



WIFV NEWS

November 2017 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Julianne Donofrio, Eulonda Lea, Asia Taylor, Maggie Stogner, Susan Borke, Juan Castellon, Ashley Gordon, Laura Bennett, Barbara Valentino, Monda Raquel Webb, Randi Cohen, Judy Meschel, Locavore Film Series, Support WIFV with Amazon Smile, Call for Members in the News Articles, and Awards Info

Donofrio Debuts **PIECED TOGETHER**



Hats off to **Julianne Donofrio**, who recently made her indie film directorial debut with **PIECED TOGETHER**, the first documentary film about the American quilt square trail movement. **PIECED TOGETHER** tells the story of how Donna Sue Groves' love for her mother, Nina Maxine, a celebrated quilter, changed the American landscape - and saved her life after job loss, breast cancer, and multiple health

concerns.

Prior to making the film, Julianne spent more than a decade based in Washington, DC at ABC News, where she worked on daily news, live event coverage, and long-form projects. As Field Producer for **NIGHTLINE: THE SURVIVORS**, which profiled two of the burn survivors from the 9-11 Pentagon attack and their rehabilitation, Julianne received a 2002 George Foster Peabody Award and was cited in the Smithsonian Institution Exhibit *September 11: Bearing Witness to History*. She is also an independent production and media consultant. Contact Julianne [here](#) or visit www.piecedtogetherdoc.com

PIECED TOGETHER will make its NYC debut at the NYWIFT Member Screening on November 28. More info and registration [here](#). The film was an Official Selection of the 2016 River's Edge International Film Festival in Paducah, Kentucky and won Best Short Documentary Feature Film at the 2017 Buffalo Dreams Fantastic Film Festival in Buffalo, New York. Julianne has also been asked to present the film at the 2018 Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.



And the winner of the Add a Member/ Add a Month campaign is ...

Well, it was a tie between **Asia Taylor** and **Maggie Stogner** who recruited one member each. Although we had hoped to add 100's of new members in October, we are happy to welcome our two newest members and grateful for Asia and Maggie who will have an extra month added to their memberships. They each received the extra award of pies from **Dangerously Delicious** pies. A warm pie was delivered by **Eulonda Lea** to Asia recently and Maggie graciously donated her pie to a future WIFV event. Thanks Asia and Maggie for their support!!



Eulonda Lea and Asia Taylor

BorkeWorks for Effective Negotiation



Susan Borke, formerly a Deputy General Counsel at National Geographic, is thrilled to announce she has recently set up her own company, **BorkeWorks** - offering training in effective negotiation to non-lawyers. What is **BorkeWorks'** philosophy in a nutshell? "We believe the best negotiators are not born," Susan explains - "they come from hard work and an understanding of what works." Her company's hands-on programs shift the traditional focus from negotiation as a battle to be won or lost to one of problem-solving, crafting agreements that reflect real-world solutions. Susan's clients include major media companies, associations, and other taxable and not for profit entities. She also offers personal coaching for individuals who are navigating challenging business or personal

Castrellon: Persevering, One Day at a Time



Juan Castrellon, an independent film producer in the DC area, is well versed in all aspects of graphics, video and photography projects. Currently battling a virulent form of brain cancer, Juan is determined to keep on fighting and working. "I recently moved back to Virginia from Panama," he says. "Working is now my therapy because I love what I do. I bill myself as a man of many hats: video editor, videographer, graphic designer and social media content creator. But ultimately, my life's dream is to write and produce my own movie."

With over 20 years of experience in the production industry, Juan's skills include filming, editing, designing, and animating. For his latest project, MY JOURNEY IN AMERICA, Juan served as both a consultant and producer-working on filming and editing the pilot.

Throughout his career, Juan kept himself immersed in all aspects of the film industry. "I enjoy keeping up to date with the latest programs, equipment and skills," he notes. "And everyone who knows me, knows that I love my job, especially when I am given the opportunity to be creative. The amazing WIFV community has been very welcoming and a great place to keep informed. I have taken advantage of great learning opportunities.

"During my time in Panama," he recounts, "I produced my own television show, COOLTURA. I did all the graphics for the show, filmed, presented and edited. It was crazy hard work, and I produced it with my wife, Teresita Tapia, and best friend, Francisco Erroz. Those skills and experiences have paid off in terms of confidence and finesse alike." Juan previously worked as a graphic designer for the movie HANDS OF STONE, re-creating posters and old school signs. He also served as a video editor and journalist for Voice of America and was a freelancer videographer and editor for several companies while living in Virginia from 2006-2009.

Call Juan at 202-600-0302 or 202-676-6600; email him [here](#) or visit www.juanraulcastrellon.com/

Valentino Explores Teen Health in Mozambique



Barbara Valentino, president of the multimedia production company, Evolving Communications, spent this past September shooting in Mozambique. "It was just one more reminder," she says, "of how much we love the

African continent and the people we meet, work with and interview. On this, our ninth time working across the continent, adolescent health was our topic to explore."

transactions. "Essentially," says Susan, "BorkeWorks is focused on helping individuals and organizations to identify and develop the negotiation skills they need to be successful." Want to learn more? Email Susan [here](#) or call her at 202-679-3281.

BLACK GIRL SINGLE Completed

Meet **Ashley Gordon**: a screenwriter, producer, and director from Baltimore, MD, who currently resides in the DC area. A theater alum from the acclaimed Baltimore School for the Arts, Ashley realized early in her career that in order to make it in the film industry, she'd need to create opportunities behind the camera to create work and control narratives about women of color on screen. "I started my career at the CBS News Network 12 years ago. I worked at the EVENING NEWS and 60 MINUTES, and later moved on to BET and public television. And I led the video strategy program for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for six years." After years of working on news and documentary style productions, Ashley recently finished her first narrative piece, entitled BLACK GIRL SINGLE. An online series and film short, BLACK GIRL SINGLE delves into the often comedic trials, tribulations and triumphs of dating as a Christian 30-something in the DC area. Ashley is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, and holds a Masters of Fine Arts degree in film from Howard University. Want to get to know Ashley's work in greater detail? Email her [here](#) or connect with her via [LinkedIn](#).



Bennett Launches American Diplomat Podcast



On October 26, **Laura Bennett** and her colleague Ambassador (retired) Pete Romero launched their new podcast *American Diplomat: Real Stories Behind the News*. Each episode features a conversation with a Foreign Service Officer (active duty or retired) about what happens on the ground when serving our

country as a diplomat. The podcast offers audiences a chance to experience the Cuban revolution, Central American insurgencies, the end of apartheid and more, through the eyes of those who lived the news firsthand. Ambassador (Ret.) Mike Senko writes, "a comprehensive and very engaging look at the U.S. diplomatic service, from some sometime surprising angles - hearts of darkness, marriage, and sacrifice." Listen, rate and review on [iTunes](#) (for Mac) or [CastBox](#) (for Android), or find episodes on our [website](#). Laura and Pete post a new episode each Tuesday, so tune in for some adventure, fun, and thought-provoking insight into the Foreign Service.

Webb to Screen ZOO in Bali

Monda Raquel Webb is pleased to announce that after two years on the film festival circuit, ZOO (VOLKERSCHAU), her short film with a big message, will end the year at the Filmmakers of the Year Festival in Bali, Indonesia, from November 10 -12. "I'm thrilled that ZOO has won a Platinum

Barbara and her crew (Christoph Green and Katie Schuler) spoke primarily with young women who, because of economic factors, find themselves in teen marriages - "babies having babies," as one minister put it. Two of the most heartfelt examples they encountered stand out in Barbara's mind: "There was this young girl named Elizabetta," she says, "who was shunned because of a medical condition called fistula - a result of her being in labor for three days as a teenager." (Sadly, her baby died.) "Then there was this 22-year-old mother and farmer with five children, who sat in the hospital with her fifth child, a baby, who was suffering severely from malnutrition."

"We were there," Barbara says, "to share the story of how partnering organizations such as UNICEF and UNFPA, led by the Mozambican government and the Global Financing Facility, have established adolescent health as a priorities. We have all been on shoots that are more than just a job-it's an exhilarating experience."

The biggest takeaway for Barbara and her team on this trip was recognizing how important it was for these young women and men to share their stories. "Even when talking to us in their native Portuguese," Barbara recalls, "their eyes connected, especially for one girl, Marja, who tugged at my sleeve, and, through our fixer, asked if she could tell her story."

Barbara says her time in Mozambique was truly inspired and memorable. Even in these remote, rural communities, they found young women banding together and supporting each other. Buoyed by the vibrant, strong sense of community they witnessed, she can't wait to go back and capture that passion. "It serves as a constant reminder as to why I am drawn to always return," she notes.

Barbara speaks to everyone at WIFV, when she says, "I think you will see what I mean and be captivated by the passion and smiles of these young people. You can see more of their work [here](#).



GFF in MOZAMBIQUE

To learn even more, contact Barbara at 202-333-6195 or mail her [here](#).

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

Award from the film festival for International Short Film," she says. "I will be in Bali to receive the award and participate in the events. This is very exciting for me, as the overall message of the film, which is "Let's All Be Human" is still being embraced worldwide. "



Monda refers to herself as "an independent storyteller dedicated to telling little known stories hidden in the crevices of history's pages. As a visual archaeologist, I'm committed to organic

storytelling from a woman's lens, that elevates, educates and uplifts humanity."

ZOO is a short film about a day in the life of an African girl on display for the first time in a human zoo in 1958. Since January, 2015, the film has won seven National Awards and four International Awards on the film festival circuit. "Inasmuch as we've been taught about the brutal history of slavery and the Holocaust," Monda says, "the obscurity of human zoos alone makes it an important topic to tackle." The film was inspired by this photo.



African Girl in a Human Zoo,
World's Fair, Brussels,
Belgium 1958

She goes on to explain the film's poignant mission: "My social media hash tag is #letsallbehuman. My overarching goal is to get people to see all human beings as human beings. We're asking people to trash the dogma, forget stereotype, disregard color, race, lifestyle and gender and to really SEE one another as the girls in the films see themselves; simply human. This conversation is timely and mandatory. The more people know, the more likely they are to change their behavior; then we have succeeded in our part to make this world a better place."

You can see behind the scenes footage [here](#).

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 and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to director@wifv.org by the 10th of the month.

A Thanksgiving Tale of Fabulous Pipes and Tappin' Feet

By Randi Cohen

Thanksgiving is coming, and I want our phenomenal WIFV community to know that this year, I have something astounding to be thankful for - in addition to all the other blessings that have been bestowed upon my life.

It all began innocently enough...I inherited a boatload of Broadway musicals. Original cast albums. Yes, albums. Also reel-to-reels, Broadway shows from the 1950's, the 1960's and a few from the 1970's. What to do with this treasure trove of Americana? These were popular musicals, forgotten musicals, and history-making musicals.

And there was some amazing trivia to ponder: who knew that it was Mary Martin, not Julie Andrews, who originated the role of Maria from Sound of Music? That Richard Burton, Julie Andrews and Richard Kiley were in the original cast of *Camelot*? That

Phil Silvers originally turned down the part of Pal Joey because he didn't want to appear onstage with glasses?

At about the same time I was knee deep in reel-to-reels, I was channel surfing on the radio. Time and again, I randomly found myself listening to really interesting programming - only to find out that they emanated from the new Arlington, VA station, WERA (the radio entity of Arlington Independent Media--AIM.)



Suddenly, like the overture at the beginning of the second act of a musical, I knew what I needed to do! I would share my musical stash with the Arlington community by creating a radio program dedicated to Broadway musicals!!

Could I do it? Why not? So, like many other aspiring radio jocks with a dream, I submitted an application and enrolled in the Intro to Radio class at AIM and learned how to put a show together. From concept to completion, my synapses were firing on many cylinders.

Ultimately, I decided I wouldn't do a live show - at least, not yet. And so, BROADWAY BOUND was launched. Each week was organized around a different theme: teenage angst (*Grease*, *Jersey Boys*, *Mamma Mia*); implausible story lines (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Book of Mormon*, *Pippin*); "ISM's" -- i.e., racism, capitalism and fanaticism (*The Producers*, *Bamum*, *The Book of Mormon*, *Evita*); unusual professions (*Sweet Charity*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Wildcat*, *Hamilton*) and children (*Oliver*, *Les Miz*, *Matilda*, *Bye Bye Birdie*). And each episode contained songs, along with trivia, history and humor.

The show took off! I created a Facebook page (BROADWAY BOUND) and announced upcoming episodes through Twitter and other social media platforms. As a naturally enthusiastic person, I decided to modulate my voice to a respectable tone (think NPR). My listeners (okay, my friends and family) began asking if I was depressed! So I let the enthusiasm back into my voice and learned how to find my voice.

After 7 months, I took on a co-host, **Judy Meschel**, another WIFV member and someone who was also a fan of musicals. We took radio handle names - "Radio Randi" and "Just Judy". We had so much fun -- heck, we are still having fun!

I am so thankful and delighted that BROADWAY BOUND has been on the air for over a year now, and I am creating the type of show I would enjoy! It's so great having a co-host who shares your vision and passion; our styles are truly complementary. (Thank you so much, Judy!)



Judy and Randi in the WERA 96.7 booth!

And I am so very grateful to the staff of WERA and Arlington Independent Media for their continued patience and humor. Going forward, I'd like to try some live episodes and might even decide to interview people who create or perform in those shows who keep my toes 'a-tappin'!

Catch BROADWAY BOUND Thursdays @ 4:00 pm. And don't forget to "like" the [BROADWAY BOUND Facebook page!](#)

For more information, email Randi [here](#).

Lea Attends Women in Entertainment Summit in Los Angeles

By Eulonda Kay Lea



I had the pleasure of attending the 3rd Annual Women in Entertainment Summit. Although held in a large auditorium of the Skirball Cultural Center, I felt as though I was engaged in a day-long intimate conversation among girlfriends. Not only were the speakers and panelists outstanding, I networked with many women who were warm, supportive and as thrilled as I was to be there.

The day kicked off with a keynote address by Geena Davis. She opened with the statement, "The days are over where we're supposed to figure this out ourselves - bring a man." Ms. Davis dished out a hardy serving of encouragement which made swallowing many of the realities of the media industry she shared a bit easier. She delivered a report card based on results measured by the Geena Davis Inclusion Quotient (GD-IQ) tool. For example, women are seen and heard in films two times less than men and when women do speak, they use fewer words and more words with one syllable than men. To counteract this, Ms. Davis suggested (1) doing a gender pass on a script before finalizing it; (2) consider changing male characters to females; and (3) don't kill off the mother in the 1st ten minutes of the film!!

As if Ms. Davis' inspiring keynote was not enough, every speaker that climbed the stage throughout the day was amazing. There were five separate Director's Chair discussions featuring writers/directors Jennifer Lee (*FROZEN*, *A WRINKLE IN TIME*), Victoria Mahoney (*YELLING TO THE SKY*), Dee Rees (*PARIAH*, *MUDBOUND*), Greta Gerwig (*LADY BIRD*, *FRANCES HA*) and Patty Jenkins (*WONDER WOMAN*). They each shared their invaluable perspectives and proved we all share the same goals and insecurities at some point in our careers. They were also completely approachable after their time on stage ended.

The numerous panel discussions were delightful and informative. They included "Content is Queen" featuring women from

STARZ, DreamWorks Animation, and ABC Family. There was a "Technology and Hollywood" discussion and my two favorites, "Designing Disruption", a discussion on counteracting stereotypes of gender in entertainment; and "Women's Rights are Human Rights" which featured a discussion with Hayley Pappas, a strong Canadian woman who spent three years as a volunteer soldier battling ISIS as a member of the YPJ, an all-female Kurdish army. Talk about sensory overload. My head spins just thinking about it again.

My favorite quote from the day was from Greta Gerwig - "It's difficult to learn if you won't say I don't know." I'm not sure whether it was her original quote. However, hearing it come from a woman who has paved her way in the film industry makes it a keeper. To say I left the WIE Summit pumped and inspired is an understatement. I'm ready to disrupt some 'stuff' and willing to admit, I need help. Who's game? Email me [here](#).

Locavore Film Series Continues in 2018

We are three screenings into the series and the audience and excitement keeps growing. Won't you join us in the New Year? **Make a resolution to support more locally-grown media!** After all, you probably spend more hours daily watching media than eating! Supporting the work of local filmmakers is just as important as supporting local farmers.

The series highlights and supports the incredible work of local filmmakers! See the work on the second Wednesday of November, January, March, April, May, June, and July. Tickets are \$10/person and proceeds benefit the filmmakers! Meet your local mediamakers at the following screenings:

Wednesday, **January 10** - Films with a global perspective
CHINATOWN by Yi Chen
THE GAUCHOS OF ARGENTINA and THE PAINTED TRUCK by Judith Dwan Hallet
VOICES/PEACE by Amy DeLouise
[Get your tickets here](#)

-No film in February, have a lovely Valentine's Day!

Wednesday, **March 14** - FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM by Amy Oden

Wednesday, **April 11** - DOEVILLE by Kathryn Pasternak

Wednesday, **May 9** - LAST NIGHT by Harold Jackson III

Wednesday, **June 13** - ROCK 'N ROLL REVIVAL DOC by Ed Santiago

Wednesday, **July 11** - GEOGRAPHICALLY DESIRABLE by Mike Kravinsky

[Read film descriptions here.](#)

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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 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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