

WIFV NEWS

Summer 2016 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Featuring Andrea Passafiume, Monica Sanjur, Amy Leniart, Theresa Tierney, Eileen Tierney, Sharon Burtner, Studio Unknown, Day Al-Mohamed, Steve Kolb, Nikki Lowry, Debbi Mack, Ariel Magno, Bonnie Breuner, Leah Michaels, Jay Schlossberg, Recommend WIFV at Great Nonprofits, Call for Members in the News Articles, Call for Awards Info!

New Staff at Docs in Progress

Docs in Progress recently welcomed two new staff members - **Andrea Passafiume** and **Monica Sanjur** - who have been working with



the local documentary film nonprofit since May. Passafiume is the new Educational Programs Manager, replacing Ellen Kessel, who stepped

down to pursue a graduate degree. Most recently, Passafiume was the Head Programmer for AFI DOCS and has also worked with several other film festivals, including Tribeca and AFI Fest. Passafiume also is a regular contributing writer for the Turner Classic Movies website. At Docs in Progress, she is managing the organization's educational programs, including year-round training classes, professional development workshops for adults, and youth summer filmmaking camps.

Monica Sanjur, the new Marketing Director for Docs in Progress, has more than 20 years of experience working in marketing and design with



WIFV Member Brings Home the Gold



Amy Leniart won an Emmy Award from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences at the 58th Emmy Awards event held on June 25, 2016. The Emmy Award was given for the category of Technology: Program/Special for the educational program INNOVATION WORKSHOP: NANOTECHNOLOGY.

Amy produced, wrote and edited the show, which is the 3rd installment of this educational STEM series from Fairfax County Public Schools. In the program, there's behind-the-scenes look into the National Institute for Standards and Technology's NanoFab, where highly engineered processes create nanoelectronics to make our smart phones smarter. Plus, the science behind a microscope that can see and move atoms is revealed through an in-depth interview with an innovator who builds Scanning Tunneling Microscopes at NIST. From airplanes to baseball bats, nanomaterials offer a variety of desirable properties including strength and conductivity. INNOVATION WORKSHOP: NANOTECHNOLOGY explores their structure of matter and how engineers can build with these new materials. The 30 minute show is segmented for

various organizations, nonprofits, and federal agencies, including The Arc of the United States and the Smithsonian Institution. Sanjur has been a longtime volunteer at Docs in Progress, creating many of their special event graphics. As the first person in this new position, Sanjur is managing outreach and communications for the organization and its programs. *For more on the new staff, visit <http://www.docsinprogress.org/people>, email Erica Ginsberg, DiP Executive Director at erica@docsinprogress.org or call 301-789-2797.*

Screenwriters Receiving Recognition!

Grand Slam for the Tierneys

Theresa and **Eileen Tierney** are scoring writing honors this Summer for their screenplay, BEYOND THE PAINTED LINE. So far they have an Honorable Mention in the **LA International Underground Film Festival**, selection as a Short Script Finalist in the **California Women's Film Festival**, selection for the Quarter Finals at the **PAGE International**, which places them in the top 10% of the 6,315 entries PAGE received, and Quarter-Finals placement at the **New Renaissance Screenwriting Competition** in London.

Burtner is a Finalist

Sharon Burtner's short film screenplay, FOAM, is a Finalist in the **Filmmatic Screenplay Awards Competition**.

Al-Mohamed Working on Civil War Doc



Who makes a film they're never going to see? That's exactly what **Day Al-Mohamed** has set out to do. As a published fantasy and science fiction author, making the move to write for film seemed a natural extension from novels and comics. She has produced some short films of her own and that of others, recently working

with Julia Marie Myers on UNION, a Civil War drama (See Q&A on Myers and her film [here](#) and her profile in Members in the News [here](#).) But in her upcoming short documentary, THE

classroom digital delivery but can be [viewed through this playlist](#).

Leniart worked with the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) to explore this cutting-edge science and create a resource for science teachers to use in the classroom. Innovation Workshop: Nanotechnology is distributed nationally through the Fairfax Network for free to educators via broadcast, iTunes, Roku and YouTube. This is Amy Leniart's second Emmy Award. The first was for a project created in partnership with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum entitled Flight School: On the Red Planet that covered the history and science of Mars exploration.

Studio Unknown's Recent Emmy Win

Jaime Horrigan, Managing Partner for **Studio Unknown**, has a lot to crow about these days. The well known studio with the ironic name is billed as "an indie-friendly, full service post sound company" working out of Catonsville, MD and Los Angeles, CA. "We're very fortunate," says Horrigan, "to be working with a wide range of films and filmmakers that keep us on our toes. Lately, the ride has gotten even more interesting as we get to see our clients' projects winning awards at festivals, moving on to distribution, and getting viewed by audiences worldwide." Studio Unknown's most notable news of late is the recent Emmy win for Producer Matt Riggieri and Director Nicholas Kovacic's **BREWMORE | BALTIMORE**.



Pictured L to R: Jaime Horrigan (Studio Unknown), Matt Riggieri, Maureen O'Prey, Nicholas Kovacic, Matt Davies (Studio Unknown), and Nate Pesce.

The feature documentary "chronicles the rich history of the beer industry nationally and locally through the eyes of Baltimore, its history as a brewing empire and its vision to reclaim the past." Horrigan notes the film was as important and serious as it was fun, both for its content, as well as the crew's ability to "stretch their legs in a truly collaborative creative environment." Not to mention, all that great beer! To learn more, go to www.studiunknown.com or email

INVALID CORPS AND THE BATTLE OF FORT STEVENS, Al-Mohamed is taking on the reins herself. With that leap, she will join a handful of filmmakers in the country who also happen to be blind. Her film is based on the true story of the defense of Washington, DC during the Civil War by troops with disabilities. Made up of men injured in battle or by disease, the "hopeless cripples" of the Invalid Corps must hold out for a desperate 36 hours until Union General Grant can send reinforcements. With Abraham Lincoln himself on the ramparts of Fort Stevens, they cannot afford to fail. "This film," she explains, "seeks to make us reassess our ideas about disability, sacrifice, and honorable service - not only for these forgotten soldiers of the Civil War, but also for those who continue to serve today." *For more information, go to www.invalidcorps.com or call 573-489-3055.*

Lowry Moving to the Smithsonian

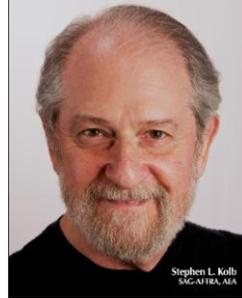
Meet **Nikki Lowry**, who is celebrating close to 20 years in film and film festival marketing. Early in her career, Lowry worked in several jobs related to the Sundance Film



Festival. Eventually, she became Director of Marketing for the Sundance Institute and the world's best known showcase for independent films. That job led to a short term gig at the Miami Film Festival, to "get it back on its feet" on her way back to DC, and then to National Geographic Cinema Ventures, where she marketed films for museums as well as feature films for close to eight years. Most recently, Lowry headed up local marketing and outreach for the 2016 AFI DOCS. Through it all, Lowry took particular interest in outreach to schools, starting a high school program at Sundance and developing education materials and school outreach programs for all of her films. Her impressive experience caught the eye of the Smithsonian, where Lowry will take a new job in Consumer Products as a project manager for consumer education products. As she puts it, "I am so excited to be back in the education space, but will always have one foot in film through membership in and volunteering for

Horrigan directly at Jaime@studiunknown.com.

Kolb Chronicles the Quest for the 51st Star



Media photographer and film producer **Stephen Kolb** is completing a documentary on our nation's capital, visited by hordes (19 million in 2015!) of eager tourists year in and year out. But, as Kolb is quick to point out, "80 percent of Americans don't know that the more than 670,000 people who live in DC don't enjoy the benefits of full citizenship, representation in the US Senate, and in Congress. Many also mistakenly believe DC residents don't pay federal income taxes and have their local government and services fully funded by Congress." Kolb's film sets out to change that erroneous public perception. WHO CARES ABOUT DC? documents the process, people, tensions and challenges -- from DC's historic efforts to free itself from Congressional meddling to the 2016 referendum-undertaken by the New Columbia Statehood Commission to request that the 115th Congress add a 51st star to the American flag. It is a film about democracy and a major effort to make DC residents full participants in our republic. Kolb is seeking foundation grants and sponsors to help continue his work into January, documenting the work done to advance DC's statehood referendum targeted for the November 8, 2016 ballot and what happens next. (Newsflash! He just received a small grant from the Yip Harburg Foundation. Harburg's claim to fame? He wrote "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and other material for the WIZARD OF OZ as well as "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" The foundation funds projects with a significant social, environmental and political value.) Kolb is the cameraperson, editor, researcher, writer, and producer, doing it his way but welcoming participation by anyone who wants to share the challenge as a pro bono project until support funding is secured. While submitting grant applications, he is also trying to connect with Netflix, Amazon, HBO and PBS to help, but says he "hasn't found the hooks" just yet. Meanwhile, you can view most of the footage for the documentary captured since 2013 on the [project website](http://www.projectwebsite.com). *For information on Kolb and his services, go to <http://stevekolbmedia.com> or phone 202-340-2982 or 202-543-5901.*

various film groups and festivals in DC. I LOVE film and I LOVE WIFV!" Lowry has lived and worked in such places as Thailand, Germany, Lebanon, Greece, Bahrain, and the UK and considers herself "extraordinarily lucky" to be where she is right now, surrounded by the creative and talented women and men in our film community. *For more information, email Lowry at nikki.lowry216@gmail.com or call her at 202-251-7691.*

Magno Celebrates One Year at "WIFV Central"



Congratulations to **Ariel Magno** on her first year as a WIFV staffer! She became a part-time staff member last July and a full-time staff member in November. Every day at the WIFV office, Magno juggles program promotion and execution, member relations, intern management, and keeps Executive Director Melissa

Houghton on her toes regarding a slew of issues. Magno initiated the popular *Monday Missive*, coordinates social media, and updates the online calendar. "I'm enjoying all the varied experiences this job has to offer," Magno says. "I especially love getting to interact with the members at roundtables and at our monthly member coffees. Meeting Joan Darling and Dawn Porter was definitely something that I'll carry with me for the rest of my life." When she's not working for WIFV, Magno works as a freelance stage manager in the theater world: recent productions include UPRISING at Metro Stage and PROOF at 1st Stage. *To reach Magno, call the WIFV Office at 202-429-9438.*

ROCK, RAGE & SELF DEFENSE is Online

ROCK, RAGE & SELF DEFENSE: An Oral History of Seattle's Home Alive is a documentary film by **Leah Michaels** and Rozz Therrien. The film follows the origin story of Seattle's grass-roots, self defense collective Home Alive. Prompted by the rape and murder of The Gits' lead singer Mia Zapata, and other deaths in the Arts and Music community. Scared and infuriated, her friends and community members came together to share their fears and discuss how to be safe in that

Mack Digs Digital Sleuthing



Did you know we have a mystery writer in our membership? **Debbi Mack** is the author of a hardboiled mystery series featuring Maryland attorney Stephanie Ann "Sam" McRae. The series, previously self-published, is being reissued by WildBlue Press. She has also self-published one young adult novel, *Invisible Me*, and an anthology of her short stories. Mack is preparing to

launch a crowdfunding campaign to support two collective digital crime fiction works: the *Crime Cafe Nine Book Set* and the *Crime Cafe Anthology*. The stories in those collections were all contributed by authors who appeared as Season One guests on her podcast, the *Crime Cafe*. The campaign launched on July 12, 2016, and Mack, ever the marketer, is doing a Facebook party for the campaign [here](#). (You can click there to be an early supporter.) Her first Sam McRae novel, *Identity Crisis*, was optioned last year by local producer **Lisa Tuvalo**; Mack adapted the book for the screen. She is also preparing to self-publish her latest novel, *The Planck Factor*, which has a tentative release date of Sept. 25, 2016. It can be [pre-ordered at her website](#). What else is Mack up to? "I'm really keen on making a documentary," she says, "but I need a little more time to figure out what topic works best for my limited time and multiple interests." *Look for Mack online at her [website](#), and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).*

Breuner Edits for KIDS WORLD

Bonnie Breuner helped edit this Introduction to KIDS WORLD where American and Chinese students connect through safe, guided, peer-to-peer video exchanges to accelerate language and cultural learning through friendship. [Learn more here](#)



environment. The result was a low-cost self defense program. Understanding the connection between self defense and self-expression, nine women politicized the Seattle scene.



For more info on the film [email Leah Michaels](#) or go to the [website here](#).



FEAST YOUR EARS Garners Coverage

Jay Schlossberg and team continue to record interviews, find new fans, and have just been featured in a fantastic article in the July/August issue of *Bethesda Magazine*. The article reveals what was happening in Bethesda from the

late 60's through mid-80's much of which, of course, centered about WHFS 102.3FM. [Read the article 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](#) and adds to your SEO. Submit your paragraph, jpg photo, and any links to 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



