



# WIFV NEWS

## September 2016 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Gus Soudah, Lynn-Jane Foreman, Randi Cohen Coblenz, Elaine Coates, Sam Jaffe, Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, Emma Mankey Hidem, Via Bia, Michi Jones, Bridget Bell McMahon, Read Masino, Gabrielle Mitchell, Recommend WIFV at Great Nonprofits, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

### Soudah's Roster of Projects Expands

**Gus Soudah**, a director of photography of 15 years, has shot dozens of digital media projects, from indie films to documentaries and music videos. He has traveled the world, filming for a variety of production companies, including Vice TV, People's Television, and DC Visionaries. His overarching goal has always been "to craft striking images that tell of a deeper, complex narrative."

His most recent indie film, *DINNER WITH THE ALCHEMIST*, is a period piece set in New Orleans, featuring Dionne Audain, Tamara Johnson and Dan Istrate. Helmed by locals Jenna St. John (writer) and Kevin Good (director), it was shot almost entirely in the DMV with an area cast & crew. Gus has been nominated for the Indie Capitol Award for "Best Cinematography", and WIFV member **Lynn-Jane Foreman** is nominated for "Best Supporting Actress". The film has garnered 15 Indie Capitol Award nominations, including "Best Narrative Feature". [Get your tickets for the October 6 DC Premiere here](#). For more information on the film and the trailer visit [dinnerwiththealchemist.com](http://dinnerwiththealchemist.com).



WIFV is honored to present the 2016 Women of Vision Award to **Christine Vachon**, co-founder of Killer Films. The Women of Vision Awards celebrate women's creative and technical achievements in media.

**September 28, 2016**, 7:30 to 9:00 pm  
George Mason University Johnson Center Cinema,  
4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA  
\$25 WIFV Members; \$35 Public



Pictured at the world premiere in Los Angeles is the cast and crew of *DINNER WITH THE ALCHEMIST* including WIFV members Gus Soudah (2nd from left) and Lynn-Jane Foreman (7th from left).

Recently, Soudah began shooting and co-producing a feature documentary about ex-felons returning to society through a vocation based program. *ROLLING OUT* follows a cheeky bakery owner encouraging ex-cons to swap dope deals for puff pastries and hone their entrepreneurial spirit through baking.



In 2015, Soudah completed shooting the feature documentary, *VICTORIOUS: WOMEN OF THE GRIDIRON*, about the 2015 Women's

Football Alliance National Champions-better known as the "DC Divas". Soudah followed the DC Divas as they went on their undefeated season for that year.

Soudah is a member of the Lookout, a Washington DC based video collaborative, which partners with WIFV on local industry events. Soudah is also a board member of TIVA. On occasion In his spare time, Soudah mentors newcomers to the film and television industry in production basics and collaborates with colleagues and peers in the screenwriting writing process. [Email him here](#) or call him at 202-577-6169.

## Mankey Hidem Films *Design Like a Girl Camp*

## RSVP Here

Event sponsors include GMU Film and Media Studies, Film and Video Studies, Photography, Women and Gender Studies, and Women in Film & Video. The program is also supported by GMU Cultural Studies and the GMU English Department.

## Coblentz "Mockumentary" Online

WIFV member **Randi Cohen Coblentz** produced this short "mockumentary" while taking an AIM Field Production class. Coblentz worked with her classmates to highlight the new radio station. **Elaine Coates** made a special cameo appearance. DJ TATER is represented by Randi Cohen Coblentz, and is available for future gigs.



## Jaffe Relocates to DC



**Sam Jaffe** has recently relocated to the DC area from New York where he was living since 2003. A DC native, Sam's credits in post-production include *THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES*, *A MOST VIOLENT YEAR*, and *I ORIGINS*. As a member of the Motion Picture Editors Guild, Sam most recently worked on Derek Cianfrance's adaptation of *THE*

*LIGHT BETWEEN OCEANS* as First Assistant Editor. *OCEANS* had its world premier at the Venice

This past August, the Washington Architectural Foundation and the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital held its annual *Design Like a Girl Summer Camp* at the District Architecture Center! Every morning, DAC's rooms were full of energy and excitement from this group of 39 girls and 1 boy. After exploring the Built to Scale exhibition, they built their own models and also worked together to build a 6' x 6' x 6' full scale model. The participants learned about design and implemented their ideas with hands-on building. WIFV Member, **Emma Mankey Hidem** provided a video record of the campers' work.



Film Festival and was released nationwide September 2. While continuing to work in editorial, Sam hopes to focus more on producing in the DC area, and is currently working on a short-form documentary about Duckpin Bowling. Contact Sam at 347-225-2585 or by [emailing him here](#).



### Via Bia Wraps **THESE COLORS DON'T RUN**



Kudos to writer/director, **Via Bia**, who wrapped her short (shot on an ARRI Super 16 with Kodak film!), **THESE COLORS DON'T RUN**, this past April. Featuring an all-

female, 80% Latina cast, TCDR is the story of a tattoo'd Latina who recalls her first ink - the memory of a pristine communion dress, a pack of Sharpie markers, and one angry Mamá. TCDR was recently awarded a "Spotlight" grant from the Arlington Commission for the Arts, and a production grant from the Love Your Shorts Film Festival. Via is an alumna of the Latino Screenwriting Project (a Sundance lab for Latino screenwriters), has had a selected project at the Stowe Story Labs, and won the Virginia Screenwriting Competition for her magical realist screenplay, **THE RADISH BABY**. Via works as a script consultant, and will premiere **THESE COLORS DON'T RUN** in 2017. For more information on Via go to [www.viabia.com](http://www.viabia.com). For info on her new short, [go here](#).

### **Michi Jones is Back in Town!**

### **Grundstrom Releases An Orchestral Journey**



After a year of post-production, **Brian Wilbur Grundstrom** is excited to finally have his CD, *An Orchestral Journey*, released worldwide via Naxos on the Navona label! This recording would not have been possible

without the support of so many: Maestro Erik Ochsner, Omega Recording Studios and all their wonderful musicians, as well as recording engineer Andy Happel and everyone at Parma Recordings. Brian extends a special thank you to Angela Murakami, who not only played clarinet, but assisted tirelessly to help create all the parts.

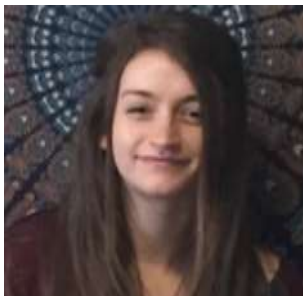
During the recording session last July, Grundstrom also recorded the scene for the opera he's writing, *Ernest Hemingway's For Whom the Bell Tolls*, with libretto by David Dorsen. "I wish to thank my singers for their dedication: Tenor Jesús Daniel Hernández, Soprano Kelly Curtin, Mezzo Suzanne S. Chadwick, and Baritone Jose Sacín. The opera recording also would not have been possible without the generous support of David Dorsen, as well as the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities."

If you have time, please check out the following links to the three videos made with footage from the recording sessions: 1) [excerpts from the CD](#); 2) [the](#)

**Michi Jones** recently returned to Washington, DC from Los Angeles, where she worked as a freelance assistant editor, associate producer and researcher on non-scripted television programs for broadcast and major cable networks. With a strong background in theater and dance, Michi spent a few formative years in New York, where she worked with playwrights to develop new plays for production. One of those plays, a historical drama on the duplicity of Booker T. Washington (*Cast Me Down*), received six AUDELCO nominations that included her work as director. In Los Angeles, as a directing member of the Playwrights/Directors Unit of the Actors Studio West, Michi continued to explore the process of collaborating with actors and playwrights. "I am a product of an arts community that made it their mission to tell stories that entertain and educate," she explains. "It is a principle that guides my career choices." Now, back in DC, she is gearing up to produce a documentary that examines the ties between theater, dance, and the evolution of culture. Michi looks forward to getting to know the DC film community as a WIFV member. For more information, [email Michi here](#) or call 213-503-1103.



### WIFV Welcomes Two New Interns



A big welcome to our two new WIFV Interns:

**full 22-minute opera scene**; and 3) **a video about the making of the opera**. Brian hopes you can take a moment to watch these videos, and share them with your friends.

"Thank you, WIFV, for your support, encouragement, and camaraderie!" - Brian

For more information, please visit [www.brianwilbur.com](http://www.brianwilbur.com) or [email Brian here](#).

Brian Wilbur Grundstrom won the Outstanding Emerging Artist Award in the 2013 DC Mayor's Arts Awards. His other accolades and distinctions include five grants from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Encore from American Composers Forum, ASCAPPLUS from ASCAP, and Composers Assistance Program from the American Music Center. Grundstrom's music has been performed by La Orquesta Sinfónica De Guayaquil, Sunderman Woodwind Quintet, SONOS Chamber Orchestra, North/South Consonance, George Washington University Orchestra, NIH Philharmonia, Holyoke Civic Symphony, The Queer Urban Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra musicians, as well as on The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage.

### Bell McMahon Screenplay Finalist

Back in 2004, **Bridget Bell McMahon's** novel, *McLeary's Mulligan*, was published and earned finalist honors in both the *ForeWord Magazine* 'Book of the Year Award' and in the *USA Book News* "Best Books" Award. While working on her novel, Bridget says she discovered her passion for screenwriting. Since then, she has spent countless hours honing her skills on nights and weekends while raising two sons and enjoying the everyday moments of a busy mom's life. Many rewrites later, her screenplay adaptation of *McLeary's Mulligan* was named Finalist in the Emerging Screenwriters Screenplay Competition 2013; and after even more rewrites, it was named Finalist in the 2016 Las Vegas International Screenwriting Competition. The story revolves around a disgraced professional golfer who struggles to find the courage to regain his career and save his relationship with his son, while facing past mistakes and mounting obstacles from his vindictive former agent. It explores themes of courage, fear,



**Read Masino** (left) and **Gabrielle Mitchell** (right). Read is a sophomore at Georgetown University who intends to major in Government and American Studies with a minor in Film and Media Studies. Gabrielle is a scriptwriter and film editor, pursuing her Master's degree in film and video studies at George Mason University. She's currently working on her thesis project, and aspires to be a television producer. Please stop by the WIFV Office to say hello to these talented women.

playing it safe and risking it all. "I'm also thrilled," adds Bridget, "that another one of my scripts, LOVE, DEMENTIA & ROCK 'N ROLL, was just named Finalist in the 2016 Creative World Awards."

What advice does she have for those eager to get their screenplays published? "I learned that the path to a solid screenplay," she says, "is paved on roads and roads of rewrites and that screenwriting is a lot like mothering - it's all about the journey." To learn more, [visit her website](#) or [email her here](#).



### Tell YOUR WIFV Story

WIFV is honored to be recognized again as a Top-Rated organization by Great Nonprofits. Less than 1% of eligible nonprofits received this distinction. Because of the reviews WIFV has received, we've been a Top-Rated nonprofit since 2012. Your review makes a difference!

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.](#)

### 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 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](mailto: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](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

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