



WIFV NEWS

November 2015

President's Message

On Thursday, October 29th, Mayor Bowser bestowed Women in Film & Video DC with the Award for Excellence in Service to the Arts at the 30th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards organized by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities. In my first message, I said I wanted to hold another award this year...one that belongs to you. And now that's come true. This award belongs to everyone -- Executive Director Melissa Houghton, our all-volunteer board, members, sponsors and partners. It's been an exciting month! I hope you enjoy reading about some of the amazing filmmakers at the Middleburg Film Festival in my message below.



Bustamante & Daniels

"And now that you don't have to be perfect, you can be good," is one of Olivia Wilde's favorite quotes from Steinbeck's *East of Eden*. In a candid black and white interview on **OFF CAMERA WITH**

SAM JONES, Wilde explains her recent leap of faith with *MEADOWLAND*, directed by Reed Morano, and how the film helped her to develop both her business skills and her acting chops. Wilde took on the role of producer along with the role of actress, portraying a mother devastated by the disappearance of her son. The artistic journey for these two moviemakers involved an unexpected pregnancy for Wilde, and an unexpected illness for Morano, a female cinematographer making her directorial debut with the film -- and battling cancer along the way.

And then there's Meg Ryan, whose directorial debut *ITHACA* was shot on location in the Richmond-Petersburg area of Virginia, and had its world premiere at the Middleburg Film Festival this October. Ryan also acted in this film, doing double duty like Wilde and Morano. Set in the early days of World War II, the film

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WIFV is honored to be the recipient of the 2015 Mayor's Arts Award for Excellence in Service to the Arts. The award was presented to Rebecca Bustamante, WIFV President by The Honorable Jack Evans on Thursday, October 29, 2015.

follows the story of a 14-year old boy tasked with delivering telegrams from the Secretary of War to the families of the small town he lives in. Ryan was one of seven women directors with films at this year's MFF, and was in good company with Catherine Hardwicke, whose film *MISS YOU ALREADY* also screened at the festival this year.

Hardwicke, known for *THIRTEEN* and the megahit *TWILIGHT*, participated in a "Conversation" event at Boxwood Winery. These special events give festival attendees the chance to enjoy an intimate setting while filmmakers answer questions from LA and NY correspondents. Maureen Orth, special correspondent for *Vanity Fair*, asked Hardwicke about her directing career, and noted she serves as a role model for women in Hollywood - where only 4% of movies directed by women make it to the big screen. The tone is meant to be relaxed and conversational; the same tone Sam Jones uses in his *OFF CAMERA* series, augmented in the MFF setting by a delicious glass of wine.

Lee Daniels, writer, director, and co-creator of *EMPIRE*, FOX television's original series, was also asked about diversity during his "Conversation" event at the Salamander Library at MFF. Daniels' responses to John Horn, host of KPCC's *THE FRAME* in LA, were frank and unapologetic. "I do stories that matter to me." Daniels recounted how he could not finish directing the scene in *EMPIRE* where a boy walks to his father in high heels...that was his story, that was his father, and he froze in the director's chair. His sister, who was on set that day, stepped in and began directing, finishing the day for him. Daniels' satisfaction comes not from awards or critical accolades for his work in films *PRECIOUS*, *MONSTER BALL*, *THE BUTLER*, but from a person who walks up to him and says, "Thank you for telling that story. I was abused." Join us as we celebrate and support artistic vision this month with two of our signature events:

A Conversation with Joan Darling and Dawn Porter - Nov. 12

Celebrate with 2015 Women of Vision honorees Joan Darling and Dawn Porter, moderated by Peabody-Award-winning Senior Producer/Reporter on the Arts Desk at NPR Elizabeth Blair.
[RSVP here.](#)

Words to Action! at ScriptDC - Nov. 13 - 15

Enjoy directing and producing master classes, pitch critiques, and a special screening.
[Register now to get your free ScriptDC mobile app.](#) Special thanks to Yolanda

Virtual Reality Weds One

Everyone likes to feel like they're predicting the future - like they're getting one over on the fates. Culture happens when a bunch of people agree on a prediction. That's what's happening with virtual reality.

Our program will cover the contextual basics of virtual reality, why it should be taken seriously, and some keys to filmmaking in this new medium. **Erika Ostergaard** believes that virtual reality will bring about and will require new forms of narrative, forms that must be discovered through first-hand experience and experimentation.

November 4, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW
\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 Public
[RSVP here](#)

Thanks for Top Rating!



[Volunteer. Donate. Review.](#)

Roundtable Round-Up

Narrative Directors Roundtable
RIGHTS, RISKS & REWARDS in narrative filmmaking

November 2, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW
[RSVP here](#)

Documentary Roundtable

November 9, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Doc House, 8700 First Ave, Silver Spring, MD
No RSVP needed

Screenwriters Roundtable

November 23, 2015, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

Kickstarter Triumph!

From [DocumentaryTelevision.com](#)
Kickstarter recently set an amazing new record in the documentary category when 16,850 backers pledged \$859,425!

The campaign?
"Help bring to life the definitive film on Bill Nye

Arrington for helping us go mobile!

When Wilde talked about not "being perfect", she was highlighting how movies like MEADOWLAND and DRINKING BUDDIES allowed her to stretch artistically, and break out of the glamorous "box" that Hollywood had defined for her as a leading actress. When we let go of the labels that other people stick on us, we're able to approach our artistic work from a place of deep connection and unflinching honesty. Be fearless. Be fierce.

Changing media one story at a time,

Rebecca

The Science Guy and his quest to change the world through science advocacy and education."

[Read about the filmmakers and analyze their superb Kickstarter campaign here](#)

#52FilmsByWomen

Will you watch a film a week by a woman for one year? Say YES, and join the [#52FilmsByWomen](#) movement! It is super easy: make the commitment, watch the film and post about it on Facebook or Twitter. You can curate a list on [GoWatchIt](#), or pull from one of the many lists of films by female writers and directors. Our partner, Women In Film is taking your pledges to watch 52 Films now!"

What a Weekend for Filmmakers in November!!!

Women of Vision! ScriptDC! TIVA Peer Awards!



The weekend begins on Thursday, **November 12** when WIFV will present **Women of Vision Awards to Joan Darling and Dawn Porter**. Celebrating the creative and technical achievements of women in media, this year's

Women of Vision Awards program will allow more time for the honorees to share their expertise and adventures in a moderated discussion with plenty of time for clips and audience Q&A. **Elizabeth Blair**, arts/culture reporter for National Public Radio will moderate the discussion. The program will begin at 7:00 pm at the Jack Morton Auditorium at The George Washington University. A VIP Reception will follow the presentation at the One Washington Circle Hotel. [Register today](#).



Joan Darling was the first woman nominated for an Emmy for directing. She was nominated four times winning both the Emmy and the DGA Award. She is considered the first woman director of the modern age. She has lent her talents as both a director and actress. In the early 1970s, Joan got an acting role as a recurring character in the television series OWEN MARSHALL, COUNSELOR AT LAW. In her early directorial career, Joan directed the pilot and many other episodes in the first season of the hit TV series MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN. She also directed episodes of M.A.S.H., RICH MAN, POOR MAN, MAGNUM PI, among others. She directed the "Chuckles Bites the Dust" episode of THE MARY TYLER MOORE SHOW, which was named "the number one TV episode of all time" by *TV Guide*. *The New York Times* named it "the funniest episode ever on TV". Her first film, FIRST LOVE, was released in 1977, and was named one of the year's ten best by CBS. Joan created the Directing the Actor workshop for the Sundance Institute and has taught directing at the Sundance Lab for twenty years.

Dawn Porter is an award-winning filmmaker whose 2013 documentary GIDEON'S ARMY won the Sundance Film Festival Editing Award and the Tribeca All Access Creative Promise Award. The film broadcast on HBO in July 2013 and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award and an Emmy. The film has been used across the globe to engage local communities in important conversations to engage local communities in important conversations about indigent defense, race, the US justice system and socioeconomic influences on crime. The film was also selected to be included in the US Department of State's American Film Showcase. Dawn directed and produced SPIES OF MISSISSIPPI - a critically-acclaimed historical documentary that was part of ITVS' 2014 Independent Lens series on PBS. The film tells the little-known story of a state-sponsored campaign to defeat the Civil Rights



Movement in the 1960s. Dawn recently completed RISE: THE PROMISE OF MY BROTHERS KEEPER, a documentary film chronicling President Obama's program to help young men and boys of color succeed. She interviewed President Obama for the film which will air nationally on The Discovery Channel and The Oprah Winfrey Network. She is currently working on TRAPPED, which is funded in part with funds from the MacArthur Foundation and explores the impact of laws regulating abortion clinics in the South. Prior to her independent filmmaking career, Dawn worked as Director of Standards and Practices at ABC News and as Vice President of Standard and Practices at A&E Television Networks.

ScriptDC is in full swing on Saturday, November 14! The Directing Master Class with Joan Darling will actually begin on Friday, November 13 and involve a wide variety of actors and directors stretching their muscles and brains. Saturday is a full day of workshops starting with the reveal of the 2015 Spotlight on Screenwriters book. That panel at 9:00 am will feature Monica Lee Bellais, and representatives of the region's film offices. It's a great start for the other 17 workshops happening on Saturday which will be capped with a screening of DEAD POETS SOCIETY followed by Q&A with the Oscar-winning screenwriter, Tom Schulman. [The Saturday schedule is available here.](#) Sunday wraps with a full day of Pitch and Script Critiques. You want to be there, [so register here.](#)



We are honored that Joan Darling, Dawn Porter, Tom Schulman, Ligiah Villalobos, Laurie Scheer, Bill Svano, Aviva Kempner, Nina Gilden Seavey, Brigid Maher, Giovanna Chesler, Kate Pearson, Sheree Guitar, Alison Rosa, Monica Lee Bellais, Jonathan Zurer, Arla Bowers, Ron Newcomb, Jane Love, Jay Schlossberg, Bob Middleton, and others have agreed to present. Workshops for writers, directors, and producers of all experience levels.



ScriptDC is sponsored by the DC Commission on the Arts & Humanities - Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment - Interface Media Group - Film & Media Arts/School of Communication/ American University - The Documentary Center at The George Washington University - The Actors' Center - The Gem Star Foundation.



If the Women of Vision Awards aren't enough of a celebration for you, there's the **TIVA Peer Awards** on Saturday, November 14 at the French Embassy! The TIVA-DC Peer Awards is a merit-based award judged solely on the individual merits of the entry. This is not a competition, rather an acknowledgment and celebration of exceptional quality work created by professionals and non-professionals in the Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania or Delaware region. This may result in categories receiving multiple awards of the same level as well as some categories without awards. [You can order a ticket here.](#)

A Tribute to Agnieszka Holland - Nov 14



The Kosciuszko Foundation of Washington, DC invites you to the 2015 Fundraising Gala Dinner - A Tribute to Agnieszka Holland The 2015 Recipient of the Pioneer Award Saturday, November 14th, 2015 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20036

Agnieszka Holland - One of Poland's most prominent filmmakers, a three-time Oscar nominee, an extraordinary artist, known and appreciated worldwide, and a WIFV Woman of Vision in 2012. Tickets: \$150 (to Oct.14) \$175 (after) Students: \$100 [Purchase tickets here](#) .

Report from 2015 Carolyn's First Decade Scholarship Recipient - Emily Wathen



I remember learning that I received the 2015 Carolyn's First Decade Fund and being immediately excited for the year to come. For me this was an opportunity to challenge myself and take a leap forward - in this case with a timeline, support, and inspiration from two dedicated filmmakers and now friends.

My conversations this year with Susan Barocas and Karen Whitehead, stewards of the Carolyn's First Decade Fund, along with my work experiences, personal projects, memorable wins and mistakes, remind me of how far I've come, and how productive it's been to take a year to focus and work with two professionals who have been through this first decade and continue to navigate a path for their creativity and talents.

I chose to channel the First Decade Fund award toward the Advanced Digital Cinematography workshop at Maine Media. For a week I worked with cameras including the Red Epic and Red Epic Dragon, Blackmagic Ursa, and Canon C300, to learn their strengths and to experiment with different shot setups, movements, and creative lighting. I had a blast, but one of the best takeaways was that I felt almost instantly comfortable shooting with every camera. It was reassuring to feel at ease and confident, and I'm looking forward to working with a variety of camera setups on future films and assignments. During the workshop I had two precious hours to make a project of my choosing, so I decided to film a local performer and musician named Jim James. A 90-second version of the piece can be seen here.



The Last Leaves of Summer

In 2015, I premiered TOWPATH JOE, a short I made with film partner Susanne Coates at several festivals, and we also entered the post-production phase on our upcoming doc, WHERE THE WATERS BLEND. I had amazing opportunities to work with Just Luck Productions, Johns Hopkins, Fur Face Films, Rock Creek Productions, Tillinghast Reid, USAID and many others on short

documentaries, corporate videos, and feature films. I'm honored and grateful for the valuable experience and past year spent utilizing the benefits and support of Carolyn's First Decade Fund.

I wholeheartedly encourage fellow WIFV members to apply for the 2016 grant. Feel free to reach out to me with questions or curiosities if you're thinking of applying. [You can find me here.](#)

Applications for Carolyn's First Decade Fund are due on Tuesday, November 17. Info for applicants is available on the WIFV website: <http://www.wifv.org/programs/carolyns-first-decade-fund/>
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Carolyn's First Decade Fund was established in memory of long-time WIFV member and documentary filmmaker Carolyn Projansky as a way to honor her passion for visual storytelling, commitment to education and dedication to mentoring young filmmakers. The Fund is designed to help advance the careers of individuals in their first decade of working as media professionals and provide them with access to continuing skills development and to networking and connections in the larger film community.

Applications for the 2016 grant are due November 17, 2015.
[The application and guidelines are here.](#)

Goldman Career Development Scholarship Application Deadline - Nov 19

WIFV offers the Randy Goldman Career Development Scholarship to WIFV Members as a way to honor WIFV Past President Randy Goldman and her creative vision, passion for education, and commitment to the larger film community. The scholarship, funded by past WIFV Presidents, enables creative women with a vision for their career paths and a need for additional focus and study in a particular field of interest, to continue their professional development. Applicants must have at least 12 years experience as a media professional. [The application and instructions for the 2016 scholarship are here.](#) The materials are due on November 19, 2015.

The Maine Media Workshops of Rockport, Maine and WIFV partner to provide the Randy Goldman Career Development Scholarship. The Workshops generously match WIFV's contribution by donating fees and services. The scholarship, which totals up to \$2,500 in funds and fee waivers, allows the winner to experience one of the nation's premier film, video and digital educational programs with tuition, accommodation and travel support.

The Randy Goldman Career Development Scholarship Committee selects the winner from a competitive group of submissions. The committee, which is comprised of WIFV Past Presidents, selects the candidate who most exemplifies the qualities of creative excellence, a thirst for knowledge, and the passion for bringing important stories to life through the media experience that reflect Randy Goldman's career. Past recipients include Jordana Wells, Susan Kehoe, Hilarey Kirsner Leonard, Mary C. Stephens, Erica Ginsberg, Judy Cohall, Leola Calzolari-Stewart, Julie Rios Little, Niyati Shah, Kiley Kraskouskas, Kim Merritt, Karen Kasmauski, and Kathryn Pasternak.

LUNAFEST Study Reveals the Challenges of Female Filmmakers

By Brigitte Yuille, WIFV Board Member

A new study not only examines the under-representation of female Hollywood filmmakers, but it also tries to determine the reasons why the lack of diversification exists.



For the past 15 years, LUNAFEST, a national film festival, has hosted more than 100 female

filmmakers. Most of them either graduated from a film school or participated in a film program, and their films have won festival awards. Yet, many of these filmmakers have encountered difficulties getting a job in Hollywood.

LUNAFEST partnered with Dr. Stacy L. Smith Ph.D and her researchers at University of Southern California Annenberg's Media, Diversity, and Social Change Initiative to study this group of women in order to determine the barriers inhibiting female filmmakers' career progress.

The **study *Gender & Short Films: Emerging Female Filmmakers and the Barriers Surrounding Their Careers***, found that women make up one-third of directors of short and mid-length films at 10 worldwide festivals like Festival de Cannes. The same amount of women are more likely to produce documentaries rather than a narrative or animated short.

When comparisons are made with independent film and Hollywood films it's apparent that the careers of female filmmakers are limited to short films. In a period of 13 years, women directed nearly one out of five independent feature films at one festival. During that same time period, only four percent of Hollywood films were directed by a female.

Dr. Smith of USC Annenberg also pointed out some other findings in the study in a press statement. The evidence showed that "when we have diversity behind the camera, on-screen depictions better approximate the diversity we see around us off-screen," said Smith. [Read complete study here.](#)

Jax Deluca - New NEA Director of Media Arts



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced today that Jax Deluca will join the NEA as the director of media arts beginning on January 11, 2016. Deluca will manage NEA grantmaking in media arts and represent the agency to the media arts field.

Deluca joins the NEA after her tenure as executive director of Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center in Buffalo, NY, a nonprofit serving western New York state which promotes innovation in media arts through access, education, and exhibition. At Squeaky Wheel, Deluca has overseen major expansion efforts, including fundraising, new jobs and media equipment, an updated youth media arts curriculum, and relocation into new, upgraded facilities. She recently completed a three-year tenure as a grant reviewer and advisory panelist to the New York State Council on the Arts Electronic Media and Film program. Deluca is an adjunct media arts instructor for the State University of New York at Buffalo State College, and a practicing digital media artist and co-founder of Flatsitter media arts collaborative in Buffalo, NY.

"Jax Deluca brings solid experience working on both the grant making and fundraising sides, and she has a clear commitment to making media arts accessible to diverse audiences," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "We look forward to Deluca's fresh energy and ideas for media arts at the NEA."

"For the past decade, I've been working in the field to connect artists, community organizations, and audiences with the resources and opportunities to create, experience, and engage with film and digital media in its many forms, old and new," said Deluca. "It is with much honor and enthusiasm that I accept this opportunity to join the team at the National Endowment for the Arts and further serve the media arts community in this new capacity."

The National Endowment for the Arts offers grants for a range of media arts projects. Media arts, as defined by the National Endowment for the Arts, includes screen-based projects presented via film, television, radio, audio, video, the Internet, interactive and mobile technologies, video games, transmedia storytelling, and satellite as well as media-related printed books, catalogues, and journals.

In FY 2015 alone, the NEA awarded \$6 million to 134 media arts projects across the country.

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. For more information, visit arts.gov.



The banner features a collage of four images at the top: a group of people holding red bags, a group of people holding white bags, a large crowd at an expo, and a woman working on a piece of equipment. Below the images is a blue ribbon with the text "JOIN US". The main text reads "Government VIDEO EXPO 2015" with a logo of the US Capitol building. Below this is the tagline "WHERE WASHINGTON'S TV, VIDEO AND AV PROFESSIONALS GATHER TO NETWORK, LEARN AND DISCOVER NEW TECHNOLOGIES". A red button with white text says "LEARN MORE". At the bottom, it says "Washington, DC | Conferences Dec. 1-3 | Exhibits Dec. 2-3".

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 www.wifv.org and adds to your SEO.

Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to 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

New and Renewing Members

The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership (October 1 - October 31).

Teri Addabbo
Courtney Adkisson
Steve Agnew
Julie Allen
Tanya Baskin
Beth Baunoch
Khris Baxter
Alan Bezet

Cherelle Heck
Barbara Heintz
Mica Hendricks
S. Priya Jagadeesh
Laura Jenemann
Erin Johnson
Adam Johnson
Sarah Joseph

Matthew Radcliff
Sheri Ratick Stroud
Katherine Rekkas
Judy Reynolds
Melissa Rogers
Irene Rojas
Carol Rosen

Sylvie Borschel
Chelsey Brown
Kathryn Carlson
Vicente Cinque
Dylan Comstock
Meena Dasgupta
Ewart de Visser
Michelle Delino
Denene Deverman Crabbs
Celine Di Stasio
Elizabeth Donatelli
Arianna Drumond
Florence Dwek
Joe Dzikiewicz
Wadha Eid
Ziad Foty
Marie Frances
Karen Franz
John Funk
Foty Fusion
Marva Gibbs
Mickey Green
Peter Hackes
Nicholas Hanson
Vanina Harel
Matthew Harmelin
Connie Vee Hawkins

Cathy Kades
Pierre Kattar
Mikayla Kelley
Peter Kent
Judy Kimel
Mark Kokkoros
Grazyna Kolondra
Allison Korotkin
Steve Lichtenstein
Matthew Lucas
Malkia Lydia
Miriam Machado-Luces
Debbi Mack
Pippa McBride
Terry McConnaughey
Emily McMartin
Angela Miele
Jon Miles
Niki Mock
Fouzia Najar
John Napolitano
Heming Nelson
Kevin Norton
Anja Paul
Dan Perkins
Michael Pollak
Brigette Polmar

Shann Sanders
Vanessa Serrao
Rachell Shapiro
Christina Sheehey
Karina Silva
Delacey Skinner
Marilyn Stone
Teighe Thorsen
Jill Tighe
Allison Tucker
Daniel Turner
Laura Valtorta
Elizabeth Velandar
Noelle Vinas
Nikki Webber Allen
Beate Whitesell
Lee Whitman
Wendy Wilkowski
Shane Yeager

Corporate Members:
DC Visionaries
Michelle Delino Media
Rock Creek Productions

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.

Contact Us

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Send Stories to:

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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!