



## May 2015 Members in the News

Featuring Sabrina **McCormick**, Natalia **Megas**, Ann Marie **DiNardo**, Arla **Bowers**, John **Wetmore**, Rick **Kain**, Ann **Zamudio**, **Citygate Films**, WIFV/Maryland Film Festival, Nike **Oyebanjo**, Nasreen **Alkhateb**, Claudia **Myers**, Member Coffee 5/26, Team WIFV at 48 Hours, Natalie **Halpern**, Dan **Perkins**, What's Filming in DC?, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

### A GOOD EGG in NYC - May 28!



**Sabrina McCormick** announces that her first short fiction film - **A GOOD EGG** - will premier in NYC at Landmark Sunshine Cinema as a part of the [NY International Shorts Film fest](#) May 28th at 7:45pm. [Tickets have gone on sale and you can get yours here.](#) Sabrina will find somewhere nearby for celebratory

drinks! The film was produced by **Monica Lee Bellais** and casting done by **Kimberly Skyrme**.

### DiNardo Wins at Idaho Writers Retreat

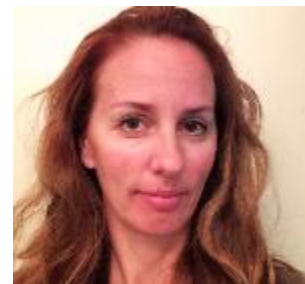
**Anne Marie DiNardo** just returned from the [Idaho Writers Rendezvous](#) where she earned first place in the conference competition - screenwriting category for her short, **THE HEIST**. The conference panelists included *New York Times* bestselling authors and a script consultant from Los Angeles. In addition to learning from the workshops,



attendees were also given the opportunity to join panelists in small groups for lunch to further network and learn about each others' experiences. A conference highlight was the Friday night social where four hilarious female comedic writers brought down the house with stories of life's unusual predicaments. On return from Idaho, Anne Marie viewed this trip as a life-changing experience. "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn so much in a short time from the talented people I met at this conference. My biggest take away is how the internet and digital distribution is dramatically changing how we create, produce and market ourselves. There is a big paradigm shift in self-publishing online which can help screenwriters get exposure using this evolving medium."

### Megas Screenplay Recognized

**Natalia Megas'** screenplay **UNDARK** (w.t.) won the NOVA award for best screenplay after being nominated in three categories this April at the NOVA film festival in Northern Virginia. Her historical drama is inspired by a true story about a case that established new working conditions for factory workers in the 1920's. When a group of young female factory workers contract radiation poisoning, they challenge their duplicitous employer and pay a tragic price for exposing the injustice.



### Bowers Attends Black List's Mini-Lab



Arla Bowers was chosen as one of five writers to attend The Black List's NYC Mini-Lab (May 2-3). "It provided an incredible weekend experience and raised my writing skills to a whole new level. On the first day, we each had private one-on-one meetings with four amazing screenwriters: Beau Willimon (**HOUSE OF CARDS**), Jessica

Bendinger (**BRING IT ON**), Leslye Headland (**SLEEPING WITH OTHER PEOPLE**), and Michael Mitnick (**THE GIVER**). During these hour and a half sessions, the mentors all focused on my suspense drama **BEYOND THE SILENCE** (the same script chosen for the WIFV Spotlight on Screenwriters).

Their views on my script varied quite a bit: I heard terrific suggestions that spun my story in a whole new direction. I heard probing questions designed to heighten my creative process. I heard page by page notes of what worked and what could be tweaked. And I'm thrilled to say that I also heard "I love your script! I would hardly change a thing!"

Anne Marie learned about the conference and literary contest from the WIFV listserv.

## 200th Episode Celebration

The 200th Episode of **PERILS FOR PEDESTRIANS** is now online. [You can see it here.](#)

PERILS FOR PEDESTRIANS started as a series on public access cable television in 1996. It can now be seen on more than 100 access stations. The program looks at problems confronting pedestrians in communities like yours, and solutions to those problems from across the United States and around the world. WIFV member **John Z. Wetmore** is host and producer of the series. He has done interviews in all 50 states and a dozen countries.

Episode 200 starts with Apollo 12 astronaut Alan Bean talking about walking on the moon. Then Space Shuttle astronaut Rick Mastracchio talks about walking in space. The rest of the episode looks back at some favorite interviews from the first 199 episodes, covering topics as diverse as the history of the shoe, sidewalk design, crosswalk enforcement, and walking to school.



John Wetmore and Alan Bean

## Citygate Films Finalist for CINE Award

We here at **Citygate Films** were surprised and delighted to be named a finalist in the PSA/nonprofit category for the CINE Golden Eagle Professional Media Awards. The award was for **AUTUMN JOURNEY**, a "visual poem" about overcoming mental health and substance abuse challenges that we produced last year in conjunction with Mr. Leslie Burrs, director of Pennsylvania's only African-American opera company, Opera North, Inc., and the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability Services (DBHIDS) in Philadelphia. The piece is based on a poem and original score that Leslie wrote, and features two people who have been through the DBHIDS treatment and are now recovery counselors themselves. It's an artistic approach to the topic, and we were pleased to be recognized for it in this category.



On the second day Scott Meyers (GO INTO THE STORY blogger and UNC professor) guided us through a six-hour session where we focused on each of the five scripts and shared notes from the day before. Aside from the great sharing and the great camaraderie, my most important take-away from Scott's session: Be true to your vision and trust yourself as an artist to tell the story you want to tell.

## Kain Receives Best Guest Actor Award



**Rick Kain** (center front), has returned from the Indie Series Awards in LA, where he was nominated as Best Guest Actor in a Drama for his work on **ANACOSTIA**. This DC based series also won the award for Best Ensemble - Drama!

## Zamudio Changing the Conversation

**Ann Zamudio** was recently featured on the EmpowHER website for her work to break the silence about miscarriage. "There's nothing we can do to stop the incredibly high rate of miscarriage, but we can do things to help educate people in our culture about how to handle it," she said.

[You can read the full story here.](#)

WIFV is proud to be a fiscal sponsor for **DON'T TALK ABOUT THE BABY**. The film is seeking production funding and you can make your tax-deductible donation [here](#).

## WIFV & Maryland Film Festival!



WIFV members made some wonderful connections at the Maryland Film Festival on May 8. President **Erin Essenmacher** moderated a lively, insightful panel of women filmmakers from across the country to discuss Collaboration, not Competition, sponsored by Femme Fatales of New York. The panel, *Cue Call: Demystifying the Casting*

From left: Chad Bartlett (DP), Carolyn McCulley (director/producer), Drew Masterson, and Suzanne Glover (editor) with her daughter, Saraphina



**FIRST OF ITS KIND** **Airs**  
**Nike Oyebanjo** announces broadcast of **FIRST OF ITS KIND**, a TV show is designed to showcase innovation, ingenuity, progress, and inventions that help to improve the human condition. This global lifestyle program features individuals, businesses, and not for profits who are creating new products and innovations that save time,

money, and presents a solution to an existing problem. Featuring inventions and innovations from the bizarre to the outrageous to the life changing and ultra-practical, **FIRST OF ITS KIND** has a core goal of educating and entertaining audiences. It currently airs on Fairfax Cable Access TV in Virginia and Prince Georges Community Television in Upper Marlboro Maryland and will soon be available to other neighboring community stations. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

Here are links to the shows produced so far:

[How to Obtain A Patent \(28:25\)](#)

[Patent Filing & Patent Attorney \(25:39\)](#)

[Patent Filing & Patent Attorney - Inventor Ron Moore \(50:53\)](#)

[Email questions or suggestions here.](#) Thank you in advance!



### **Myers Among 10 to Watch in 2015!**

CONGRATS TO *THE INDEPENDENT'S* 10 TO WATCH IN 2015 - Director **Claudia Myers** takes on the story of a female army medic and mother in her powerful dramatic feature **FORT BLISS**, starring Michelle Monaghan. Writer Catherine

Epstein delves into the challenges Myers faced in bringing such a complex narrative to the screen. [Read more.](#)

*Process*, brought together established and emerging filmmakers with **Betsy Royall-CSA**, **Kimberly Skyrme**, and **Monica Lee Bellais**.



Ramona Diaz, Betsy Royall, Erin Essenmacher, Keri Williams

The collaborative spirit was in the air at our MFF happy hour, cosponsored with **Studio Unknown**, where local filmmakers connected with visiting directors, writers and actors. WIFV Board

members Betsy Royall and Amy Johanson are planning many Baltimore events in the coming months. Next up: June happy hour and a Foley workshop at Studio Unknown.

### **From Greenland to DC - Camera in Tow**

**Nasreen Alkhatib** just got back from being in the field as a producer/shooter/editor with NASA's Operation IceBridge in Greenland. This video ([see it here](#)) features both the rugged scenery of Greenland and the interior of a NASA C-130, the aircraft serving as the aerial platform for this spring's science campaign. IceBridge flies over the Arctic and Antarctic every year measuring changes in the ice with instruments including radar and lasers.



Nasreen's short film **MIDTOWN YOUTH ACADEMY** has been chosen to be featured in [Our City Film Festival](#). DC boxing hero Eugene "Thunder" Hughes, founder of Midtown Youth Academy, an ex convict who has spent the last 50 years teaching inner city youth how to focus.



### **WIFV Member Coffee**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2015**

8:30 - 10:00 am

Panera Bread

4501 Wisconsin Ave, NW

(Tenleytown Metro)

[RSVP here](#)

# Team WIFV Produces FOR THE LOVE OF PETE in 48 Hours Part of "Best of" Screening on May 29



At 6:00pm Friday, May 1, writers, **Irelene Ricks**, **Doug Ryan** and **Shoshana Rosenbaum** arrived at 48 Hour Film Project team leader, **Jane Barbara's** house. That afternoon co- team leader, **Faith DeVeaux** arrived to help Jane set up. They wanted to be ready for anything.

By 6:30 Chinese take-out was on the kitchen counter. The text came in. **Robin Noonan-Price** had picked our genre out of the hat at the Kick-Off. We could not believe our luck: Film de femme! Team WIFV was off!

Our director, **Oriana Oppice**, arrived a few moments later, after driving all the way from New York City to join our team. After a brief discussion, the concept, the title, FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, was chosen. All five writers were assigned one page or scene to write. Since the film was mostly a speaking role, there was only one choice to play the lead role of Bridget Davenport, runner up - Oriana. For the next hour, Oriana, reworked the dialogue so it would fit perfectly in her mouth. Faith, Robin, Oriana, and Jane went to bed (Pajama party!) around one o'clock in the morning.

By 6:30 am: DP, **Aaron Shirley**, assistant DP, sound engineer and gaffer, **John Wetmore**, **Walter Swartz**, **Thomas Fant** arrived with their gear. Production Assistants, **Anne Thompson**, **Paige Mitchell**, **Ali Cheff**, set out to do what needed to be done to set up camera angles, decorate the set, etc.



By 9:00 am, the first actor needed on set, **Martha Karl**, was being made up by Ali. By 9:30, the first scene was ready. Later in the day, actors, **Claude Stark** and **Krissi Bainbridge**, arrived to help bring FOR THE LOVE OF PETE to life.

While shooting went on upstairs, in the quiet of the basement, editor **Diego Torres**, worked his magic putting all the puzzle pieces together. There were some "issues". This is the 48 Hour Film Project -- there are always technical issues. Diego and Oriana worked through the night to make certain the final edit was as seamless as time allowed.



By five o'clock, Sunday afternoon, Robin and Faith were headed down to the Drop Off in DC with plenty of time to spare.

Team leaders, Faith and Jane, thank all the writers, the fabulous cast and crew for their hard work. It was fast, furious, and fun, weekend doing what we all love - making movies.

[Purchase your tickets for the Best Of Screening at AFI Silver here.](#)

A promotional graphic for the film screening. It features a black background with white text. On the left, it says "We made it into the Best of DC 48HFP!". In the center, there is a vertical neon sign that says "AFI SILVER". On the right, it says "Come see our film! AFI Silver Theatre May 29th at 7:00 pm". At the bottom, there is a horizontal neon sign that says "Silver THE 48 HOUR FILM PROJECT AFI Silver".

**We made it into the Best of DC 48HFP!**

**Come see our film!**  
**AFI Silver Theatre**  
**May 29th at 7:00 pm**

Silver THE 48 HOUR FILM PROJECT AFI Silver

## Postcard from Florida - Natalie Halpern Productions



Since stating my full-service video production company, Natalie Halpern Productions, in Jacksonville, Florida (we're only two hours from Orlando) I've been able to solve complex communications problems by producing corporate videos and films for Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits and other corporations.

For the last several years, **Natalie Halpern Productions** has created videos for Nielsen for employee engagement, C-suite level initiatives, global conferences, employee engagement, product launches, company-wide training and the Nielsen's corporate social responsibility program Nielsen Cares. Two of my favorite projects were "A Day in the Life with Nielsen,"

which tells the story of a typical family and how Nielsen gathers insights about every aspect of consumer life. Using a combination of beautiful footage, infographics and narration, this video teaches employees about the breadth and depth of Nielsen's market research capabilities. Another is a corporate documentary I produced and edited focused on the synergy between Nielsen and Tata Consultancy Services, TCS, Nielsen's largest outsourcing partner. The film was released to Nielsen's 40,000+ employees across the globe. You can watch a clip for "A Day in the Life with Nielsen" at [www.nataliehalpern.com](http://www.nataliehalpern.com), along with other projects.

Though my toes are often on the sands of Jacksonville's beautiful beaches, I keep some up there in Washington, where I started my video production career and made my first two international documentaries. Last fall I edited a series of videos to accompany a computer based training module for GSA's Federal Acquisition Institute.

If you need a video production company with access to award-winning international crews and the capacity to work on projects in Spanish, French and Portuguese, please do send me a postcard or [email me here](#). I'd love more opportunities to work with the wonderful and talented WIFV community.

## Perkins Creates Songs and Stories for Soldiers

### Providing Free MP3 Players for Active Duty Soldiers

As a veteran himself, best-selling author, speaker, and WIFV Member, **Dan Perkins** has taken on a new role: American Veteran Advocate. Dan knows firsthand the type of emotional stress that veterans experience when they return from active duty. Whether they have bodily scars or emotional ones, each vet is changed by war.

"We know the price every active duty member of the armed forces pays. We want them to know we are working to do something for them. By providing this customizable MP3 player, veterans wounded on duty will have soothing songs, stories, and their own type of music that they enjoy. While not an answer to all their needs, it is something we can do to remind them that someone cares," said Dan Perkins.

**Songs and Stories for Soldiers** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation dedicated to providing free, customizable electronic entertainment for members of the American Military, both active and retired. They are providing MP3 players, with headsets and USB connection cable or the most recent technology, free to American Military. They have started with active duty wounded, and as their needs are met they will branch out to Veterans and VA hospitals across the United States.

Over the last two years, since the inspirational start of this program, they given away 2,100 MP3 players, all delivered through local Salvation Army groups and VA Hospitals. It has been with the generous gifts of private individuals and small groups. But there is so many more Veterans and Active Duty personnel who would benefit from this gift.

One of the things that Perkins knows is the trouble military personnel have in sleeping. Many have PTSD, and although they may fall asleep, they can't stay asleep. **Songs and Stories for Soldiers** have recently added 8-hours of music to sooth their spirits and help them fall asleep and stay asleep until morning.

May 16 was Armed Forces Day. A day that America pays tribute to the active duty and retired military personnel who are, and have, provided the freedoms and protection America enjoys. By giving generously to **Songs and Stories for Soldiers**, many more will benefit from this program. [A video describing the program fully is available for viewing here](#). For more information, [contact Dan Perkins here](#).



## What's Filming in DC?

A number of still photography shoots, documentaries, commercials, and feature films chose the District as their filming location over the last month. They include but are not limited to:

- TV Series: *WAGS* (E! Entertainment Television)
- Documentary: *Principles of Bioethics* (Two Crown Productions)
- TV Special: *The Gospel Tradition: In Performance at the White House* (WETA)
- Commercial: TEDx Pennsylvania Ave (Fluent Visual)
- Documentary: *Lost Treasures* (October Films)
- Documentary: *Freedom to Marry* (Eyepop Productions)
- Documentary: *Subsurface Smoldering Event* (SSE/Fremont Associates)
- TV Special: *Joining Forces* (Lifetime Network)
- TV Series: *Agent-X* (TNT/Stargate Films)
- Documentary: *The Arab Experience* (JWM Productions)
- TV Commercial: Geico (Relevant Entertainment)
- TV Series: *To Know* (Middle East Broadcasting Networks)
- TV Series: *The Inspectors* (CBS)
- TV Series: *Relocated* (Travel Channel)



Visit the [Current Productions](#) section of [www.film.dc.gov](http://www.film.dc.gov) to see what's filming.

## 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 5th 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)



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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