

November 2020

Board Message

By Sara Barger, WIFV Executive Vice President



The pandemic has brought many changes to our lives. One thing it has forced us all to do, whether we like it or not, is slow down and be patient. Of course, patience is not a new concept to filmmakers, I'm sure most of you can attest to that. Films can take years, or even decades, to

complete. Yet for some reason, it feels like we're always in "go" mode: working on the next script, planning the next shoot, finishing the next round of edits. While film production often feels incredibly fast-paced, in reality films take an incredibly long time to complete. Patience is required.

Before I started working on my first independent documentary, *LITTLE BUT FIERCE*, I had mostly produced short news-documentary-style pieces. The idea of filming with a subject for more than two weeks seemed exhausting. In fact, it was - and it lasted much longer than two weeks. The subject matter of my film - a child fighting cancer - was emotionally draining, and many times I wanted to quit and start a new project. However, I filmed with my subject for over a year and a half, waiting for the story to unfold. The result of my patience was a beautiful film, of which I'm extremely proud.

I finished the film in June, at the start of this pandemic. Once again, my patience was tested. Overnight, my plans for film festivals and community screenings went out the window. So again, I'm waiting for the story - this time, my film's story - to unfold.

I'm not alone. We've all had to stop mid-tracks this year and figure out a new game plan. Productions have been paused, or completely cancelled. Film festivals as we knew them are a thing of the past. We are all now bona fide Zoom experts. (Who even heard of Zoom a year ago? I sure hadn't.) If making my film didn't teach me patience, then this pandemic surely has.

But in the midst of it all, I've noticed that some aspects of life have actually improved. I've had more time to connect with fellow filmmakers through WIFV events, which pre-pandemic I often was too busy to attend. I've had more time with my family. And instead of jumping into my next project, or rushing off to a film festival, I've been

In This Issue

1. Roundtable Roundup - Reel Moms and BIPOC groups being formed
2. COVID-19 Resources
3. Submit YOUR News
4. Protections for You & Your Media - Nov 4
5. Writing from Outside Centers - Nov 3
6. FAITH BASED Case Study - Nov 10
7. One-on-One Script Critiques Submission DEADLINE is Nov 10
8. Catherine Hardwicke - Nov 17
9. One Woman, One Vote Virtual Film Festival Closes Nov 3
10. Online Happy Hour - Nov 12
11. Online Coffees - Nov 3, 17
12. **Taymor Joined WIFV Film Discussion :**
13. Stemp / BURDEN in *Film Lumiere*
14. Cheng Book Published
15. FILMS ACROSS BORDERS Continues
16. Focal Archive Awards Announced
17. New & Renewing Members
18. THANKS



Roundtable Roundup

Animators: *3D Kitbashing* /Troy Benesch
Thursday, **October 29**, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
This is an online program.
[RSVP here](#)

Narrative Directors: *RADIUM GIRLS* and discussion with Lydia Dean Pilcher and Ginny Mohler
Monday, **November 2**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
This is an online program.
[RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Trailer Night*
Monday, **November 9**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

able to dedicate more time to developing longer-term projects that require a lot more patience than I'm used to. I hope that you have had similar experiences.

Here at WIFV, we've also been using this new timescape to our benefit, as well.

Script DC, which is normally a jam-packed weekend in October, is now spread out over five months. We have three wonderful webinars in November, as well as one-on-one script reviews with Catherine Hand and Laurie Scheer.

We have five **WIFV committees**, which we invite you to join: Membership, Programming, Website, Development, and Mentorship. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me (evp@wifv.org), Melissa Houghton (director@wifv.org), or Cathie Saadeh (president@wifv.org).

Thank you for responding to the member survey earlier this year! We've reviewed the responses and are developing programs to respond to your needs. For example, we are developing programs focused on **Executive Members**, starting with a networking coffee on November 13 and will be launching a **formal mentoring program** in 2021.

The pandemic has taken a toll on the best of us. We've had to stop mid-tracks, **pause**, and figure out a new game plan. As the nights get longer, election night approaches, and we start gearing up for the holidays, we're going to need to keep that patience with our families, world events, and ourselves. But I, for one, have really valued my new-found patience. And I'm so thankful to be part of this wonderful WIFV community. Hopefully, in our newly-found extra time, I will have the chance to meet you at an upcoming WIFV Coffee or Happy Hour.

Respectfully,

Sara Barger

This is an online program in collaboration with Docs In Progress.

[RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: Because of multiple ScriptDC workshops currently underway, Screenwriters Roundtable is on temporary hiatus.

Reel Moms and **BIPOC** groups are forming. Email membership@wifv.org if you want to join their roundtable listservs.

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. **You must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.**

COVID-19 Resources

WIFV has been collecting (and suggesting) relief resources for freelancers, artists, and small businesses across the region.

[Access them here.](#) We will update as new information becomes available.

Submit Your News & Photos - We Want to Celebrate!

Deadline for Members in the News is the 10th of the month. Send an article (100 words or so) and a photograph or link to your to director@wifv.org. [You can see past issues here.](#) Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of the month. Send your article (see guidelines above) to director@wifv.org.

And we still welcome receiving photos of you at work - writing, filming, acting, being a stellar PA - membership@wifv.org is where you should email them. Please provide project name and/or photo credit.

Upcoming Events

Protecting Yourself & Your Media - Nov 4



If you're a journalist or an activist creating media in today's polarized political climate, it can feel fraught. Is the government going to target you if you create critical media? Will people with opposing views harass you? Will they threaten you or publish your information publicly ("doxxing")? Join us for a panel on the various ways media makers can protect themselves legally, technologically, and physically, as well as external resources that can be tapped for

creators facing government scrutiny or online harassment. Panelists include **Dr. Gabriella Coleman, Jilisa Milton, JD, MSW, and Cheryl Jacobs ("CJ") Crim.**

Wednesday, November 4, 6:30 - 8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

\$10 WIFV Members / \$20 Public

This is an online event. We will send you the link to join the webinar with your registration confirmation and a reminder the day before. **You must register** to receive the link.

ScriptDC in November

Writing from Outside the Centers - Nov 3

We want to dispel the myth that you have to live Los Angeles or New York to write scripts that get produced or even to participate in a collaborative writing experience.

Join this conversation with **Megan Holley**, **Harold Jackson III**, and film critic **Leslie Combermale** to learn otherwise!

[More info and register here.](#)

Tuesday, November 3, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

No election results will be announced before 8 pm so put your mind on your career - something you can control!



FAITH BA\$ED Cast Study - November 10

Luke Barnett, screenwriter for FAITH BA\$ED will present a case study on how he, director Vincent Masciale, and frequent collaborator Tanner Thomason pulled the film together and got their cast. Barnett has a small production company in LA and does low-budget films with name talent. Go ahead, rent the film from Amazon Prime and support independent filmmakers! [Watch the trailer here.](#) [More info and register here.](#)

Tuesday, November 10, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Sign-up for One-on-One Script Critiques - DEADLINE Nov 10

This is your opportunity to have your feature or series pilot script read by an industry professional and receive feedback to bring it to the next level and ready to pitch! Eight slots are available. Scripts must be emailed to director@wifv.org by November 10. An appointment for feedback will be arranged and take place no later than mid-December.

[Reader bios and secure your spot here.](#)

A Conversation with Catherine Hardwicke - November 17

We are honored to have **Catherine Hardwicke** share her experiences as a production designer, writer, and director with ScriptDC attendees. Film critic **Ann Hornaday** will moderate the conversation. [More info and register here.](#)

Tuesday, November 17, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

January - **Producing Workshops** featuring two workshops by Maureen Ryan and more.
February - **It's Up to You!** so we are doing workshops on making your projects in the Mid-Atlantic and will include local producers, pitching tips and practice, fundraising, and self-distribution.

Registration will open in December for the January and February programs.

Workshop fees - \$15 WIFV Members & Students / \$30 Public

Baker's dozen discount available!

These are online events. You will be sent the login link with your registration confirmation.

*Speakers are subject to change.

ScriptDC is sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).

One Woman, One Vote Film Festival Wraps Nov 3

To celebrate the centennial of the 19th amendment winning women the vote and continue to bring women's voices front and center, the 2020 One Woman One Vote Festival (OWOV) and Women Make Movies (WMM) invite



you to join in a nationwide initiative -- the 2020 One Woman One Vote Film Festival, a [curated collection of films](#) for you to [create your own online film event](#) to encourage, inspire and empower women everywhere to use their power for change. **The collection titles are available at no charge through November**

3, 2020. For more information visit 2020owovfest.org.



For those of you who don't want to face a conversation in the morning, WIFV will be hosting Happy Hours online. They are a chance to see new faces and discuss what's on your mind! Collaborations have already been formed. These are free, online events. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

Thursday, November 12, 4:30-5:30 pm
[RSVP here](#)



The beverage will be in a cup at your house, but the conversation will be online! Board Members look forward to conversing with mediamakers to hear how you are nurturing your creative soul. These are free, online events. You will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

Tuesday, November 3, 9:30 - 10:30 am
[RSVP here](#)

Tuesday, November 17, 9:30 - 10:30 am
[RSVP here](#)
 Conversation will focus on **works-in-progress** so be willing to share and get input and expand your production tribe

News You Can Use

Taymor in Square 3.1 and Amazing Conversation



WIFV is always delighted to work with distributors to promote women-made and women-

centric films. In October, we promoted the VOD release of *THE GLORIAS*, written and directed by Julie Taymor. We appreciate that many of you watched the film and WIFV Member, **Angela Edwards**, asked if WIFV could organize a discussion group given the film's subject and artistry. A happy hour discussion was scheduled and we even reached out to **Julie Taymor's** manager to see if Ms. Taymor would join us. SHE DID!! !

On October 21, the film was discussed as was Ms. Taymor's career, her writing and directing decisions for *THE GLORIAS*, and how, when no studio would support the film's production, she made it anyway. Her candor about how women are often discussed by studio executives, i.e., male directors who have a style are "auteurs", women who tell stories differently don't understand the medium and use gimmicks. When she received comments that the film was too long, she asked about those men who make movies that are really long and why their stories are "more important". Rather than being completely discouraged (yes, discouraged that a woman who has made millions for studios can't get her film's financed) the group decided to help spread the word.

THE GLORIAS is streaming on Amazon and free with Prime. **During the holiday weekend, instead of just watching football, why not gather your family near and far to watch *THE GLORIAS*?** When you are with family during the Thanksgiving weekend, why not modify an idea from StoryCorps and ask your grandmothers, mothers, and daughters what their experiences and issues are? Let's pay some attention to the women in the film, and our families, since we are so thankful for the work they have done and are still doing! You may just learn about some allies you never suspected!

Photo Credit: Monda Webb

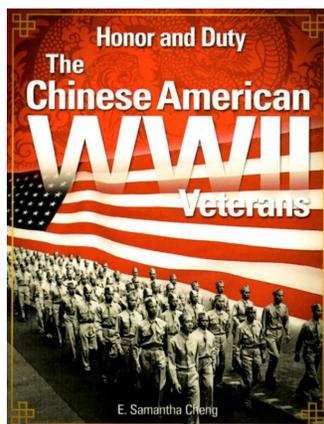
Stemp and BURDEN Featured in *Reel Lumiere*

MJ Stemp was featured in the October 2020 edition of *Reel Lumiere* with a story about her ten-year journey to bring *BURDEN* to the screen. *BURDEN*, starring Garrett Hedlund, Andrea Riseborough, Forest Whitaker, and Tom Wilkinson. MJ was ultimately credited as a co-producer for her work in getting the story to screen. Andrew Heckler was the writer/director. The film premiered at Sundance in 2018 and is now available on **Amazon Prime** and iTunes for viewing. The article documents how MJ's belief in the story empowered her to overcome many obstacles.



Synopsis: When a museum celebrating the Ku Klux Klan opens in a South Carolina town, the idealistic Reverend Kennedy strives to keep the peace even as he urges the group's Grand Dragon to disavow his racist past.

Cheng Adds "Author" to Resume!



E. Samantha Cheng is a broadcast veteran in national news and television production. As an experienced journalist and documentarian, she has devoted much of her career to raising the visibility of Women in Technology, APIAs (Asian and Pacific Islander Americans) and their contributions to United States history. She can now add author of **HONOR AND DUTY: The Chinese American WWII Veterans** (available **November 11, 2020**) to her list of accomplishments. Launch events are happening across the country in November.

Cheng is the Co-Founder of **Heritage Series, LLC**, a company that specializes in educational programs about U.S. ethnic minorities and their contribution to U.S. history. Recent productions by Heritage Series include **HONOR AND DUTY:**

The Mississippi Delta Chinese, a three-part documentary series and two video biographies: **DALIP SINGH SAUND: His Life, Legacy**, the first Asian, Indian and Sikh Congressman in the U.S.; and **NORMAN Y. MINETA: A Boy from San Jose**, the first Asian American to serve on two different Presidential Cabinets as Secretary of Commerce and

FILMS ACROSS BORDERS Stories of Resilience and Hope



Films Across Borders, a showcase of critically acclaimed films, documentaries and shorts from around the world, launches virtually this fall. In its sixth year, the theme for 2020 focuses on *Stories of Resilience and Hope*. The film series is co-presented by American University in partnership with 19 embassies, cultural organizations, arts institutions, and environmental groups.

The 2020 series includes a diverse range of films – all free to the public and viewable on a variety of online platforms from October through December. As additional selections are made, presenting partners will include new films to those currently listed on the series website -- FilmsAcrossBorders.org.

Films Across Borders: Stories of Resilience and Hope events are co-presented by the following organizations: **American University, National Gallery of Art, National Geographic, Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, We Are Water Foundation, The Nature Conservancy Pennsylvania/Delaware, Anacostia Riverkeeper, Embassy of the Argentine Republic, Delegation of the European Union to the United States, Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain, Mexican Cultural Institute, Austrian Cultural Forum, Embassy of Sweden, Japan Information and Culture Center, Goethe-Institut Washington, Embassy of Switzerland, Immigration Film Fest, DC LaborFest, Women in Film and Video, and Vital Voices Global Partnership.**

FOCAL International Announces Archives Awards

FOCAL International is proud to announce the winners from last night's virtual 17th annual FOCAL International Awards. In total 15 awards were announced across production, restoration & preservation and personnel, all recognizing and honoring the achievements and work within the Audio-Visual industry.

FOCAL would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and nominees as well as our jurors without whom the delivery of such an important and vibrant competition wouldn't be possible. [Full details of the winners are available on our website](#)

Best Archive Restoration and Preservation Project-**The Short Films of Jan Krizenechy** - Partners: Národní filmový archiv, Hungarian Filmlab, Magiclub, Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, National Library of Norway, CESNET

Best Archive Restoration and Preservation Title-**Le Roue**-Partners: L'Immagine Ritrovata, Fondation Jérôme Seydoux-Pathé, L'Image Retrouvée

Best Use of Footage in a History Production-**One Last Summer**-Production Company: Zadig Productions

Best Use of Footage in a Sports Production-**I am Duran**-Production Company: Ad Hoc Films

Best Use of Footage on Innovative Platforms-**Ten Chapters of Northern Ireland Troubles**-Production Company: BBC Rewind

Best Use of Footage in an Arts Production-**Sid & Judy**-Production Company: Passion Pictures

Best Use of Footage in a Factual or Natural World Production-**Diving Deep: The Life and Times of Mike deGruy**-Production Company: The Film Crew Inc

Best Use of Footage in a Music Production-**Marianne & Leonard: Words of Love**-Production Company: Lafayette Film

Best Use of Footage in a History Feature-**They Call Me Babu**-Production Company: Pieter van Huystee Film

Best Use of Footage in Advertising or Branded Content-**Lyft: Two is Too Few**-Production Company: STALKR

Best Use of Footage in a Short Form Production-**The Tree** (original title – Derevo)-Production Company: Urban Media Archive, Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

Best Use of Footage in a Cinematic Feature-**Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché**-Production Company: Be Natural Productions

Student Jury Award for Most Inspiring Use of Archive-**Qualified**-Production Company: ESPN Films

Footage Company of the Year-Reelin' in the Years Productions

Jane Mercer Researcher of the Year-**Pamela B. Green, Cosima Littlewood, Joan Simon, Daniela Roth and Christine Leteux**-Be Natural: The Untold Story of Alice Guy-Blaché

New & Renewing Members (Sept 26 - Oct 27, 2020)

Leslie Allen
Maria Barranco
Zehra Berkman
Arla Bowers
Sylvia Bugg
Tonier Cain
Brianna Chazin
Olayimika Cole
Jamie Coughlin
Meg Cormier
Carolyn Dodd
Susan Fertig Dykes
Joe Dzikiewicz
Ramata Eller
Daphne Glover Ferrier
Jacob Fisk
Shanna Frierson

Hadeel Ghaida
Laura Waters Hinson
Tara Jabbari
Anna Reid Jhirad
Amy Johanson
Thaddeus Johnson
Vanessa Johnston
Nancy Kaiser
Madelyn Levine
Ken Nice
Lia Nydes
Maureen O'Grady
Christie Perry
Rachel Peters
Robin Phillips
Christina Rayas
Irene Rojas
Leah Ross

Lisa Scott
Nina Gilden Seavey
Michelle Handleman Seff
Tilahun Selassie
Delacey Skinner
Sheri Ratick Stroud
Heather A. Taylor
Job van Zuijlen
Clarissa Villondo
Julianna Watson
Aura Wharten-Beck
Yildiz Yilmaz
Lacey Young

Corporate Supporters:
Groundbreaker Films
TeamPeople

Thanks to our sponsors



Blackmagicdesign



VIRGINIA IS FOR FILM LOVERS



Send Stories to:
director@wifv.org



About WIFV

Women in Film & Video supports media professionals by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements. WIFV welcomes all genders, genres, and experience levels.

Support Women In Film & Video Inc.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

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

