

## October 2020

FEATURING Ramata Eller, Tonal Vision, Emily Cohen, Dan Gutstein, Sharon Sobel, sherrick stroud, Olayimika Cole, Joel Gershon, CJ Crim, Jean Rosolino, Interface Media Group, Kathryn Raaker, GMU Faculty and Students

### Eller E-Book Now Available



Ramata Eller's first French mystery novel, *Meurtre au Labo*, takes place in DC and is now available as an ebook which you can [order here](#).

Synopsis: The dead body of a French biology graduate student, Sophie Durand, is found naked in the biology lab freezer room on a college campus in Washington, DC by Nora Schulz, a fellow French student. Sophie was pregnant and the police rules for a suicide but her friend Nora doesn't believe it. She enlists the help of the French Embassy, which flies Paul Matisse, a private detective over from France. He has one week to solve the case before the police stop cooperating. With Nora and her friends, he will infiltrate campus life to figure out what happened. In the meantime, another foreign female graduate student disappears...

### Tonal Vision - Two Festivals



#### The Dog Park

In September, two Tonal Vision creations were selected for film festivals. The short film *TERM PAPERS AND PANDEMICS* was shown at the [Afrikana Independent Film Festival](#) in Richmond on September 19. The animated music video *THE DOG PARK* screened at [CatFest +](#) on October 3, as part of Dallas VideoFest and at the [Canine Film Festival](#) in Miami on October 10. Fingers crossed there are more festivals to come.

Synopses: Alone in her room, Aaliyah tries to navigate her last days of college online during the Covid-19 pandemic. But she can no longer hide her anxiety when the virus hits close to home. Their blog ["Remote Filming in a Pandemic"](#) provides details.

**THE DOG PARK** animated music video will help promote a soon-to-be-released children's album of songs about dogs and other pets.



### Fellowship Benefits LI'L LIZA JANE Team

LI'L LIZA JANE: The Story of America Through the History of a Song has been awarded a Rose Library Short-Term Fellowship at Emory University in Atlanta,

### Sobel Produces Record-breaking Event

which will enable the director-producer team, **Emily Cohen** and **Dan Gutstein**, to explore the library's African American collection and complete research activities for the documentary film project. The two have also been developing a podcast series as a way of creating content during the COVID-19 pandemic, with individual episodes to center on the tune's history as a children's song and its prevalence in American popular culture, among other topics. [See more info about the film here](#). WIFV is honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for this film. [You can make a tax deductible donation here](#).



Like many in the video production industry, **Sharon Sobel** saw all of her bookings disappear in March. When considering her “pivot”, she

thought it might be a good idea to revisit her webcast producing background. During this same time, she got a call from a former non-profit client who asked if she could put together a couple of promotional videos for their annual fundraising breakfast from the 2018. When she asked how they were intending to do their fundraising event, she was told, “We’re not sure, we’re still trying to figure that out.” She asked if she could be part of that conversation, and ended up not only creating the promotional videos, but she secured her first virtual event. Her virtual fundraising breakfast raised \$14,000 more than the previous year’s in-person breakfast! Since then, she’s been creating virtual shows for other non-profits and organizations, and is currently in the midst of creating a fall event for that initial non-profit. Over the summer, Sharon also added the hat of Certified COVID-19 Compliance Officer (from Health Education Services) in order to help other production companies have “safe sets” when they return to on-location shooting. Sobel is a member of the WIFV Board of Directors. [She can be reached here](#).

## Ballpark Screening for HEROES' HONEYMOON



October 10-11 found WIFV Board member **sheri ratick stroud** of Wonder Pictures driving to the Reading Film

Festival to catch their film, **HEROES' HONEYMOON**, on the jumbotron at the First Energy Stadium. The festival was online AND in-person! With her daughter and youngest granddaughter watching from beach chairs on the baseball field, the family beamed as they enjoyed HEROES' on the big screen. Afterwards there was a Q&A with 3 other filmmakers.

## ALI'S COMEBACK Screening Invite - Oct 26



**Olayimika Cole** cordially invites you to join the exclusive virtual showcase event for her soon to be released film, **ALI'S COMEBACK**: the untold story on October 26, 2020. This interactive event “The Greatest Knockout”, which will show select scenes from the award-winning documentary followed by a Q&A session

## CIRQUE DE CAMBODIA Premieres in October

**Joel Gershon** will premiere **CIRQUE DU CAMBODIA**, on October 21, as part of the United Nations Association Film Festival (UNAFF). The film follows Sopha and Dina, two teenagers from rural Cambodia where they attended a “social circus” program at Phare Ponleu Selpak, a special arts school nearby. They dream of performing with the world-famous Cirque du Soleil and eventually move to Montreal after earning full scholarships to an elite circus school to continue training in pursuit of their Cirque du Soleil dream. [Visit the film's website](#).

with the film's principals. They have an all-star line-up including Khalilah Ali, Juan(John) Carlos, Edwin Moses and Billboard No1 artist Maxi Priest. Please dress 70s style and let your inner diva shine (prizes to be awarded!). [RSVP for your complimentary ticket here.](#)

## RESISTERHOOD Viewing Opps



As the elections loom, the Resisterhood is kicking into high gear to get people fired up to vote.

RESISTERHOOD, about the power of women, hope, and resistance is finishing a successful festival run having been accepted into 15 festivals and winning 9 awards. [Visit the website for more info.](#) While there check out the Resisterhood swag and the Voter Toolkit that accompanied the film to help educate young voters.

Because of the pandemic, Director **Cheryl Jacobs Crim** is making the film available, free of charge, to independent theaters for the last 2 weeks in October so the money they raise will help them keep their doors open - until they are able to open for real. October closes out with several watch parties and panel discussions including Women in Politics on October 28 and the Women's National Democratic Club on October 29.

## IMG Sizzle - U.S. Green Building Council

The **U.S. Green Building Council** is committed to



## Rosolino in Neo Noir Short

**Jean Rosolino** was in the ensemble cast for **ANYONE FOR PRESIDENT**, a short directed by Matt Nye for Neo Noir Pictures. The film is an unbiased satirical jab at our political system. Featuring a diverse multiracial cast, the short follows twelve candidates as they muse over the power of the presidency.

In addition to Jean, the cast includes Ed Klein, Saleh Karaman, Lauren Randolph, Gary Dixon, Agatha Aramayo, Allen McRae, Natalia Antas, Shang Yang, Ia Ioannidou. Uday Krishna. and Kazi Jones

Winner: Best Experimental Film, Las Vegas Film Awards and Best Comedy, New York Film Awards as well as an Official Selection NY Chain Film Festival, LA Film Awards, Indie Short Fest, Eden Studios International Film Festival.



## ISO: Production Photos!

WIFV is seeking photos of you working on set. As we refresh the website and close our 40th



deserves a healthier and more sustainable life. The impact of COVID-19 will be felt for many years, but what lies ahead is also a responsibility for us to design a healthier, more sustainable, and resilient future. A 2-day forum launched a pivotal call to action with global stakeholders.

Interface Media Group supported the virtual event with multiple Tricasters, and tech team support to manage hosting for 750 attendees, remote connections, PowerPoint presentations, Live Chat, Q&A, connectivity, and pre-event testing.

transforming buildings, cities, and communities and believes that everyone

Anniversary this year, we want to have production photos handy to keep the stories moving forward and show more positive,



inclusive images of independent media makers. Please send jpg format photos with photo credit to [membership@wifv.org](mailto:membership@wifv.org). Thanks to Adele Schmidt for this photo.

### Submit Your Article

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News e-publication is the 10th of the month. Send your article (100 words or so) and a jpg-format photograph or link to your video project to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org).

## Raaker Announces Expansion of TV Programming



**Kathryn Raaker** is proud to announce the expansion of her TV Programming. This October she will be featured on SimulTV, a Global TV Network with 130 Channels. Kathryn's shows: *Kathryn Raaker's World* and *The Chef You and I*, will be featured on SimulTV Channels: Cut Up and Cook, Lifestyles, Comfi TV, iShe TV.

For more than 30 years, Syndicated Radio and TV Personality, Kathryn Raaker, has been entertaining radio listeners, TV audiences and live audiences with her wit and humor, as well as her practical view of life. From call-ins on radio, to emotional, funny, educational and political interviews, she has kept her fans coming back for more. [Read more about her work here.](#)

*The Chef You and I* is a 58 minute weekly show where Kathryn shares her experiences working in all kinds of kitchens—including her own! From main street restaurants to neighborhood homes, she talks and cooks with some of the most interesting “kitchen warriors” around the planet. Cooking healthy is what her show is all about, while entertaining her audience with new ideas, recipes and ways to serve food that is good for body and soul!

*Kathryn Raaker's World* takes her audience around the globe visiting interesting people and exotic places, and interviews guests on topics relevant to her audience. A 30-minute show, she goes behind the scenes with fascinating guests who hail from the Fashion industry, Travel, Science & New Technology, Veterans Programs, Entrepreneurs, Philanthropy, Children's Programs, and many more topics. The topics are unlimited and the conversation is fast-paced and always entertaining.

Check SimulTV listings at [Simultv.com](http://Simultv.com) for dates and times.

## GMU FAVS Faculty and Student Recognition

Professor **Nikyatu Jusu** and her film, NANNY, have been selected for the 2020 Sundance Institute Directors and Screenwriters Labs. In addition, her short film SUICIDE BY SUNLIGHT won Audience Award at the Black Femme Supremacy Film Festival.

Professor **Hans Charles'** film 1 ANGRY BLACK MAN was distributed by Freestyle Digital Media for a digital and DVD release. The story focuses on an African American senior (portrayed by Keith Stone) at a New England liberal arts college, where he is grappling with questions of identity and political correctness. It's the debut feature of writer/director

Menelek Lumumba. Emmy-nominated cinematographer Hans Charles (13th, WU TANG CLAN: Of Mics and Men) lensed the film and produced with partner Caroline Onikute for Align Pictures. Soulidifly Productions financed.

Program Director **Cynthia Fuchs** received the 2020 Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion. For the past 30 years, Professor Fuchs has brought renowned filmmakers to campus, creating opportunities for students and the community to discuss diverse and significant films. Professor Fuchs is also on President Washington's Anti-Racism and Inclusive Excellence Task Force.

Film alum Erblin Nushi and Professor **Lisa Thrasher's** queer narrative feature film, I LOVE YOU MORE, made it to the second round of the Sundance Development Track.

Adjunct Professor **Rob Farr** contributed a chapter to a recently published book: *Chase! A Tribute to the Keystone Cops* from BearManor. In addition, he recorded the commentary track for Eureka Video's new Blu-ray edition of Buster Keaton's OUR HOSPITALITY.

Adjunct Professor **Russell Santos** was nominated for an MTV Video Music for "Best Editor" for the Lizzo "Good as Hell" music video.

Adjunct Professor and WIFV Executive Vice President **Sara Barger's** film LITTLE BUT FIERCE advanced to the finals of the Student Academy Awards. The film was Sara's thesis project for her MFA at the Vermont College of Fine Arts. LITTLE BUT FIERCE tells the story of Madison, a 9-year old girl from Hampton, Virginia, who is battling a rare form of brain cancer. Madison's mother, an ER nurse, is forced to turn to the black market to buy her cannabis to treat her pain, seizures and other symptoms. The film was one of 39 films to advance to the Student Academy Award finals out of 1,468 submissions this year.

Film at Mason senior, **Mohammed Saffouri's** documentary, THE FIRST received a Capital Emmy award in the Long Form Non-Fiction category. Director of Photography and Mason alumna **Alaa Zabara** is also recognized. Saffouri's film follows 24-year-old Libyan-American, Abrar Omeish, and her campaign for a seat on the Fairfax County School Board. She became one of Virginia's youngest elected officials and the first Muslim woman to win.

**Thanks to our sponsors**



Send Stories to:  
[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)



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