



# WIFV NEWS

## March 2014 Members in the News

Featuring 31 Women, Laurie Miller, Susanne Coates, Emily Wathen, Mega Orr, Gariella Garcia-Pardo, Nicole Ricci, Irene Magafan, Jody Dawson, Gary Schonman, Amy DeLouise, Anjum Saad, Image Makers, Word Wizards, Pierre Bagley, Ginny Durrin & 35th Anniversary Toast, Carol Rosen and Cashew, Women's Week at GMU

### 31 Women for 31 Days - Show Your Support

Every day in March, WIFV is honoring women who, despite systemic and sometimes personal challenges, are creating wonderful work and contributing enormously to the regional media industry. [Click here to see who we have honored so far.](#)

For 35 years, Women in Film & Video has played a vital role in ensuring that these women and all of our members have access to opportunities to get their work made and voices heard. As the only staffed organization in DC working in service of content creators, we deliver close to 70 affordable professional development programs annually to empower media dynamic entrepreneurs (you!).



We continually look for new ways to invest our connections, resources, and advocacy to benefit you. We increase our services, programs and mentoring to counter the challenging business environment.

[Please support WIFV today with a tax deductible contribution.](#) Thank you!

### The Bonobo Connection Screens at EFF

*The Bonobo Connection*, a documentary **Irene Magafan** wrote and produced as her thesis film and narrated by Ashley Judd, will have its DC Premiere at the DC



Environmental Film Festival on Wednesday March 26 at 8:00 pm at Georgetown University. [The event is free and here is the link for additional information.](#)

Irene would appreciate the support of any WIFV members who can make the screening. It's great to see one of our own screening her film amongst such wonderful female talent. **Other WIFV Members having work screened at the EFF include: Sandy Cannon-Brown, Angelica Das, Aditi Desai, Judy Dwan Hallet, and Marilyn Weiner.**

### Miller Wins Acclaim Screenwriting Contest



**Laurie Miller's** one-hour television pilot, *Playing By Hart*, took the top prize in the Winter 2013 Acclaim Scripts Television Contest! *Playing By Hart* tells the story of Nikki Hart, a woman approaching forty who puts her (fading) dreams of rock star glory on hold and moves in with her judgmental mother so she can raise her orphaned half-sisters.

Laurie has more than a decade of experience writing cable broadcast documentaries and series. Her projects have appeared on Discovery, History, PBS, TruTV, Discovery ID, Animal Planet, and Smithsonian. *Playing By Hart* is Laurie's first venture into scripted television, and she's thrilled with the encouraging feedback she's received. [For more info visit LaurieMillerWrites.com](#)

### Doc Challenge Results in Towpath Joe

**Susanne Coates, Emily Wathen, Megan Orr, Gabriella Garcia-Pardo, and Nicole Ricci** had a great time filming their short entitled, *Towpath Joe* about Joe Hage, the caretaker of the Sycamore Island Club who lives year-round on the island. The judges will make a decision regarding which of the films will be selected for the top twelve within the next few weeks - those films will be screened at Hot Docs in Toronto. Following selection of the twelve films they will make decisions regarding which films will receive additional awards and which will be the grand prize winner. We'll keep you posted!

### Dawson Ages 10 Years in Less than 3 Hours



Central Casting DC recently cast **Jodi Dawson** in an industrial film in which she was required to age 10 years while developing an advanced case of Parkinson's Disease. The challenge also

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## Schonman Exhibits Other Talents

**Gary Schonman**, a local SAG/AFTRA voice talent and longtime WIFV member, is among the photographers and other artists whose works are being exhibited in the "New: 23rd Annual Strathmore Artists Exhibition" in North Bethesda. Gary has two photographs on display in the juried exhibit at Strathmore Mansion. The exhibit is open to the public,

free of charge to April 6.

## DeLouise Leads NAB Workshops, Hosts Dinner Group

Look out Las Vegas! WIFV Past President **Amy DeLouise** ([amydelouise.com](http://amydelouise.com)) will lead 5 days of production workshops at NAB/Post Production World From April 5th through 9th, where she will also be on the "Hot Panel: The Future of Production" and will host her annual "Women in Film & Friends" sushi dinner for colleagues. A Past Women of Vision awardee known as much for her production savvy as her marketing expertise, Amy will be leading several new sessions—such as "Using Research to Target Your Audience" and "Cover Your Bases: Insiders Guide to Talent Releases, Music & Image Licenses" as well as offer her popular in-depth sessions "Brand U: Establishing Your Professional Brand" and "The Art of the Interview" (a topic she co-teaches in a new title on Lynda.com). [A complete list of Amy's workshops can be found here.](#) You can tweet to her @brandbuzz or [email her here](#) to be included in the dinner group.

## WIFV at White House Student Film Festival

In late February, WIFV President **Erin Essenmacher** and Executive Director **Melissa Houghton** were invited to attend the first-ever White House Student Film Festival.



Erin with Neil DeGrasse Tyson.

Students from all across the country created more than 2,500 short films illustrating the role that technology plays in their classrooms, why it's so important, and how it will

included learning five pages of monologues in two days. Jodi was shot speaking straight into camera, employing five wardrobe changes and gradual aging makeup along with advancing tremors and problems speaking to complete the illusion.

Four hours were allotted for the shoot but we completed it in 2.5! The photos document the transformation. "Thanks go out to Karen Curran, my amazing make-up artist!"



## Image Makers THANK YOU



This year's program will benefit All About the Drama and Joe's Movement Emporium. It would not be possible without the expertise and time of the following WIFV Members and the high school students:

1. **Miguel Angel**, Teacher/Photographer at Carlos Rosario International Career Center;
2. **Jacqueline Baires**, Freelance Associate Producer, La Fideo Productions;
3. **Amanda E. Burns**, Production Assistant for Documentary Film;
4. **Abbey B. Farkas**, Facility Assistant, Interface Media Group;
5. **Alexis Jennings**, Program Scheduling Specialist, Discovery Communications;
6. **Mimi Machado-Jones**, WIFV Board, Member, 2014 Image Makers Co-Chair, Producer, TVA Media Pro;
7. **Kathi D. Overton**, Associate Producer, Fast Forward TV;
8. **Peter Roof**, Owner/Operator Alt Gobo MediaWorks;
9. **Keri Williams**, Photographer, WIFV Board Member, 2014 Image Makers Co-Chair.

2014 Image Makers Students:

1. Antoinette Brunson, Largo HS
2. Desi Cooper, Howard Community College
3. John Caraway, Parkdale HS
4. Michael DeLaney, Parkdale HS
5. Ashlie Dolce, West Potomac HS
6. Khalil Harris, Oxon Hill HS
7. Khadir Harris, Oxon Hill HS
8. Azah Morton, Eleanor Roosevelt HS
9. Brandon Staples, Gwynn Park HS
10. Juel West, Washington Latin PCS

## New Address for Word Wizards

**Word Wizards, Inc.**

301-986-0808  
8609 2 Ave, Unit 406-B  
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

## WIFV/TIVA Meeting with DC Film Office

WIFV joined with TIVA on February 20 to host "Re-imagining the Motion Picture and Television Development

change the educational experience for kids in the future. More than 60 of the young filmmakers came to the White House for the festival, where the 16 official selections were screened. And, as the President said himself, "these movies are awesome." Also at the White House were Kal Penn, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, and Bill Nye. [You can watch the official selections and the honorable mentions, as well as the President's remarks.](#)

Among the honorable mentions was a film made by **Haya Saad**, the 7th grade daughter of WIFV Member, **Anjum Saad**. "A huge credit goes to WIFV for providing its members notice of the opportunity." [Here is the link to her short film](#)

Office, An Evening with Director **Pierre Bagley**". Members from both groups met the new director of the DC Film Office and heard his vision for re-imagining the District to become one of the most sought after destinations for multimedia production. The panel included Location Manager **Joe Martin**, Unit Production Manager **Patty Hess**, **Jim Pennington** from Duo Media Productions, **Tim Lorenz** from Interface Media Group and **Peter Roof** of Alt Gobo MediaWorks. [The video is posted here.](#)

## WIFV Anniversary Toast by Ginny Durrin, March 12, 2014



Ginny Durrin and fellow guests at Karen Whitehead's house toasting guests at 8 other houses on March 12.

It is such a pleasure to give the toast for the 35th Anniversary of Women in Film and Video.

With March as Women's National History Month, it is only fitting that we honor ourselves as members of our women's organization of note.

Today WIFV consists of nearly 1,200 members. 1,200!

We have been a community in constant evolution....from that first gathering I held in my living room on March 12, 1979, to today. Initially the idea was simply to call the women working in film that I knew together for that evening. Little did I know but a spark was ignited...energy was palpable...And we decided to meet again and show our work to one another in our homes. People came in droves to meetings.

We were flabbergasted at the response. And freaked!

So a small group of us, the founders, worked hard and enthusiastically that first year to carve out what would become Women in Film.

The Evolution continued...soon too big for most living rooms, where would we meet? Criteria for membership? A name? A mailing list..dues..by laws, articles of incorporation...would men be admitted? All of these things needed to be discussed and hammered out.

When Women in Film became fully incorporated, the evolution continued....with a Board of Directors, with increasingly sophisticated programs, and events such as the Annual Dinner, the Annual glamorous Gala in hotels, a Women in Film Film Festival...the Annual Women of Vision Awards....it goes on and on.

Each generation has built upon the last one and WIFV has further evolved. A List-serve, the spine of the organization, was created. The Advisory Committee was created. Mentoring programs begun...

And now we have WIFV today, with its myriad of educational programs and established groups that frankly just blow my mind. Who knew that we would be Toasting by Google Hang Outtonight in ten homes across the DC area?!

So What is the secret of our success and longevity? WIFV, as an organization, feels different

We are not simply about creating media and messages...

We are not simply about technology or jobs....

We ARE all of these things but more...

Throughout its evolution WIFV has and does feel LIKE FAMILY, LIKE COMMUNITY. And I believe it is this sense of women's community that makes us so strong. We rock!

So tonight I'd like to make a toast to WIFV....

HERE IS TO OUR PAST....

TO OUR PRESENT...

And TO OUR FUTURE....  
Long may WIFV live!!!

## Cashew Becomes a Star

By Carol Rosen

Have you ever wondered what creates a 'hit' phenomenon? In the 1990's, the TV show, *Frazier*, popularized a dog breed that was relatively unknown at the time. Today, because of the adorable character, Eddie on *Frazier*, the Jack Russell Terrier (JRT) is recognized by the AKC. When Eddie, became a star, I happened to own two well-trained JRTs. The cliché, 'being in the right place at the right time', is what began my career as an animal wrangler, and later an animal talent agent.

Last year, *House of Cards* asked me to provide and train three long-haired guinea pigs for Season 2. Remembering Eddie, I joked that with the release of *HOC* Season 2, black & white Peruvian guinea pigs, would become the new pet sensation. We would begin to see Cashew look-alikes, poking their adorable little noses out of tote-bags, waiting in line for lattes at Starbucks.



To my surprise, shortly after the release of *HOC* Season 2, Cashew did become a hit. There were on-line articles everywhere about 'The House of Cashew'. He even has his own Facebook Page. The articles describe how adorable he is; how sweet and gentle his affectionate cooing sounds are.

The thing I found interesting was that I fell in love with these little guinea pigs as well. I had hamsters and gerbils as a kid. However, I never was overly excited about them. So, I was surprised to find out how amazingly adorable these little creatures truly are. Those beautiful little trilling sounds they make are real, and there is no doubt in my mind that they are expressing sheer happiness and joy to me as they trill to me in their own language. Holding Cashew, is like holding an infant. There is something energetically comforting about it. I would find myself holding him and rocking back and forth as though I held a baby in my arms.

Everyone on set seemed to respond to Cashew in the same way. Every time I would carry him to the set, people would stop, stare, and I could hear various tones of, "Cashew!" "He is so sweet". "Adorable". "Hi little Guy!" The actors definitely loved him and enjoyed holding him. I could hear it in the way they talked to them and held them.

The Guinea Pigs were smart and learned the required behaviors quickly. What a relief. I had great fun working on the scenes with the Guinea Pigs. I was exuberant with the exciting variety of professional directors, including David Fincher and Robin Wright, who worked with Cashew.

## Women in Film Week @ George Mason U - 3/25 to 3/28

By Giovanna Chesler

The Film and Video Studies (FAVS) program at GMU focuses its lens on the role of women behind and in front of the camera for a week in March at the end of Women's History Month. When only 20% of the film industry is staffed by women, 30% of the characters in films are women with speaking parts, and one in ten films is directed by a woman, there is work to be done. Our hope is that by bringing attention to the role of women in film, this impact student filmmaking, storytelling and set equity.

FAVS is partnering with several other programs to make this week possible, including the Computer Game Design Program and SGI which hosts a day-long conference on STEM+Women, and the Film and Media Studies program, Women and Gender Studies, and OSI Film. All events take place on the Fairfax campus and are open to the community. Please join us!

### Schedule of Women in Film Week

Tuesday 3/25 - [STEM+ Women conference](#) @8am-5pm, Computer Game Design Program and SGI, Johnson Center and Dewberry Hall.

Wednesday 3/26 @ 5-7pm in the JC Cinema "Ruan Lingyu" a screening of *The Goddess* (1934, 73 minutes) and conversation on the work of this Chinese silent film actress with affiliated FAVS Professor Sam Meddis, co-sponsored by Delta Kappa Alpha - the GMU film fraternity and FAMS.

Thursday 3/27 @ 6-8pm, Women in Film panel and FAVS alumni, networking and workshop event in Innovation Hall, GMU TV studio, 4th floor

Thursday 3/27 @ 9pm, *Lost in Translation*, JC Cinema

OSI Films will feature Director Sofia Coppola's Academy Award Nominated film starring Scarlett Johansen and Bill Murray. The film was nominated for Best Screenplay, Best Director, Best Picture, and Best Actor.

Friday 3/28 @ 2:30pm, *Studio A* with Women in Film and Video President and filmmaker Erin Essenmacher, Innovation Hall Studio A with reception

Friday 3/28 @ 6PM, *Miss Representation*, JC Cinema

OSI Films showcases this acclaimed documentary written, directed, and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. *Miss Representation* explores how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in influential positions by circulating limited and often disparaging portrayals of women.



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.

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