



WIFV NEWS

October 2015 Members in the News

Featuring Wayne Barbin, Debbi Mack, Diane Williams, Keith Jodoin, Sowande Tichawonna, Oriana Oppice, Jane Barbara, Cheryle Franceschi, Adam Hurst, Kimberly Skyrme, Jay Schlossberg, Richard Harrington, Heather Godwin, Heather Jones, Lance Kramer, Brandon Kramer, Jonathan Gruber, ScriptDC - Local Experts & Periscope, Laura Possessky, Rana Koll-Mandel, Rebecca Bustamante, Yolanda Arrington, Kathryn Pasternak, Great NonProfits, GV Expo, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

Barbin Brings CliffsNotes to New Medium



Wayne Barbin, who is based in NYC, has just finished producing the first-ever use of video by CliffsNotes - a short-form video series for young adults. His project, *ON THE JOB*, is a series of 30 shorts, each immersing a young adult host in a S.T.E.M. job for a day, with the goal of motivating high school students to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Education and Math.

Wayne built the production operation for CliffsNotes' parent company, [Houghton Mifflin Harcourt](#), then served as supervising producer and production manager for the project. The series went live on the redesigned/relaunched [CliffsNotes website](#) in late September.

Williams a Top 10 Finalist

Diane Williams' screenplay, *THE SAUCY JACK*, is one of the Top 10 Finalists in the Charleston International Film Festival Screenwriting Contest. While she's at the Festival in early November there will be a table read of selected pages of the script! (Great prep for ScriptDC, Nov 13-15).

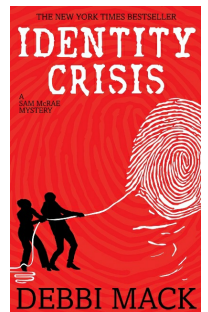
Tichawonna in Women's Voices Festival

Mack is Finalist in Creative World Awards

Debbi Mack's screenplay, *THE ENEMY WITHIN*, made the finals in the Creative World Award for screenplays in the action-adventure category.

Debbi has begun a podcast called *The Crime Cafe*, where she interviews crime, suspense, and thriller authors. The interviews are [available on her website](#), as well as [iTunes](#) and [Google Play](#).

Debbi also recently had her *New York Times* bestselling mystery, *IDENTITY CRISIS*, reissued through WildBlue Press. The book is the first in a series of four to be re-released by WildBlue. [You can hear her book readings on her YouTube channel.](#)

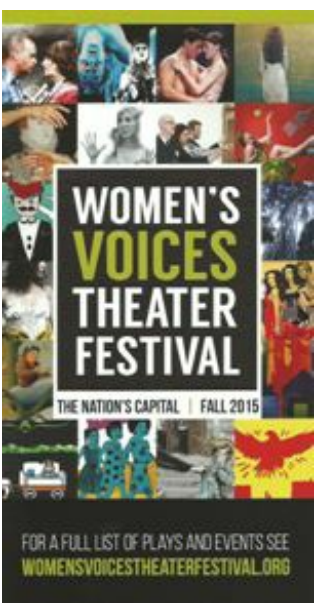


Creative Directors Dish Storytelling Advice at AdWeekDC

Create visual stories that audiences can relate to was the advice of the creative panel at Advertising Week DC's "The Real Storytelling" session. **Sapling Pictures** Founder and Executive Creative Director, **Keith Jodoin**, and fellow panelists shared recent projects and insights on bringing brand messages to life through visual storytelling. Whether the medium is video, animation, magazine or app, brands that engage through story are most memorable. For highlights of the event, click [here](#).



Left to right: Keith Jodoin; Mark Moll, GMMB; Debbie Bates-Schrott, Bates Creative; Tamara Dowd, HZDG



Sowande Tichawanda is appearing in the premiere of *FOR THE LOVE OF OSCAR*, a Dramedy by Hope Lynne Price-Lindsay presented by The New Millennium Howard Players Theatre Company as part of The Women's Voices Theater Festival. *When a middle-aged divorcee on the verge of giving up on men meets a handsome, wealthy widower on a dating website, she's sure she's finally found the man of her dreams to grow old with until she's confronted with his "baggage" - the*

ghost of his dead wife desperately trying to hold on to him from the other side.

[Schedule and ticket info here.](#)

Franceschi Film at Utopia Festival

WIFV member and Docs in Progress 2103 Fellowship Alum **Cheryle Franceschi** has a screening of her 24-minute documentary *MR. BESLEY'S FOREST* on Sunday, October 25th at the Old Greenbelt Theatre as part of Utopia Film Festival 2015.

The film is endorsed by the Maryland DNR Conservation History Committee and The Carroll County Forestry Board. The documentary about Maryland's first State Forester is going to be used as instructional reference for elementary Humanities and STEM outcomes.



Godwin in Hexagon Revue



Heather Godwin had a solo and a duet performance in "Hexagon Classics" the musical review that celebrated Hexagon's 60 year history. She also participated in the full company numbers and an ensemble tap number! Producers pulled audience and cast favorites from over the years, and compiled them into a playfully arranged ensemble show. Unlike the main

production held in the spring, "Hexagon Classics" played for one weekend only. The performance benefitted the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home, Living the Mission. Go to www.hexagon.org for more

Oppice and Barbara at Multiple Festivals

Oriana Oppice and **Jane Barbara** attended the screening of *LOBSTER FRA DIAVOLO* at the Golden Door International Film Festival in New Jersey, where it was nominated for the "Best Women in Film Alice Guy-Blaché" Award and screened to a packed house. That same weekend, the film screened at the Broad Humor Festival in Los Angeles, where the film won for Best Editing.



Oriana, Jane, and Ann Barbara

Jane attended the Chesapeake Film Festival in Easton, MD, for a *LOBSTER* screening, where Dr. Rachel Franklin of the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra gave a presentation on the music behind the movie. Oriana explained how much of the editing process was driven by the music she selected. "I've been a musician my whole life and music is a huge driver in everything I do, so of course choosing the right music and working closely with the editor to integrate it from Day One was paramount."

While Jane was in Maryland, Oriana was in Chicago screening *CAMP BELVIDERE* a drama she co-directed, at the Chicago International LGBT Film Festival. That film has won awards for Best Film, Best Directing, Best Editing, and Best Cinematography, among others, at festivals around the world.

Hurst Interviewed on STAY RELEVANT



Mike Sobola's podcast, available on his [website](#) and other outlets has also featured interviews with these other WIFV Members this year - **Kimberly Skyrme**, **Jay Schlossberg**, **Richard Harrington**, and **Wayne Barbin**.

Meridian Hill Pictures Film at Festival

info. Hexagon is Washington's only original political satirical musical comedy revue.

Gruber in Festivals and Joins MUGSY



Jonathan Gruber was extremely busy over the summer-and things are ramping up even more this fall. His latest feature documentary, **MIRIAM BEERMAN: EXPRESSING THE CHAOS**, screened at the Rhode Island Film Festival in August and was selected as part of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation's **On**

Screen/In Person program, where it will screen in seven states in November. It also has fall screenings at Lawrence University in Wisconsin and the St. Louis International Film Festival. The next film he is developing is **THE GODFATHER OF SARIN**, which has been selected to the DOK Leipzig Co-Production Meeting in late October.

On the shorter side, Jonathan co-directed two PSAs for PETA about Orca whales and the wool industry. He also is completing a video for the Youth Transition Funders Group about aging out of foster care, as well as a story on Live Aid and the evolution of philanthropy in the digital age for **RETRO REPORT**, which is currently distributed through *The New York Times* website. Jonathan is the Executive Producer of Black Eye Productions, a full-service film and video production company based in Silver Spring.

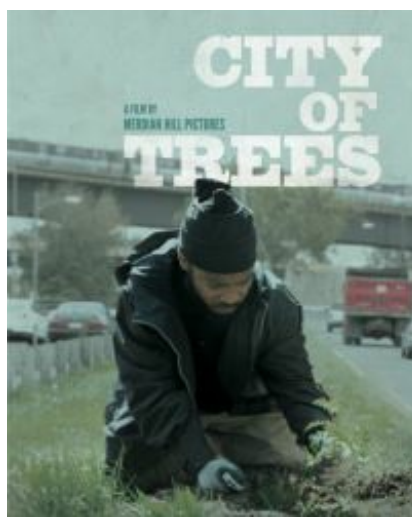
Gruber has just joined MUGSY for exclusive representation. "Jonathan brings a true filmmaking sensibility to every type of project he directs," says MUGSY executive producer Sean Reilly. "He takes the time to get to know his subjects and subject matter, and that shows strongly in his films." To view Jonathan's reel, visit www.mugsy.tv. MUGSY is the U.S. division of international production company Filmservice Productions, and maintains offices in New York, Los Angeles, Prague, Buenos Aires, and Moscow.



Local Experts at ScriptDC



We are so delighted by the many experts from our region who are presenting at ScriptDC. Here's a list as of October 23 - Jane **Love**,



CITY OF TREES will have its world premiere as an official selection at the 13th annual American Conservation Film Festival on October 25. After five years working on the film, **Lance and Brandon Kramer** and the rest of the Meridian Hill staff and volunteers are thrilled that it will finally premiere in beautiful Shepherdstown (just 70 miles outside of DC), alongside a diverse collection of features and shorts exploring people's relationship to the natural environment.

Screening Block 12 - "Better

Living in the Urban Jungle"

2pm, Sunday, October 25

Byrd Center for Legislative Studies

Campus of Shepherd University

(map of the university campus)

Seating is limited. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

On October 16, **CITY OF TREES** was featured on 88.5 FM WAMU's Metro Connection with host Rebecca Sheir! [You can hear the interview here.](#)

Jones and THE RELUCTANT CHEF

Since the beginning of the summer of 2015, **Heather Jones** has been working as the camerawoman, director, and editor on a cooking show with two very good friends of hers, Bob Baker (creator/chef) and Jacob Melamed (producer). The show is called **THE RELUCTANT CHEF**. In early October, they posted the first few videos for Season 1 (including the Reluctant Chef Manifesto which explains the concept of the show) on their Youtube Channel.



THE RELUCTANT CHEF is designed for people who need to cook for themselves and those they care about, but for whom cooking is a necessary activity, not an avocation. The approach is good-humored, simple and direct, making no assumptions about the viewer's skill level. **THE RELUCTANT CHEF** team plans to issue new videos every Thursday through the end of November.

Periscope Interview on 10/26, 6:00 pm



Are you on Periscope? We are! Join us for a quick 'scope on Monday, Oct. 26 at 6 p.m. for the **Top 3 Reasons to Attend ScriptDC** with conference founder **Jane Barbara**. Who better than Jane to give you the real deal?

Joseph **Martin**, Bob **Middleton**, Dave **O'Ferrall**, Alison **Rosa**, Jay **Schlossberg**, Jonathan **Zurer**, Giovanna **Chesler**, Brigid **Maher**, Ron **Newcomb**, Arla **Bowers**, Shelly **Mellott**, Robyn **DeShields**, Otessa **Ghandar**, Lauren **Menkes**, Allan **Topol**, Nina **Gilden Seavey**, Kate **Pearson**, Susan **Barocas**, Joel **Westbrook**, Chris **Weber**, Monica Lee **Bellais**, Jack **Gerbes**, Mary **Nelson**, Angie **Gates**, Shellee **Haynesworth**, Catherine **Wylar**, Ann **Zamudio**, Karen **Whitehead**, Brigitte **Yuille**! When we add your creativity, it's a pretty heady mix!!! [Register here.](#)

If you don't have the Periscope live streaming app yet, head to the [iTunes store](#) (iOS devices) or the [Google Play store](#) (Android devices) to download it. No smartphone? No worries. Watch it live at periscope.tv/wifv_dc. But don't delay. Periscope streams are only live for 24 hours!



DOEVILLE and Pasternak on Festival Circuit

WIFV Fiscal sponsoree DOEVILLE screens at the following festivals coming up in October and November:

-- at Planet in Focus in Toronto, Canada on Saturday, October 24th at 2:30 PM. This is Doeville's Canadian premiere; Director Kathryn Pasternak will be present for screening. Please see here for details: <http://planetinfocus.org/film-fest/2015-film-festival-program/#cat-saturday>.

-- at the Virginia Film Festival in Charlottesville, VA on Thursday, November 5th at 4:00 PM <http://virginiafilmfestival.org/films/doeville/>. This is Doeville's Virginia premiere. PLEASE NOTE: Director Kathryn Pasternak, editor Connie Rinehart and featured character, farmer Gail Rose will be present for this screening!

-- at Glimmerglass Film Days in Cooperstown, NY on Sunday, November 8. This is Doeville's New York premiere; the film is being featured as the closing night screening. See here for details: <http://www.glimmerglassfilmdays.org/films/>. Director Kathryn Pasternak will be present for screening. Many thanks to festival programmer Margaret Parsons, and director Ellen Pope for support.

-- The last week in October DOEVILLE was at the Cape Cod International Film festival on in Chatham, MA. That was DOEVILLE's Massachusetts premiere.



DOEVILLE trailer

Sisterhood is Alive and Well at WIFV!

By **Rana Koll-Mandel**

Here is a story about how membership in WIFV is an amazingly powerful sisterhood!

Last month, WIFV member, **Laura Possessky**, legal advisor to East West Films located in Manassas, VA, posted to the WIFV listserv that one of her client/filmmakers were looking for a person to do publicity for their film which was to be screened in the DC metro area. I responded to the request and anxiously waited. Then, barely a week before the Festival, I was contacted by Nitin Adsul, Director of the film, PARTU and he hired me to handle the publicity for their World Premiere screening at the 4th annual DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF), which took place from Sept 25-27 and screened 11 feature films and 10 shorts. If the requirements were not challenging enough with all the media attention being laser-focused on the Pope's visit to DC, Adsul also requested a smashing social media strategy and a Red Carpet interviewer- extraordinaire! So I asked Executive Director **Melissa Houghton** for her recommendations and then took to the **WIFV Member Directory**. There I found and contacted fellow WIFV members **Yolanda Arrington** and (President) **Rebecca Bustamante**, who both kindly agreed to fill these vital roles. They were both hard-working and fantastic teammates, and freed me up to focus on my role of attracting as much media attention as possible.



What was the outcome, you may ask? Not only were all the filmmakers and two actors from the film (both of whom attended the Festival and previously had won the equivalent of an Oscar for their work in India), enormously pleased with the public response, found the social media campaign to be a smashing success, the on-camera interviews fantastic, and the film being screened to a packed house, but on its final night, it was announced that PARTU, it's filmmakers, cast, crew and writers were awarded the Best Film of the DCSAFF!! It was exhausting and exhilarating work but proved once again that members of WIFV are a group of powerful and professional women who combine their talents and experience to create a supportive and successful team even in the most challenging of short term assignments!

Tell YOUR WIFV Story - Help us get a Hat Trick!

WIFV is honored to be recognized as a Top-Rated organization by Great Nonprofits in both 2013 and 2014. Less than 1% of eligible nonprofits received this distinction. The game is on for 2015 and your input is needed!

In order to make the Top-Rated list for 2015, WE NEED YOU! Please tell Great Nonprofits about an experience you've had at a WIFV program, an interaction you've had with a speaker or fellow member, or just what WIFV means to you. [Click here to go straight to the WIFV page on their site.](#)

Rana Koll-Mandel, Founder, We R 1 Communications, specializes in providing strategic PR for filmmakers, film festivals and related event planning services and has been a production member of WIFV for two years.



WIFV will be at Booth 523! See you there.



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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 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



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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