its records of government surveillance of citizens from the 1960s and 1970s at no charge to a documentary filmmaker who filed a Freedom of Information Act request in 2015 after being stonewalled for two years.

Also at issue was the timely release of documents. The FBI offered **Nina Gilden Seavey** 500 released pages per month. With the anticipated number of pages resulting from her requests, Seavey calculated that it would take 60 years under the FBI's proposed release schedule to get all the documents. The judge gave the FBI until May 31 to report back on an estimated schedule for releasing documents to Seavey.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler ruled in *Seavey v. Department of Justice* that the FBI must

provide a full fee waiver for the duplication costs of hundreds of thousands of documents Seavey requested and that the FBI must provide under FOIA. You can read the full court's decision [here](#).

Seavey is in production on an investigative documentary about government surveillance of US citizens engaged in anti-war and civil rights protests in the 1960s and 1970s in St. Louis, Missouri. MY FUGITIVE tells the story through the lens of Howard Mechanic, a student protester arrested in 1970 after an ROTC building was burned down at Washington University in St. Louis. Seavey's father, Louis Gilden, became Mechanic's attorney in the resulting case. According to Seavey, she began exploring the subject almost 30 years ago and has uncovered information about FBI, CIA and military intelligence surveillance programs as well as new information about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

CMSI Launches THE LAUGHTER EFFECT

Comedy is a powerful contemporary source of influence and information, both in the U.S and around the world. In the digital era, our appetite for comedy has never been as voracious - perhaps matched only by its influence.

And yet, comedy is a little-understood vehicle for serious public engagement in urgent social issues - even though humor offers frames of hope and optimism that encourage participation in social problems.

How do comedy appeals and portrayals work to inform, persuade, and motivate audiences? How have distinct genres of comedy - from sit-coms to satirical news to stand-up and sketch - been used to engage audiences in civic and social issues? What should social-change agents (researchers, strategists, producers, comedy writers, and producers) know in order to leverage comedy around social issues that are serious and sad?



READ about their initial reports and projects:

[The Laughter Effect: The \[Serious\] Role of Comedy in Social Change](#)

Comedy attracts attention, but how do we make sense of it when it comes to serious social issues? What's the current landscape of comedy and social change in the U.S. and around the world? This report pulls together a decade of research, across disciplines, to ask and answer: How and why can comedy be leveraged for social change?

[Laughter Matters: Samantha Bee, Comedy & the Refugee Crisis](#)

In an increasingly polarized information climate, journalism alone isn't enough to engage the public around serious social issues. Entertainment media and comedy are vital. This study compares audience responses - before, after, and weeks later - to two different ways to tell a story about the Syrian refugee scenario: Comedy (Full Frontal with Samantha Bee), and news (CNN News).

[How & Why Can Comedy Work for Social Change? \[Explainer Series\]](#)

Comedy opens doors to complex issues, persuades us emotionally, encourages us to share, and breaks down social barriers. Learn more about how to leverage comedy for social justice - including strategic recommendations and cautionary notes.

New and Renewing Members

The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership (May 1, 2017 - May 30, 2017)

Sandra Abrams
Julie Allen
Lindsay Anaruma

Vanina Harel
Rachel Hawkins
Stephanie Hellerman

Alexis Pazmino
Julie Pixler
Rebecca Prime

Wendy Anderson
Elizabeth Andrade
Joanne Atay
Barbara Ballow
Tanisha Bazemore
Laura Bennett
Adrienne Black
Randall Blair
Molly Blank
Birgit Buhleier
Rebecca Bustamante
Kia M. Caballero
Karen Cantor
Shawn Cartwright
Anne Chapman
Lalita Clozel
Linda Cotton
Araceli DeLeon
Ashley Ellis
Ann Emerson
Tom Feliu
Lauren Feliz-Durishin
Becky Gaskill
Ben Gordon
Scott Gordon
Jacqueline Greff

Piper Hendricks
Tanya Hutchins
Felicia Johnson
Todd Johnson
David Joyner
Kate Kirlin
Marjan Koffa
Katie Lannigan
Eulonda Kay Lea
Ward LeHardy
Jason Lobe
Elizabeth Lucas
Alexandria Lundelius
Edwin Mah
Brigid Maher
Yvonne McGee
Brigid Bell McMahon
Natalia Megas
Roland Millman
Anne Montague
Jennifer Murphy
Michanda Myles
Matthew Nagy
Glenda Nelson
Beryl Neurman
Martha Newman
Amy Oden
Oriana Oppice

Kathryn Raaker
Alikia Reaves
Rosemary Reed
Carla Sandy
Hillary Shea
David Shen
Sandrine Silverman
Mary Katherine Sisco
Brooke Lee Smith
Lorenzo Soto
Jessica Stuart
Kirsta Suggs
Heather A. Taylor
Jed Winer
Shane Yeager
Brigitte Yuille

Corporate Members:

School of
Communications, American
University
Double R Productions
Long Story Short Media
Pixeldust Studios
Rocket Media Group
Sandy Audio Visual
Word Wizards

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



**Support
Women In Film &
Video Inc.**

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Amazon donates.

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

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



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

You are receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Women in Film & Video. Don't forget to add director@wifv.org to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!