

# Newsletter



## January 2021

### President's Message



Happy almost 2021! As we kick off the new year, I'd like to highlight an exciting new initiative: the 2021 WIFV Mentorship Program!

Spearheaded by WIFV board member **Dylan**

**Graves Comstock** (thank you Dylan!), the mentorship program matches WIFV members at both ends of the experience spectrum. Less experienced media professionals, or those who recently have begun exploring media-making, will be paired with more seasoned members. Each pair will be asked to commit to about hour or so each month to connect and catch up. During these sessions, mentees will share their questions and challenges; mentors will deliver their insights and wisdom; and progress will be made!

Trust me when I say this is a worthwhile exercise. For the past few months, I've been involved in mentoring a young law student through a similar program, and I've really enjoyed it. It's been fun seeing the world of work through a younger person's eyes, and offering her my thoughts as she explores new career paths and thinks about her future. Even though her specific interests are different from mine, helping her navigate challenges has made me realize how much I've learned over my career. Sharing the benefits of my experience with someone just starting out has been a very rewarding way to "give back." When I signed up, I was a little worried about the time commitment but in practice, meeting for an hour once a month has been incredibly easy - the time flies by.

If that sounds appealing to you, why not try it? All WIFV members are invited to participate!

If you would like to serve as a mentor,

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### Roundtable Roundup

**Documentary: Trailer Night**  
Monday, **January 11**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
[RSVP here](#)

**Reel Moms: Coffee**  
Friday, **January 15**, 10:00 - 11:00 am  
[RSVP here](#)

**BIPOC: Happy Hour**  
Thursday, **January 21**, 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
[RSVP here](#)

**Makeup/Hair: Updo's**  
Monday, **January 25**, 6:30-8:00 pm  
[RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members.

**fill out this form.** We thank those members who have already volunteered to serve as mentors.

**If you would like to be mentored by a more experienced WIFV member, just fill out this form.** Please complete by January 10.

If you are selected to participate as a mentor or mentee, you'll be contacted for next steps.

We are pleased to offer this mentoring opportunity in furtherance of WIFV's mission to provide educational and networking opportunities for screen-based media makers. WIFV members have an incredible depth of experience and expertise, and this program is designed to ensure that our experienced members' insights are shared with members at the beginning of their careers. Having a mentor to guide and advise through a specific project — and provide career advice in general — can be a truly motivating force in the life of an artist.

Respectfully,

**Cathie Saadeh**

There is a \$10 fee for non-members. **You must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.**

Reel Moms and BIPOC groups are being formed. Email [membership@wifv.org](mailto:membership@wifv.org) if you want to join their roundtable listservs.

## COVID-19 Resources

WIFV has been collecting (and suggesting) relief resources for freelancers, artists, and small businesses across the region. [Access them here.](#)

**Care for Creatives** provides pay-what-you-can mental health support to the DC creative and entrepreneurial community. Individuals who reach out to the CCSC are matched with a clinical intern to support them through a solution-oriented therapy approach. All services are confidential and will be provided via tele-health. Email [CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu](mailto:CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu) and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

## Submit Your News & Photos - We Want to Celebrate!

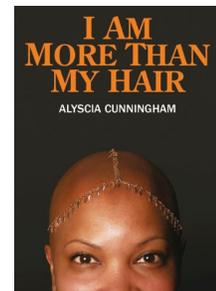
Deadline for Members in the News is the 10th of the month. Send an article (100 words or so) and a photograph or link to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). [You can see past issues here.](#) Deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 20th of the month.

And we still welcome receiving photos of you at work - writing, filming, acting, being a stellar PA - [membership@wifv.org](mailto:membership@wifv.org) is where you should email them. Provide project name and photo credit.

## News You Can Use

### I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR Receives Arbus Grant

**Alyscia Cunningham's** film, I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR, received an Honorable Mention from Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant, administered by New York Women in Film and Television. The film completion grant awards a woman filmmaker for a film on or about physical or developmental disability issues. I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR is a **documentary film** and **photography book** that includes stories of females who've experienced hair loss due to a health-related condition and how they empower themselves to see beauty beyond the media's standards. [You can support the project with a tax deductible donation here](#)



## Organize Your Tax Documents

By John Aaron

Let's take the stress out of doing your 2020 individual tax return. If you have W-2 wages as an employee, investments, dependents, a homeowner, or itemize your



deductions, this video will help you organize the documents you need to give to your tax preparer.

The February Weds One will focus on tax issues! [Registration available here.](#)

## Experience to Activism Summary

On Monday December 14, the Doc Roundtable held a panel titled **Experience to Activism**. We had stellar participants - some with Oscar buzz films! Collectively we explored the making of these films and the trials and successes seen in the community at large. The word "disabilities" is a misnomer as more than 26% of Americans live with some type of disability, many of which are unseen. The docs discussed expand the representation of disabilities and film production.

Onscreen and off-screen disability representation remains staggeringly low. USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative found that only 1.6 percent of all speaking characters in the top 100 grossing films of 2018 had a disability. This hardly reflects the population.

Moderated by **Randi Cohen Coblenz**, the panel consisted of **Hollynn D'Lil**, **Jamie Petrone**, **Day Al-Mohammed**, **Liz Ortiz**, and **Jim Lebrecht**, who used their experiences to create content which addressed disability within the visual medium. **Judith Heumann**, featured in CRIP CAMP, was unable to join due to technical difficulties. A few comments of note from the roundtable:

- "I was not quite seeing the film I wanted to see" Jim LeBrecht, co-producer of the Sundance Audience Award film CRIP CAMP;
- Day Al-Mohamed, Director and Executive Producer of THE INVALID CORPS, sees film as a "team sport" and welcomes the chance to be a team player; and
- Liz Ortiz, Director of AND...SEEN and respected casting director, believes "the more we destigmatize disability the more we get to explore amazing artists we might otherwise overlook".



## Upcoming Events

### Locals & WONDER WOMAN 1984 - January 6



WONDER WOMAN 1984 was released on December 25. Portions of it were filmed at the Landmark Mall in Virginia and in downtown DC. That means local crew and cast were also involved. Join us to meet some of the locals who helped bring the story to the big screen!

**Wednesday, January 6 at 6:30 pm** [RSVP here.](#)

\$10 WIFV Members / \$20 Public This is an online webinar.

You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

This program is sponsored by [MediaCentral](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and the [Virginia Film Office](#).

## Three Programs for Indie Filmmakers

### Producers Panel

We start the series with a panel of mostly local producers who are willing to share their experiences about producing films large and small. Panelists are



**Joanne Butcher, Catherine Hand, Ari Pinchot, and Dan Solomon.**

**Tuesday, January 12 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)**

\$15 WIFV Members and Students/ \$30 Public

This is an online webinar. You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

## Scheduling for Independent Films

Presented by award-winning producer **Maureen A. Ryan**, this step-by-step seminar focuses on what you need to know to create a script breakdown and schedule for low budget independent scripted projects. Using a short narrative script, she will go over the steps and general principles for scheduling film productions using simple excel spreadsheets. You will receive the short script to read ahead of the seminar.

[Presenter bio here](#) (her credits will be familiar).

**Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)**

\$15 WIFV Members and Students/ \$30 Public

This is an online webinar. You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

## Budgeting for Independent Films

**Maureen A. Ryan** returns for this step-by-step seminar on what you need to know to create a first draft budget for low budget independent scripted projects. Using the short narrative script from the January 19 program, she will go over the general principles for budgeting film productions using simple excel spreadsheets.

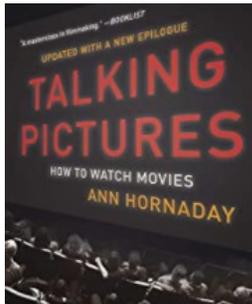
**Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)**

\$15 WIFV Members and Students/ \$30 Public

This is an online webinar. You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

All ScriptDC programs are sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).

## WIFV Book Club - January 21



Read **TALKING PICTURES: HOW TO WATCH MOVIES** by *Washington Post* movie critic Ann Hornaday before the online WIFV Book Club and be ready to discuss! Program organized by WIFV member **Paige Gold**. The book is available from [Barnes & Noble](#), [Smile.Amazon](#), local libraries, and bookstores. Support WIFV and purchase the book through Smile.Amazon (see above)!

**Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 pm [RSVP here.](#)**

This is an online gathering. You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

## Mediamakers Winter Party - January 22

You will see colleagues from WIFV, The Actors' Center, Docs In Progress, TIVA, and more. We've all learned to work remotely and now is the time to party that way. It will be fun and a great networking event (as always).

You get to eat and drink whatever you want. (We'll find time to serve Melissa's famous meatballs at some point in 2021!) You don't need to worry about the weather or the commute. Begin 2021 with some friends, trivia, and screen prizes.



What's different this year (besides you'll be in a box on camera)? Instead of a registration

fee, we encourage you to make a donation to the WIFV Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers. Start 2021 as a patron for an independent mediamaker! [Make your tax-deductible donation here](#)

**Friday, January 22, 6:00 - 8:00 pm** [RSVP here](#).

This is an online gathering. The login link will be included in your registration confirmation.



For those of you who don't want to face a conversation in the morning, WIFV will be hosting Happy Hours online. They are a chance to see new faces and discuss what's on your mind! Collaborations have already been formed. These are free, online events. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

Happy Hour, **Thursday, Jan. 14 at 4:30 pm** [RSVP here](#).

BIPOC Happy Hour, **Thursday, Jan. 21 at 4:00 pm** [RSVP here](#).

Happy Hour, **Thursday, Jan. 28 at 4:30 pm** [RSVP here](#).



The beverage will be in a cup at your house, but the conversation will be online! Board Members look forward to conversing with mediamakers to hear how you are nurturing your creative soul. These are free, online events. You will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

Coffee, **Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 9:30 am** [RSVP here](#).

Executive Member Coffee, **Friday, Jan. 8 at 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#).

Reel Moms Coffee, **Friday, Jan. 15 at 10:00 am** [RSVP here](#).

Coffee, **Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 9:30 am** [RSVP here](#).

## Sundance Ignite Young Adult Discount

At **Sundance Ignite** we're devoted to supporting a new generation of filmmakers and fostering new audiences for independent storytelling. So we're thrilled to partner with Adobe to offer 18 to 25-year-olds a **Young Adult Discount** for the **2021 Sundance Film Festival** (Festival Dates: January 28 - February 3), along with **Ignite Day**, a free day of programming for emerging artists.



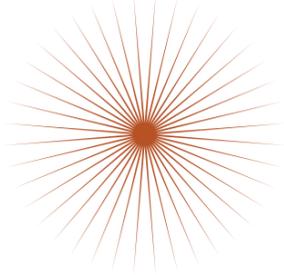
The **Young Adult Discount presented by Adobe** is a **50% discount off any Sundance Film Festival passes and tickets of your choice**. Young Adult Discounts go on sale **Thursday, January 7** and can be purchased [here](#). Check out [this page](#) to learn more about options for passes and tickets. [Read more on the Sundance Ignite x Adobe Fellowship Program here](#).

## Nordic Women in Film Series - Feb 2021

### Five Embassies - Five Films - Five Discussions

WIFV and WIFTI are delighted to be partnering with the Embassies of Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland to present the following films and discussions starting February 3 at 3:00 pm (coffee time in Scandinavia)! Registration opens soon.

**February 3 - TOVE directed by Zaida Bergroth**



Discussing Boundless Art, Boundless Success

**February 10 - QUEEN OF HEARTS directed by May el-Toukhy**

Discussing Women Who Make Our Blood Boil

**February 17 - HOPE directed by Maria Sodahl**

Discussing Personal Stories & Big Budgets

**February 24 - LUCKY ONE directed by Mia Engberg**

Discussing The Gaze and what happens when women define their own reality

**March 3 - AND BREATHE NORMALLY directed by Isold**

**Uggadottir**

Discussing Borders and Boundaries

## New & Renewing Members (Nov 24, 2020 - Dec 29, 2020)

Ariadna Alvarado

Chara Andrews

Alexis Barone

Soren Begin

Jacqueline Bennett

Via Bia

Kayona Ebony Brown

Victoria Bruce

Wendy Renee Cade

Taren Coleman

Jennifer Cortner

Wm. David Crosson

Jon Gann

Amy Garelick

Tara Garwood

Joel Gershon

Julie Gold

Nia Gomez

India Gregory

Jonathan Gruber

Keisha Jackson

Karina Dar Juan

Brenda Kinzinger

Patrick Kirchner

Steve Lack

Augusta (Gussie) Lehman

Jennifer Levine

Giuseppe Lucarelli

Emily Marquet

Pamela Mathieson

Mark Maxey

Kelsie McCall

Brittany Morton

Michael Moser

Jan Moss

Orianna Nienan

Elisabeth Noone

Brian Pascale

Robyn Peterson

Ricardo Preve

Nora Rappaport

Bonnie Rich

Mia Robinson

Zohar Rom

Michael Rose

Christina Ruppert

Maureen Chappell Sasscer

Kirk Schroder

Noelle Cwiklinski Serper

Patty Stern

Ronald (Smokey) Stevens

Kathleen Strouse

Nancy Swenton

Cindy Vaughn

Sandy Verhoeve

Mary Beth Warner

Bart Woodward

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Send Stories to:  
director@wifv.org

### About WIFV

Women in Film & Video provides educational and networking opportunities for screen-based media makers, celebrates women's creative and technical achievements in media, and advocates for parity both in front of and behind the camera to ensure that all voices can be heard.

### Support Women In Film & Video Inc.

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