



# WIFV NEWS

## October 2017 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Fran Murphy, Cheryl Little, Joe Fab, Felicia Johnson, Erica Ginsberg, Adele Schmidt, Lauren Knapp, Studio Unknown, Nina Halper, Colin Sandy, Carla Sandy, Flora Nicholas, Ilana Trachtman, Arlette Thomas-Fletcher, Lance Kramer, Brandon Kramer, Via Bia, Monica Lee Bellais, Hillary Shea, Spotlight on Screenwriters, Jody Hassett Sanchez, Locavore Film Series, Call for Members in the News Articles and Awards Info

### Murphy Completes UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Doc



Kudos to editor/producer **Fran Murphy** for completing her 7th Black History documentary, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, for Tribune Broadcasting. On a recent trip to Philadelphia, she was privileged to meet and interview the descendant of one of the least known leaders of the railroad, William Still. In Ashtabula, Ohio, she visited the

Hubbard House, where a family risked everything for decades to hide runaway slaves. Fran shot the Ohio story and edited rough cuts for each segment. "I even broke out my GoPro," she quips. Earlier this year, when the Philadelphia landmark, Historic Rittenhouse Town, needed a video, Fran promptly obliged, getting back behind the camera to produce and edit a piece about the former Chief Engraver for the U.S. Mint. "I never imagined," she says, "that I would be shooting and editing, but it's fun and a little daunting at times, to develop new skills!" In August, Fran won her third National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) award for the documentary, JIM CROW: FREEDOMS DEFERRED. She is currently at work on a documentary about nuns in America. Want to learn more? Contact Fran at [frannim@aol.com](mailto:frannim@aol.com).

### Johnson Named a DC Shorts Finalist

### Little is Nicholl Quarter Finalist



**Cheryl Little's** psychological thriller NEVERSINK was a quarter-finalist in the 2017 Academy Nicholl Screenwriting Competition, placing in the top five percent of 7,102 submissions. The script was first featured in WIFV's Spotlight on Screenwriters catalogue. "Getting ready for Spotlight was a tremendous milestone, and elevated my writing," says Cheryl.

She has received script requests from A-list producers, and is leveraging their interest to promote other scripts as well as tout Spotlight's many accomplished screenwriters. Email Cheryl [here](#).

### Fab Screens, Moderates, Creates!

**Joe Fab's** documentary, BEDFORD: THE TOWN THEY LEFT BEHIND, screens in WIFV's Locavore Film Series on November 8. The next day, Joe heads to Charlottesville, VA for the 30th Virginia Film Festival, where he's a "super moderator" (per the festival's website) -- moderating post-film discussions and interviewing filmmakers and actors, as he's done for the past eight years. "One of my most favorite gigs!" he says, all



smiles, adding "and I would love to see more WIFV members there this year!" Some of this year's special guests are Spike Lee, William H. Macy, Lesli Linka Glatter, and TCM's Ben Mankiewicz. Following the festival, Joe gets back to work on his latest project: WHEN MY TIME COMES, a feature documentary with NPR's Diane Rehm and WIFV member Diane Naughton on the use of medical aid in dying. For more information, contact Joe at [j.fab@me.com](mailto:j.fab@me.com) or visit [www.joe-fab.com](http://www.joe-fab.com)

**Felicia Johnson** participated in this year's DC Shorts Film Festival and Screenplay competition (September 7-17). From over 70 screenplays submitted to the competition, her short script **PATRICIA'S INDEPENDENCE** was selected as one of the top six finalists. Patricia is a career-driven, independent woman who refuses help from her friends and family. During her daily busy schedule, she is faced with a situation that takes a turn for the worse. Later on, she has a heavy price to pay that changes everything. "This was my first time submitting a screenplay to a national film festival," she explains. "I thoroughly enjoyed working with so many talented screenwriters and actors. It was a dream come true, listening to my script during the table read." Felicia is currently working on creating a web series based on her screenplay. For more information about it, please contact her at [fejohanson09@gmail.com](mailto:fejohanson09@gmail.com). *A special thanks to all WIFV members who attended the screenplay competition*



## Halper Publishes Children's Book

Back in 2006, when **Nina Halper** adopted a rescue dog named Sabra from the Hezbollah conflict in Israel, she could not imagine how life-changing he would be for her. "Little did I know," she says, "having Sabra would attract so much attention, given his looks and size!" Sadly, Sabra was diagnosed with cancer last Fall and Nina rushed to publish the book and share his story with children before he passed away this past July. *Sabra the Long-legged Goofy (mixed) Saluki* is Nina's first published children's book. "This is a true-to-life tale," Nina says, "of a scared puppy who grows into a gentle giant, capturing hearts everywhere he goes." As a strong supporter of animal rights organizations, Nina is using the book, in part, to promote animal adoption. Sabra has been a local celebrity since he was a puppy with his own [media clips](#) and [Facebook page](#) and [Instagram](#)



## Nicholas' Brain Cells are Working Overtime at Brainwave



**Flora Nicholas**, the CEO of Brainwave, Inc. in Reston, VA, is pleased to announce the imminent launch of marketing communications campaigns for clients in the IT, financial services and non-profit sectors. Brainwave has also just launched a marketing consulting site that allows users, as Flora quips, "to get access our brain

cells - trust me, we collectively have more than one - for much shorter stints and projects." You can check out the site [here](#). On the production side of the house, Flora and her team are exploring a series of short film parodies based on our current political climate and the 100 best movies of all time. Potential titles under consideration include: ONE FLEW

## Ginsberg Completes Award-Winning Doc, CREATIVE FEDS



Gerskovic and Ginsberg

Despite a hectic job running Docs In Progress, **Erica Ginsberg** still finds the time to produce and direct documentaries. Her latest collaboration with **Leon Gerskovic**, CREATIVE FEDS, spotlights federal workers with a creative calling on the side. Erica has gotten to know many of these

talented individuals -- both from her previous work at the US Department of State -- and through Docs In Progress. With this new doc, she and Leon chose not to focus on filmmakers, but on two musicians (Jennifer Cutting and Mark Jefferson) who are as dedicated to public service as they are to their crafts. Erica is thrilled that CREATIVE FEDS recently won Best Documentary at the Skyline Indie Film Fest in Winchester, VA. WIFV members can look forward to DC-area screenings in October and November at the Reel Independent Film Extravaganza; the Utopia Film Festival; and the Community Stories Festival (November 14) at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, MD. The doc was edited by **Adele Schmidt** and **Lauren Knapp** and associate produced by **Sanja Marjanovic**, with post-production sound from **Studio Unknown**. To view a schedule or to sign up for updates, visit [creativefeds.com](http://creativefeds.com) To contact Erica, email her at [erica@docsinprogress.org](mailto:erica@docsinprogress.org).

## Sandys Wrapping a Year of Live Streaming Events

**Colin and Carla Sandy** have had another exciting year at **Sandy Audio Visual LLC (SAV)**. Recently, Carla demonstrated a new digital cinema camera at a Gals N' Gear session in DC and worked with WIFV member **Jacquie Greff** on an important live webcast for a local county government. "This year," Colin notes, "we became IBM Cloud Video Partners. And, more and more members are realizing our company is a local alternative to large New York mail order stores, when they need gear from AJA, Atomos, Blackmagic Design, NewTek, Extron, and over 3000 other brands." In October, SAV will live stream some of the discussion surrounding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and participate in several trade shows as an exhibitor. The company is also planning a series of free winter training sessions to build its pool of colleagues who can expertly stream live video for clients big and small. Need more information? Contact Colin or Carla at 202-505-4728 or email [csandy@savweb.com](mailto:csandy@savweb.com).



## Trachtman Wins Best Doc Emmy

OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST (DC EDITION), CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE "NEARLY PASSED SOME LEGISLATION" KIND, D.T., THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL, AND RAGING BULL(S\*\*T). Want to learn more about Flora and her company? Visit [www.brainwaveinc.com](http://www.brainwaveinc.com), call her at 703-795-8292 or email [flora@brainwaveinc.com](mailto:flora@brainwaveinc.com).

## LONESOME TRAIL Awarded

Kudos to writer, director and producer **Arlette Thomas-Fletcher** of Fruits of The Spirit Productions, Inc., whose western feature screenplay, THE LONESOME TRAIL, just won Best Screenplay Finalist at the 2017 Wild Bunch Film Festival in Willcox, Arizona. "I'm thrilled," Arlette says, about this latest award. "I think I'm on a roll! Last year, THE LONESOME TRAIL won Best Screenplay at the Christian Film Festival. Charisma Magazine, the number one Christian magazine in the world, recently featured an article about it. And, my screenplay, DADDY WHERE ARE YOU? was selected to be featured in the 2017 Spotlight on Screenwriters catalogue." Arlette, a Silver Telly Award winner, has produced more than 30 short films and has won awards from the Television, Internet, and Video Association (TIVA-DC) for her other screenplays. In 2016 she worked on a collaborative period dramatic script with Charles Germain called THE KEY, a story that was featured in the Spotlight catalogue. Her films have been featured in the Christian Film Festival, Inspired Faith Film Festival, Great Lakes Christian Film Festival, Baltimore Women's Film Festival, Attic Film Festival, Torpedo Factory Art Center Female Shorts & Film and Video Showcase, The Phoenix International Christian Film Festival, and World Music Independent. Arlette is a past president of Women in Film and Video of Maryland (WIFV-MD). For more information, visit the Fruits of The Spirit [website](http://www.fruitsofthespirit.com) or call 410-627-6511.



## Spotlight Readies for 4th Edition!



Washington, DC is the center of political power in the country, but it is also home to a community of highly skilled screenwriters. To draw attention to their talent and help get their work in front of major producers, award-winning screenwriter /

producer **Monica Lee Bellais**, a WIFV Advisory Committee Member founded the Spotlight on Screenwriters program consisting of workshops and a published catalogue of screenplays. Monica serves as the editor-in-chief. **Hillary Shea**, a WIFV Board Member, serves as the managing editor. The yearly catalogue showcases screenplays written by WIFV members. Bona fide producers of at least three feature films with national distribution are eligible to receive a copy of Spotlight on Screenwriters.

A new section this year presents the short films, features, and documentaries made by Spotlight screenwriters since their screenplays were presented in the book!

Spotlight on Screenwriters is made possible in part with the



**Ilana Trachtman's** recent film THE PURSUIT: 50 Years in the Fight for LGBT Rights won the Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award for Best Documentary for directing and producing. Contrasting stories from LGBT experiences past

and present, the film explores the movement's early demonstrations in Philadelphia to its complex progress today. You can see the trailer [here](#).

## MESSY TRUTH Wins Webby

**THE MESSY TRUTH web series** produced by Meridian Hill Pictures, the production company founded by **Lance Kramer** and **Brandon Kramer**, won a Webby Award in the News & Politics Series category! The Webbys



Van, Lance, Brandon

are the 'internet's highest honor' presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. They were the only indie doc series nominated in that category. Van Jones also won the Webby's Special Achievement Award for his "rigorous and challenging work seeking to understand all stripes of the political spectrum." And the series won the Silver Award in the DC Web Fest in May! Next up: THE MESSY TRUTH was just accepted into the 2017 Baltimore New Media Web Fest! Come see the series on the big screen at Baltimore's Creative Alliance on Nov. 5-6.

## THESE COLORS DON'T RUN Starts Festival Run



**Via Bia's** short fiction film, THESE COLORS DON'T RUN (TCDR), has begun to screen at festivals this Fall. In September 2017, it premiered at the DC Shorts Film Festival, and will go on to screen at the New York Latino Film Festival (sponsored by HBO), The Cucalorus Festival in Wilmington, NC, the High Falls Film Festival in Rochester, NY, and the Austin Film Festival in Texas. TCDR,

shot mostly on Super 16 film, is about a roughneck lady recalling the disastrous events that surrounded her first communion... and how they played into her getting mad tattoos. The story focuses on a multi-generational, Latina family, and has a 100% female cast! TCDR was produced by Wilson Smith (IT COMES AT NIGHT; KRISHA) and Michael Tully (PING PONG SUMMER; SEPTIEN), and received grants from the Arlington Commission from the Arts, the Love Your Shorts Film Festival, and film support from Kodak. To follow TCDR, check out its [Facebook page](#) or go to its [website](#).

generous support of the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment and Interface Media Group.

## 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 10th of the month.



THESE COLORS DON'T RUN Trailer

## 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)

## Women's Media Summit White Paper Released

By Jody Hassett Sanchez



When the pilot of our tiny Cape Air plane jumped out of the cockpit with a kitchen broom to brush ice off the wings, I knew I wasn't in for an ordinary weekend. Why fly to Provincetown, MA in the sleet of April? I'd been summoned to the Women's Media Summit. The goal - create a white paper that would provide a practical action plan to achieve equal representation of women behind the scenes and on the screen in film, television, and streaming platforms.

The 100+ women leaders attending didn't need to read a Harvey Weinstein headline. Everyone spoke from personal experience about the barriers she had faced in the film industry. No one was surprised by the statistic shared that women hold just 3% of above-the-line and green-lighting positions in the media industry and are vastly underrepresented as protagonists and lead characters in film and television.

As Summit Co-Chair Maria Giese put it, "Hollywood has kept women filmmakers shut out for decades because it is allowed to self-regulate and faces no effective oversight body. Now is the time to stop relying on inside-industry solutions and demand the opportunity for equal participation in our nation's cultural narrative."

It is the practical aspect of the white paper - set time frames and specific action plans - that I most appreciate. During the summit, we identified seven strategies: 1) litigation against gender discriminatory practices; 2) lobbying policymakers at the federal level to address persistent gender discrimination in entertainment media; 3) tax credits to encourage the hiring of more female filmmakers; 4) development of a financing network for female filmmakers; 5) development of a promotion fund to advertise films made by women; 6) development of a marketing campaign to educate the public about the issue of gender discrimination in Hollywood; and 7) development of a consumer campaign to encourage viewers to vote with their dollars for gender equity.

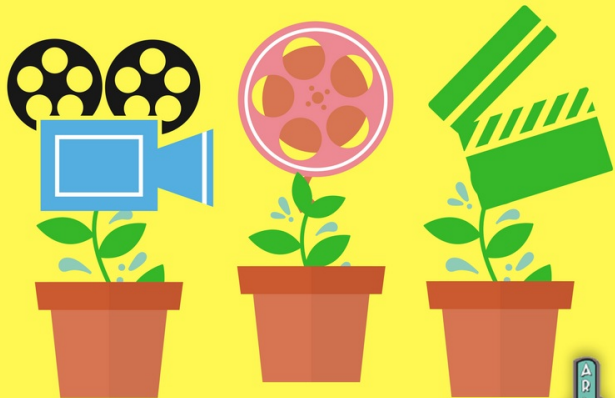
"A lot of smart people have been working on gender injustice in entertainment media for decades, but progress has been slow and stagnant in recent years. This [White Paper](#) provides the blueprint for a new national movement to demand an equal seat at the table for women in entertainment media," according to Caroline Heldman, co-author of the report.

Two new programs also came out of the summit: the [Women's Media Action Coalition](#) (WeMac), a coalition to oversee implementation of the seven strategies, and [GradeMyMovie.com](#), a tool for consumers to reward films with crews that include women and people of color in key storytelling positions.

Read more about the Summit [here](#).

Presenting

# THE LOCAVORE FILM SERIES



Brought to you by Women in Film & Video and Arlington Cinema & Draffthouse



You care where your food comes from, shouldn't the source of your media be just as important? 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, **November 8** - BEDFORD: THE TOWN THEY LEFT BEHIND by Joe Fab. [Get your tickets here.](#)

-No film in December.

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

-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**

Wednesday, **July 11**

[Read film description](#)



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.

## Contact Us

Women in Film & Video  
4000 Albemarle Street NW, Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-429-9438

[www.wifv.org](http://www.wifv.org)

Send Stories to

[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)

## Support Women In Film & Video Inc.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

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

WINNER  
*of*

31  
MAYOR'S

*Arts*  
AWARDS