



# WIFV NEWS

## September 2019

*Empowering another person doesn't take anything away from you. It's not good enough that the industry is pushing for inclusion. You have to take a look at your own work behavior, your own Fosse-ism. You're not an auteur. You're another bozo on the bus. Send the elevator back down.*

- Leslye Headland, *The Misogyny of the Auteur Myth*, THR

### What Was WIFV Doing 18-19?

- 3,079 postings to member listserv, including job postings, grant deadlines, tech assistance, free screenings, and more!
- \$127,492 raised for fiscal sponsored projects
- \$5,000 awarded via Documentary Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers
- \$2,500 scholarship to Maine Media Workshops funded by WIFV Past Presidents
- Jane Cusumano/WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Fund established and \$15,000 awarded (cash/in-kind services)
- \$2,500 Stowe Story Labs Fellowship awarded
- Welcomed Linnan Lin as Membership / Programming Coordinator in November!
- 11 Newsletters; 11 Members in the News; 50 Monday Missives
- 600+ hours one-on-one meetings with WIFV staff and members!
- 12 Networking Coffees; 2 Happy Hours; Open House; Holiday Party
- 6 #GalsNGear Programs (Las Vegas, NYC, DC)
- 41 Roundtables
- 20 workshops and master classes
- 6 Locavore screenings at Arlington Cinema
- 5 presentations at local colleges
- 3 State of Industry Events
- 1 Media Job Fair (people hired!!!)

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## Roundtable Roundup

**Makeup/Hair: *Wedding Hairstyles and Makeup***

August 19, 2019, 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW  
(Dupont South Metro)

[RSVP here](#)

**Documentary: *Fiscal Sponsorship***

September 9, 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

[RSVP here](#)

**Narrative Directors: *Working with Actors***

September 9, 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

[RSVP here](#)

**Screenwriters: *What's Your Logline?***

September 23, 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

[RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members. Online registration for walk-in's will be available onsite for credit or debit only.

## Mentor of the Year!

WIFV Immediate Past President, **Carletta S. Hurt**, was recently recognized as Mentor of the Year by the National Black MBA Association - DC Chapter. The Mentor of the Year is awarded to an individual who has contributed to



the support and development of others academically or professionally. During her acceptance speech, Carletta shared the following quote that has inspired her work from Former First Lady Michelle Obama, "When you've worked hard, and done well, and walked through that doorway of opportunity, you do not slam it shut behind you. You reach back, and you give other folks the same chances that helped you succeed."

## Members in the News?

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News 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) You can see past issues [here](#).

## Weds One: How Does PBS Distribution Work?

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

6:30 pm networking; 7:00 pm panel

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW

[RSVP here](#)

\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 General Public

Learn how an independent filmmaker or small production company can navigate the public broadcasting system (PBS) to distribute their film. National distribution and station-by-station distribution will be discussed. Public Broadcasting experts will share their insights into scheduling, funding and station relations and identify the challenges to having a one-off program broadcast by the network available to 99% of American households at no cost or cable. We will also discuss the commissioning and acquisition processes at PBS.

Presenters:

**Maria Bruno Ruiz**, Vice President, Program Scheduling, PBS

**Kate Pearson**, Managing Director, Programming & Acquisitions, Maryland Public Television

**Amy Oden**, Producer, Creative and Digital Services, Maryland Public Television

## Coffee & Conversation



**Tuesday, Sept 17**

8:30 to 10:00 am

**Nancy's at SNAC**

131 West North Ave

Baltimore, MD

[RSVP here](#)

No fees, just the cost of your breakfast!

## Cusumano Short Narrative Finishing Fund Awarded!

The **Jane Cusumano/WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Fund** supports artists with the completion/post-production of a short film (no longer than 15 minutes including credits). This grant program is made possible with proceeds from the 2001 DC screening of *WHAT MATTERS MOST*, written and directed by Jane Cusumano and limited in-kind services from Henninger Media Services, Interface Media Group, Ott House Audio, and ReelPlan. The program is administered by Women in Film & Video. [More info on the award here](#).

The inaugural Jane Cusumano/WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Fund has been awarded to **TELL ME ABOUT ORANGE** written by Rachel Ament and produced by Malikkah Rollins. The story deals with first love. Abby, Elliot, and Harry are classmates about to celebrate their bar/bat mitzvahs. Abby, has a crush on Elliot. However, he holds a secret about where his affections lie. Other WIFV members involved with the production (to date) are Jane Barbara (executive producer), Robin Noonan-Price (director), Nasreen Alkhateeb (director of photography), Jason Lobe (editor).

## WIFV Open House

**Monday, Sept 23**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

The Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital

921 Pennsylvania, SE

(Eastern Market Metro)

[RSVP here](#)



Every Fall, WIFV welcomes its members and the general public back from the summer with an Open House. This year we will be joined by members of the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications. The Open House is a great chance to catch up with one another, meet WIFV Board Members, and prepare to jump into the busy program and networking season ahead. There will be door prizes and special announcements. **Invite your friends who you know should be involved!**

Special thanks to our sponsors: [The Hill Center](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), and [OCTFME](#) and our co-host [National Association of Multi-ethnicity in Communications](#).

The National Association for Multi-ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) is the premier organization that educates, advocates and empowers for multi-ethnic diversity in the communications industry. Our success stems from our ability to provide the resources that allow our members to cultivate their individual careers. Equally important, we partner with the country's leading media companies that are committed to leveraging diversity as a business imperative. With chapter around the country, this is your opportunity to network with DC's chapter, National Capital Area.

## HumanitiesDC Grants for WIFV Fiscal-Sponsored Filmmakers



*Discover the Tapestry of Our Nation's Capital*

WIFV is honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for *A TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS* produced by **Tiger Sisters Productions**, *JAZZ CHURCH* directed/ produced by **Caitlin Carroll**, and *THE LAST BATTLEGROUND: Quest for the Vote in Washington* directed by **Anna Reid Jhirad**. All three received grants from HumanitiesDC!

**A TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS** received a Community Heritage Grant of \$5,000 to fund a 3-5 minute trailer focusing on DC's Chinatown and to allow the filmmakers **Penny Lee** and **Lisa Mao** to collect additional interviews with residents and business owners to be used in the feature-length documentary. The DC

Community Heritage Project began as a partnership project of the DC Historic Preservation Office and HumanitiesDC. The project provides alternatives to the "top-down" approach to community history that was placing interpretation of the cultural heritage of District of Columbia neighborhoods into the hands of developers and non-residents. Since its inception, the DCCHP has supported over 200 diverse, local heritage projects, preserving the memories of long-time Washingtonians who have watched their city rapidly change and capturing the unfolding stories of new residents for future generations. These small projects are showcased annually and added to HumanitiesDC's DC Digital Museum online archive. This program was supported through a Historic Preservation Fund Grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of Interior, and also Target Community Relations. Funds were used for the identification, protection, and/or rehabilitation of historic properties and cultural resources in the District of Columbia.

*JAZZ CHURCH* and *THE LAST BATTLEFRONT* each received \$30,000 grants from the new HumanitiesDC DOCS Partnership Grant Program. DC DOCS provides financial and capacity building resources to established filmmakers interested in telling a humanities story about Washington, DC through a documentary short film. Potential projects must incorporate relevant humanities scholarship into the stories that they tell. This project was supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

**JAZZ CHURCH** will focus on the Jazz Night in DC that the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Southwest DC has been hosting for 20 years. In an area that became a symbol for community dissolution, Westminster's Jazz Night in DC showcases the city's rich musical tradition and has grown to encompass Blues Nights on Monday, and a monthly discussion *Thinking About Jazz*. The church is now embarking on a redevelopment project that will include affordable senior housing and an expansive arts center.

**THE LAST BATTLEFRONT: Quest for the Vote in Washington, DC** is a 40-minute documentary which looks at turning points in the history of DC's struggle over voting rights from 1801 to today,

including the establishment of DC as the Nation's Capital, race relations, and the fight for home rule. According to humanities scholar Edward Myers viewers will discover that DC is unique as "the only capital city among all nations with elected national legislatures whose citizens are not represented in the legislative body."

## ScriptDC Early Bird Pricing until September 4

ScriptDC is the premier conference for Mid-Atlantic filmmakers including writers, directors, producers, editors, and talent to connect with accomplished teachers, consultants and industry professionals. The 2019 conference will be October 11-13, 2019 at American University. [Register here](#). Early Bird Pricing in effect through September 4, 2019.



ScriptDC supports the work of independent filmmakers via seminars that provide access to talented media professionals willing to share their expertise. This year's speakers will give you insights into story structure, the horror and rom/com genres, how to finance your film with crowdfunding or equity financing, what it's like to be in the writer's room, how to direct from doc to narrative (or vice versa), editing archival-based films, the editor as storyteller (and more)! We are delighted to be working with Roadmap Writers to give 32 attendees the opportunity to pitch their projects via Skype to LA-based development executives. Only thing missing this weekend is the cost of a plane ticket!

Sessions and Speakers\* include:

- > Story Structure & Inside the Writers Room (one-hour drama) workshops with Ligiah Villalobos;
- > Directing Doc to Narrative (all day) with Joan Darling;
- > Crowdfunding with Emily Best of Seed & Spark;
- > Practice your Pitch with Laurie Scheer;
- > Equity Financing for Your Film with Thomas Dunlap, Kurt Klaus, Lance Kramer, Jamie Coughlin;
- > Editor as Storyteller;
- > Understanding Horror Tropes with May Santiago;
- > Directing and Producing Horror Films with Jane Fleming (invited) & Eduardo Santiago (invited);
- > Writing the Romantic Comedy;
- > Directing the Romantic Comedy with Nisha Ganatra (invited);
- > Editing Archival-based Films with Aviva Kempner, Barbara Ballow;
- > Script Critiques (Sunday am) - limited slots;
- > Pitches (Sunday pm)- Skype slots with LA-based development executives; limited slots available;
- > One-on-one Script Reviews - limited slots during weekend.

\*Speakers subject to change.

What is Included in Your Registration?

Friday evening features a reception and Disrupter Panel (see related article below)

Saturday is a full-day of workshops. The evening will feature a reception and screening with Q&A.

Sunday there will be script critiques and pitches as well as software demonstrations. There's even time to practice your pitch! You may observe the first five-page critiques on Sunday morning.

[Register before September 4, 2019 and save!](#)

## Locavore Film Series Resumes September 11



WIFV is partnering with the [Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse](#) to continue the Locavore Film Series. [Get tickets here.](#)

Films are shown on large screen. When more than 50 tickets are purchased, the profits are shared with the filmmaker (fill the 150 seats and you could make \$700). **Your attendance can have a direct effect to support the filmmaker's next project!** Look forward to seeing you at the movies!

### September 11 - CHECK IT by Dana Flor

At first glance, they seem unlikely gang-bangers. Some of the boys wear lipstick and mascara, some stilettos. They carry Louis Vuitton bags, but they also carry knives, brass knuckles and mace. As vulnerable gay and transgender youth, they've been shot, stabbed, and raped.



Once victims, they've now turned the tables, beating people into comas and stabbing enemies with ice picks. Started in 2009 by a group of bullied 9th graders, today these 14-22 year old gang members all have rap sheets riddled with assault, armed robbery and drug dealing charges.



Led by an ex-convict named Mo, Check It members are now creating their own clothing label, putting on fashion shows and working stints as runway models. But breaking the cycle of poverty and violence they've grown up in is a daunting task.

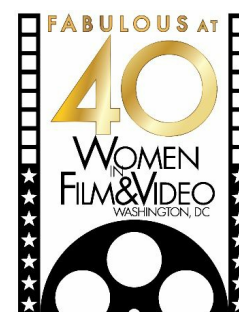
Life for the Check It can be brutal, but it's also full of hope and an indomitable resilience. At its heart, CHECK IT explores the undying friendship that exists between these kids - an unbreakable bond that is tested every day as they fight to stand up for who they are in a community relentlessly trying to beat them down.

**Tickets for CHECK IT available here.** On October 16 we have a night of shorts including TRASH EMPIRE, ALEX'S BIGGEST RACE, DANGEROUS GAMES, CREATIVE FEDS, and THE INVALID CORPS. Tickets will be available soon. Be a film patron and attend!

What films have we shown so far? WISH YOU WELL, 45: ROCK N ROLL REVIVAL, BEDFORD: THE TOWN THEY LEFT BEHIND, DOEVILLE, FROM THE BACK OF THE ROOM, LAST NIGHT, NOTHING TO DO, PAPER CLIPS, and these short films - FINAL NOTICE, THE GOBLIN BABY, I FOR I, M FOR MARITZA, COMMERCIAL FOR THE QUEEN OF MEATLOAF, LOBSTER FRA DIAVOLO, PINEAPPLE, THE GUACHOS OF ARGENTINA, THE AFGHAN PAINTED TRUCK, VOICES/PEACE, and CHINATOWN.

## 40th Anniversary Disrupter Series Begins Oct 11

Opening ScriptDC this year will be a panel featuring **Emily Best**, Founder of [Seed & Spark](#), a standards-setting crowdfunding and distribution site. The panel, **How creators taking control of funding and distribution can be disruptive and empowering**, will launch the WIFV 40th Anniversary Disrupter Lecture Series. Additional panelists will be announced in September. This panel is free for ScriptDC attendees and is open to non-attendees for a minimal fee. Registration opens in early September.





Emily Best is the founder and CEO of Seed&Spark, an entertainment platform built to increase diversity and inclusion for filmmakers and audiences. Seed & Spark's curated streaming platform is fed by its crowdfunding platform, which has the highest campaign success rate in the world. In 2011, she produced the feature film, LIKE THE WATER, starring Caitlin FitzGerald (*Masters of Sex*, *UnREAL*). Since then she has served as executive producer on a host of film and virtual reality projects that have played at festivals from Sundance to SXSW to Tribeca and beyond. Emily was named a 2013 *Indiewire* Influencer, a 2014 New York Woman of Influence, was included on the 2015 Upstart 100 list, and graduated from the 2016 class of Techstars Boston. She has raised millions of dollars in traditional funding, equity crowdfunding, and rewards based

crowdfunding, and contributed to over 300 crowdfunding campaigns to date.

## New and Renewing Members


The following joined or renewed their WIFV membership July 18 - August 14, 2019

<p>Rich Bailey Lori Baluta Susan H. Barocas Melissa Bisagni Martin C. Dale Sheila Curan Dennin Sali Dimond Gavin DuBois Joe Dzikiewicz Karyn Folan Ziad Foty Morgan Gilpatrick Susan Grandis Goldstein Jeffrey Hall Netra Halperin Amanda Hamati Jack Harris Steven Holloway Yari Jamali Audrey Jean David Joyner</p>	<p>Lois Lipman Culver Long Elizabeth Lucas Miguel Luna Joseph Martin Thomas Mason Kimberly Matthews Kelsie McCall Daniela McInerney Roland Millman Leigh Mosley Paula Murrain Jaclyn O'Laughlin Shyla Palm Allison Parshall Kathryn Pasternak Lucian Perkins Theresa Perkins Paige Powell</p>	<p>Ivana Ramirez Rodney Remson Carol Rosen Kay Ross Cathie Saadeh Amita Sarin Kathleen Schmitt T. Scott Snider Brenda Spevak Nicole Van Paris Solomon Weiner Noreen Wise Wynete Yao Marlene Yencho Karen Zill Sadie Zuch</p> <p><b>Corporate Members:</b> WILL Interactive</p>
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**About WIFV**

WIFV supports professionals in the media industry by promoting equal opportunities, encouraging professional development, serving as an information network, and educating the public about women's creative and technical achievements.



**Send Stories to:**

Women in Film & Video  
4000 Albemarle Street, NW  
Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-429-9438  
[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)  
[www.wifv.org](http://www.wifv.org)

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