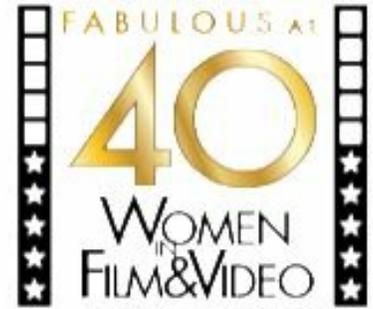


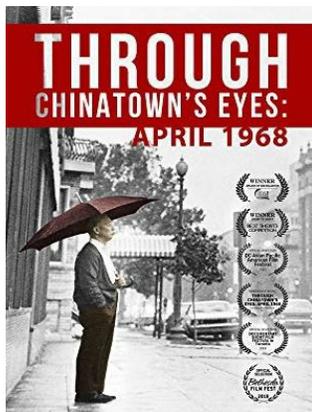
WIFV NEWS



September 2019 Members in the News

Penny Lee, Bridget Bell McMahon, Maggie Burnette Stogner, Cheryle Franceschi, Robin Smith, Sheila Brooks, Carletta S. Hurt, Wendy Anderson, Interface Media Group, Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, Call for Articles

Lee Doc Available via Amazon



Penny Lee's documentary short **THROUGH CHINATOWN'S EYES: APRIL 1968** is available for viewing on Amazon Prime Video.

Synopsis: The civil disturbance following the assassination of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr had a profound impact on the country as well as the nation's capital. It had no less of an impact on Washington, DC's Chinatown, a community that found themselves caught between the black and white struggle. This is a story of how its residents experienced a pivotal moment in history.

Franceschi Program Profiled

Film studies how STEM learning ties in to ag by Sean Clougherty

During her two years as a coordinator of the Maryland Envirothon, it became more and more clear to independent filmmaker **Cheryle Franceschi** that more students needed this kind of experience.



"I saw that this type of education really wasn't being promoted like advance placement and other programs," she said. That experience she said was the kernel that eventually grew into "Conservation Kids: A Green STEM Documentary," a 30-minute film exploring the connection of learning in the STEM fields - science, technology, engineering and math - and experiential learning in the natural world. For Franceschi, a big chunk of that is agriculture. Read full article in *The Delmarva Farmer* [here](#).

Brooks - Two Awards in 24 Hours!

Dr. Sheila Brooks, Founder/President/CEO of SRB Communications, has won two coveted national awards: the

McMahon Scripts Advance



Bridget Bell McMahon's female-led action feature screenplay, **BEYOND LOGIC**, is a **2019 Page Awards Semi-finalist** (still moving forward)!

Her family feature screenplay, **CHANGING SCORE**, was an Official Selection in the 2019 Canadian International Faith & Family Film Festival, and an Award Nominee in the 2019 Great Lakes Christian Film Festival.

Stogner Expands Programs at CEF

Long-time WIFV member **Maggie Burnette Stogner** continues to expand the Center for Environmental Filmmaking (CEF) which will be a co-sponsor of the emerging filmmaker strand at the Jackson Wild Summit and Festival this September. Over 100 mentees and 30 mentors will be attending the Mentor/Mentee Breakfast this year. She is also EPing a 30-minute documentary "The Battle For Clean Air" (working title) about the accomplishments and continuing challenges of the Clean Air Act, which has its 50-year anniversary in 2020. The film will premiere at the Clean Air symposium at the National Press Club on March 31, 2020.



Smith Becomes OU Trustee

The Ohio University Foundation Board of Trustees is proud to welcome five new trustees who will help govern the fundraising arm of the University and fulfill its mission: "Philanthropy in Service to Education."



Robin Smith graduated from Ohio University's School of Architecture, Design and Planning in 1972, earning a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design. An Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, Smith began her career as a producer for CBS Sunday Morning and later NBC News. In 1990, she founded Video/Action, a nonprofit production company dedicated to producing educational television and multimedia



Photo by Mike Coppola/Getty Images for Cinderella to CEO Awards

National Association of Black Journalists' 2019 Ida B. Wells Award and the Cinderella to CEO™ Award.

The NABJ Ida B. Wells Award is given to an individual who has made outstanding efforts to make newsrooms and news coverage more accurately reflect the diversity of the

communities they serve.

Cinderella to CEO™ winners are selected by a national panel of judges, consisting of business and civic leaders, spanning industries that represent journalism, education, finance, hospitality, technology and start-ups. Dr. Brooks was recognized in the *Beauty and the Beast* category because "she demonstrated outstanding, inspirational leadership in a seemingly hopeless situation by creating opportunities, supporting and mentoring, and providing solutions for gender equity."

THE CATCHER Online & Festivals

THE CATCHER, a short film by WIFV board member, **Carletta S. Hurt**, was featured in aspireTV's Urban Indie Block in July 2019 under the theme, Stay Woke. The Urban Indie Block, presented by McDonald's, is a new programming series on aspireTV "featuring the best of urban short films, by tomorrow's next great filmmakers." aspireTV is an American pay television channel targeting Black Americans launched by Magic Johnson on June 27, 2012. The Catcher was written and directed by **Karyn Langhorne Folan** starring Sissy Sheridian, Taylor Chunn, and Sakile Lyles. You can catch rebroadcasts of the Stay Woke episode through the end of 2019 by visiting the [aspireTV website](#).



THE CATCHER was also recently selected as an official selection in the **Queen City Film Festival** slated for October 3-6 in Cumberland, MD.

Submit 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 10th of the month.

programs affecting women and at-risk children. All of her documentaries have been broadcast on public television. Accolades include a CPB Gold Award for Excellence in Documentary Television Programming, ITVA's Distinguished Achievement Award, four regional Emmy Awards and an Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary. Her non-broadcast work has been honored with over 200 national awards including CINE Gold Eagle, Telly, Omni, Aurora, CINDY and National Association of Government Communicators Public Affairs Awards. Smith is a member of the College of Fine Arts National Leadership Council and, in 2003, was presented the college's Distinguished Alumni Award. In 2006, the Ohio University Alumni Association presented Smith with a Medal of Merit.

Stowe Story Lab Fellow Blog

By **Wendy Anderson**

It was finally happening. Five years and hundreds of books later, I was on my way to Stowe Story Labs' Fall Narrative Lab, my twenty-page treatment of STORYTIME, a limited series fantasy drama, tucked onto the laptop. I was attending on a fellowship from Women in Film & Video; as WIFV's first fellow, I wanted to make a good showing.



There had been preparatory steps, beyond the writing itself: a one-page, a headshot, synopsis, logline, resume. David Rocchio, co-founder of the lab, gave me a call to address any questions and welcome me to the vast family of current and former attendees that includes other WIFV members - **Shoshana Rosenbaum, Via Bia, Betty Sullivan, and Bridget Bell McMahon**. For me this meant a sweet opportunity. [Read Wendy's full blog here](#).

2019 Stowe Story Lab Fellows (pictured above L-R): Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough, Douglas King, Sarah Sellman, Lisa Cole, Gita Vatave, Abhi Jeyakkuma, Wendy Anderson

IMG Sizzle



You can dance to it, you can cry to it, you can make love to it -Dolly Parton. That's Country Music! PBS partnered with IMG to promote the much-anticipated Ken Burns series featuring country music's biggest songs, stories, and stars. Broadcast is underway. [View trailer here](#)

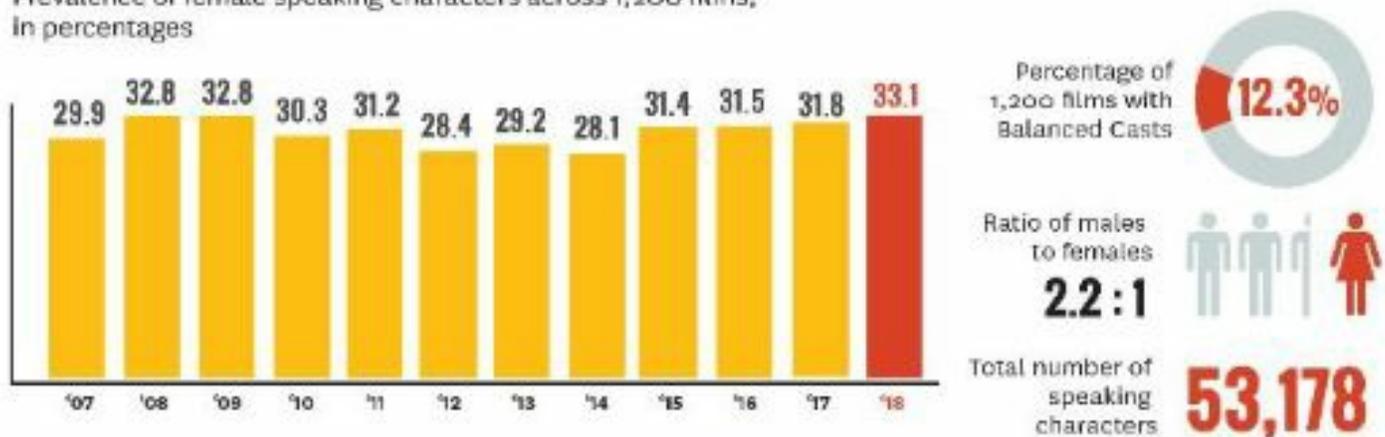
New Report from Annenberg Inclusion Initiative on 1,200 Films

The report, examines gender, race/ethnicity, the LGBTQ community, and characters with disabilities across 1,200 popular films from 2007 to 2018. The results chart progress among leading characters, Black and Asian speaking characters, and

Black directors in 2018. The study also identifies areas for progress, particularly among female speaking characters, the LGBTQ community, and characters with disabilities. The report also offers solutions for change.

NEW YEAR, NO PROGRESS IN THE NUMBER OF FEMALES ON SCREEN

Prevalence of female speaking characters across 1,200 films, in percentages



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More key findings are below, and [you can read the full study here](#)

The research charts progress toward inclusion for leading or co leading characters. Across the 100 top films of 2018:

- 39 had a female in a leading or co-leading role, compared to 33 films in 2017, and 20 movies in 2007.
- 27 films had leading or co-leading characters from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, and increase from 21 films in 2017.
- 11 films featured a female lead from an underrepresented racial/ethnic group compared to just 4 in 2017.
- 11 movies were led by a female actor age 45 or older, versus 5 in 2017.

We saw a 12-year high in the percentage of Black and Asian speaking characters, though the analysis fell short of a 5-percentage point difference from 2007.

One explanation for the increase in Black characters can be found behind the camera, as the number of Black directors rose from 6 in 2017 to 15 across the 100 top movies of 2018.

Overall, the percentage of characters from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups rose from 29.3% in 2017 to 36.3% in 2018.

The report also provides an "invisibility analysis" to determine how many movies are missing female characters from different underrepresented groups. Across the 100 top films of 2018,

- 33 films were missing Black or African American female characters
- 54 were missing Asian or Asian American female characters
- 70 were missing Latina characters
- 51 were missing girls or women from multiracial backgrounds
- 99 movies were missing American Indian/Alaska Native females
- 97 movies were missing female Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders
- 92 movies were missing Middle Eastern/North African girls and women
- 83 films did not portray a single female character with a disability
- 89 films were missing even one female LGBT character



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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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