

# WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC WIFV NEWS

## March 2021

### President's Message



When I was about eight years old, my dad brought home something that looked like a cross between a briefcase and a typewriter. Turns out, he had scored access to an acoustic coupler, a very early predecessor of the Internet. He called a special number

on our rotary telephone, plopped the phone's handset in the coupler, and the printer came to life: >> IN FRONT OF YOU IS A LARGE STONE GATE. DO YOU WANT TO ENTER? Eight-year-old me excitedly typed back: >> YES. And off I went, into my first computer game adventure. I was absolutely blown away.

Fast forward quite a bunch of years. In 2019, not really knowing what virtual reality and alternative reality was all about, I attended the Tribeca Film Festival with the express goal of trying as many VR and AR experiences as possible. I walked down a dusty road in Uganda, cowered in a trench with terrified soldiers, and stood onstage as sweaty dancers cavorted around me. It was absolutely incredible.

What do these two experiences, decades apart, have in common? Each experience brought a story to life, in an intense, creative, and completely new form.

Which leads me to share something I experienced just last week. Fellow WIFV Board member Malikkah Rollins had sent me an email about some play, something called "TAPE," on Zoom. Zoom? The thought of sitting through yet another Zoom event did not sound fun at all. But Malikkah seemed to like it. "I watched it last Friday," she said. "I will attend again this Friday." Hmmmm. Good enough to watch twice? It was free, so I signed up and put it on my calendar, not really sure if I would attend.

Reader, I attended.

All I can tell you is that watching live Zoom theatre, done well, was just as transformative as the two experiences I described above. I won't try to

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### Roundtable Roundup

**Narrative Directors:** *Networking Towards Production*

Monday, **March 1**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

[RSVP here](#)

**Documentary:** *Trailer Night*

Monday, **March 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Registration will open soon at

[docsinprogress.org](https://docsinprogress.org)

describe it, because I think live Zoom theatre is something you have to experience for yourself. Instead, I'm going to quote Neal Davidson, who adapted writer Stephen Belber's TAPE for Zoom: "I do believe this is a new medium, that is here to stay and will even shift the way we view theater and film as time progresses."

Helpfully, Neal (who also played one of the leads in TAPE) recently wrote an excellent article in DC Metro Theatre Arts about this new medium. He describes Zoom's accessible, engaging, and unique qualities as a production medium, but also, provides comprehensive guidelines to writers, producers, directors, and actors looking to create in this medium. [For those interested in looking to the future, the article is very well worth a read.](#)

And do try to see some live Zoom theatre, because it really is something. Check out: [thesharedscreen.com](http://thesharedscreen.com)  
[newnormalrep.org](http://newnormalrep.org)  
[zoomtheatre.com](http://zoomtheatre.com)

How does this tie back to WIFV? First, Neal, who adapted the play to Zoom, is currently based not in New York or Los Angeles, but right here, outside of Washington, DC. Second, this new format completely levels the ground for those of us based outside a major production market. The actors and directors in TAPE were in separate locations and in multiple time zones (including Neal, performing live from the DMV). Third, I would not have heard of this experience but for my WIFV connection, Malikkah.

What other new experiences will 2021 bring? As our long dark winter finally turns to spring, I hope you all enjoy your continued journeys of discovery.

Respectfully,

**Cathie Saadeh**

**P.S. Although it won't be live, a recording of TAPE will be streaming free for 48 hours this weekend from 3 pm ET Friday, Feb 26 until 3 pm ET Sunday, Feb 28.** Writer Stephen Belber himself will be joining for a free live Talkback at 7 pm ET Sunday 28 via Zoom. In addition to writing, Belber is a generous and accomplished filmmaker and writer with a long history of arts advocacy. You can find registration links for both the stream of TAPE and the Talkback at [thesharedscreen.com](http://thesharedscreen.com)

**BIPOC: Happy Hour**

Thursday, **March 18**, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

[RSVP here](#)

**Reel Moms** (all caregivers welcome)

Friday, **March 19**, 10:00 - 11:00 am

[RSVP here](#)

**Makeup/Hair**

Monday, **March 22**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Registration will open soon

**Screenwriter Roundtable: Catch Up**

Monday, **March 29**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

[RSVP here](#)

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

## 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

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

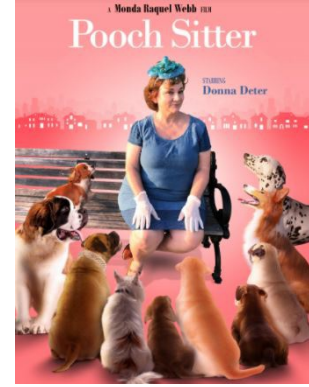
### POOCH SITTER Goes to Paris

POOCH SITTER, an Official Selection of The Paris Short International Film Festival, is a film about homelessness disguised as a film about pet sitters. On the surface, a quirky pet sitter seeks complete love and adoration from other people's dogs. In actuality, Claire Wingham usually finds her "clients" by sitting on park benches, which otherwise serve as an occasional bed. While pet sitting, Claire truly leverages the term, "make

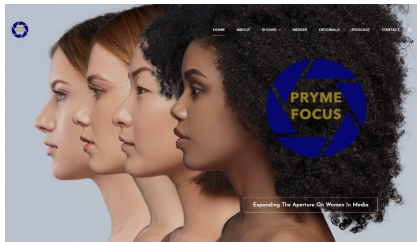
yourself at home,” in a fun, kinetic and unforgettable way.

This modern-day Goldilocks-ish film will definitely give you paws...

Team Pooch has donated \$1,600 to non-profit organizations focused on homelessness and women and children. The film was written and directed by WIFV Board Member **Monda Raquel Webb** through her **Little Known Stories LLC**.



## Dunn Launches Streaming Service



WIFV Board Member **Sonya Dunn** has launched the Pryme Focus streaming service. This Live TV and OTT/OTA channel is centered on curated collections of tv shows, movies and specials that highlight women content creators. Watch the 'Original Funny Ladies of Sitcoms', 'First Women of Action' and more. Pryme Focus mission is to continue the expansion and advancement of women in media and the men who

support them. [Visit the website to learn more.](#)

## Capital Irish Film Festival, March 4-14

AFI Silver is proud to host the 15th Capital Irish Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Solas Nua. Celebrating Irish identity, culture and artistry, CIFF's lineup brings the best in contemporary Irish cinema to the Washington, DC, capital area. [The schedule is here and features many women directors!](#) Passes and individual tickets available. [Purchase here](#)



## Environmental Film Festival - March 18-28



DCEFF is extremely excited to unveil the **Film Guide for our 29th Annual Environmental Film Festival!** Check it out to learn about many of the great films we will be screening March 18-28 in our virtual theater. Then jump on social media to tell us what you are most looking forward to with the hashtag **#DCEFF2021**. [Tickets go on sale March 2.](#)

Right now, our Film Guide features close to 100 films, but we're not done. We will be adding films to the Guide in the coming weeks.

## French in Motion Expands West

**French In Motion**, the non-profit that brings together French and American professionals from the film and TV industry is launching a new chapter in Los Angeles, California. Headquartered in New York and with an existing chapter in Washington D.C, which is run by French In Motion's Vice President **Laetitia Doyle**, the organization has been supporting international co-productions and collaborations between France and the United States through its partnership with the Gotham Film Media Institute (formerly IFP) since 2016. At a time of unprecedented



disruption for the industry, French In Motion is expanding its field of action to the West Coast in an effort to foster new exchanges and increased solidarity within the film community.

“Our ambition is for French In Motion to provide a focal meeting point for French and North American film industry professionals. Developing our bicoastal presence is an exciting milestone and a great opportunity to continue expanding the transatlantic network we have built over the years from New York. We hope to act as a connector between French cinema, the indie industry of the East Coast, and Hollywood.” said Marine Notté, President of French In Motion. “There is tremendous potential to build a strong and vibrant international community out here. I’m thrilled to join the team”, added producer Martine Melloul, who will be running the chapter out of Los Angeles. This new chapter is created with the support of the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States.

## DC Web Fest, April 9-10



The Ninth Annual DC Web Fest aims to immerse its guests in a 2-bit, video-game style virtual world while promoting the best in independently-produced digital media.

With the theme “See Problems as Possibilities” and set for April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, the virtual event will showcase the best of independent digital media as well as meaningful discussions with top experts in the industry.

“This annual event has positioned DC as the flashpoint for New Media, and it exposes the District to ever expanding platforms. By introducing Washingtonians to original content, some of it produced in their own backyard, we aim to inspire engagement with and support for the creative economy,” says Otessa Ghadar, the festival's founder.

Official Selections will be announced in early March, but guests can keep up with all festival details at [www.dcwebfest.org](http://www.dcwebfest.org) and @dcwebfest across Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

## Upcoming Events

### Nordic Women in Film Series Concludes March 3

WIFV and WIFTI are delighted to be partnering with the Embassies of Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland to present the films and discussions wrapping March 3 at **3:00 pm** (coffee time in Scandinavia)! [Registration opens the Friday before each screening here.](#)

**March 3 - AND BREATHE NORMALLY** directed by Isold Uggadottir Panel focus: Discussing Borders and Boundaries



### Drones: Recreational & Commercial - March 3



Drone use is exploding across the country. Whether you are a first-time hobbyist or an experienced camera operator, navigating the world of drones requires an understanding of several key issues. Do you need to register your drone? Do you need a license to operate? Where, when, and how high can you fly? How can you build a business and clientele? How can you capture great footage for your clients or your own projects? In this Weds One, our moderated panel launches into the world of drones and answers these critical questions, and more. For newcomers and expert operators alike. Presenters **Luisa Winters** and **Mike Sobola**. Discussion moderated by WIFV Member, **Richard Volin, Esq.**



Wednesday, March 3 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#).

Panelist bios on registration page!

\$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](#).

## Film Case Study: NOBODY WANTS US



**Laura Seltzer-Duny** and **Robert Kanner** will share their multi-year journey to bring the doc, **NOBODY WANTS US** to audiences. In addition to sharing how the film was produced, they will also share how the project continues to evolve through dynamic impact producing. Your registration will benefit the outreach programming. WIFV is the fiscal sponsor of this program.

Synopsis: In September 1940, three teenagers were trapped on a steamship in the port of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Along with 83 other exhausted refugees, they were hoping to be allowed on American soil — where millions of others in distress had safely landed before them. **NOBODY WANTS US** is their story.

Thursday, **March 18**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 Public - All proceeds benefit the film's educational outreach

You will receive the webinar login with your registration confirmation.

## Women's History Month Events

### **PISSED OFF: The Fight for Gender Equity in Politics and Sports**

**Monday, March 8**, 7:00 pm, International Women's Day Program

[Register here](#)

**Susan Stamberg**, Special Correspondent for National Public Radio, moderates a wide-ranging conversation about the successes, obstacles, and ongoing work happening to achieve gender equity. Panelists include USA sports columnist and CNN commentator **Christine Brennan**, former Washington DC Mayor and the Founding Director of the Institute of Politics Policy and History, **Sharon Pratt**, and filmmaker and DC Statehood advocate, **Aviva Kempner**, whose 3min work-in-progress preview of her upcoming documentary, **PISSED OFF**, sets the scene for the conversation. This program is hosted by Edlavitch DCJCC and co-hosted by WIFV.



### **Pajama Party Movie Night featuring THE WOMEN!**



In celebration of Women's History Month, we invite you to join WIFV Board Members on **Thursday, March 25**, for a Pajama Party Happy Hour and Movie Night featuring the 1939 classic film **THE WOMEN!**

**We will kick off the evening with a WIFV Happy Hour from 5:30-6:30 pm [RSVP HERE](#).** Then at 7:00 pm, we'll regroup in our jammies, grab our popcorn, and settle in for an Amazon Watch Party of **THE WOMEN**. (PLEASE NOTE: An Amazon Prime account is required for this event.)

**THE WOMEN** is a 1939 American comedy-drama film directed by George Cukor. The film is based on Clare Boothe Luce's 1936 [play of the same name](#), and was adapted for the screen by Anita Loos and Jane Murn. The film continued the play's all-female tradition—the entire cast of

more than 130 speaking roles was female. The film stars Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard, Joan Fontaine, Lucile Watson, Mary Boland, Florence Nash, and Virginia Grey. Marjorie Main and Phyllis Povah also appear, reprising their stage roles from the play. Ruth Hussey, Virginia Weidler, Butterfly McQueen, and Hedda Hopper also appear in smaller roles. Set in the glamorous Manhattan apartments of high society, and in Reno, Nevada, where they obtain their divorces, it presents an acidic commentary on the pampered lives and power struggles of various rich, bored wives and other women they come into contact with. Throughout the film, not a single male character is seen or heard.

## SWAN Day (Support Women Artists Now)

Celebrated on the last Saturday in March, SWAN Day is an opportunity for you to celebrate women artists! This year WIFV will be compiling a list of women-made films available on streaming services based on your recommendations. Send your suggestions to [membership@wifv.org](mailto:membership@wifv.org) by March 15.



## Recruit a Member / Plant a Seed

What better time than Women's History Month for you to encourage your colleagues to join WIFV? As we continue to support and celebrate independent mediamakers, why don't you do the same by recommending WIFV membership? For each new member joining in March, WIFV Board members will make a contribution to the Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers - talk about a win/win! [It's easy to join here.](#)



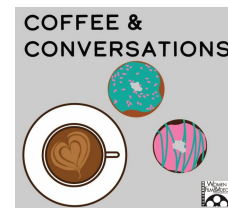
For those of you who don't want to face a conversation in the morning, WIFV will be hosting Happy Hours online. They are a chance to see new faces and discuss what's on your mind! Collaborations have already been formed. These are free, online events. You will receive the login with your registration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

Happy Hour, **Thursday, March 11, 4:30 pm** [RSVP here.](#)

BIPOC Happy Hour, **Thursday, March 18 4:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Happy Hour & Pajama Party Screening of **THE WOMEN, Thursday, March 25, 5:30 pm** [RSVP here.](#)

More info above!



We look forward to conversing with you 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, March 2, 9:30 am** [RSVP here.](#)

Executive Coffee, **Friday, March 12, 9:00 am** [RSVP here.](#)

Talent Coffee, **Tuesday, March 16, 9:30 am** [RSVP here](#)

Reel Moms Coffee, **Friday, March 19, 10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

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

## New & Renewing Members (Jan 29, 2021 - Feb 25, 2021)

Sacha Allen  
Rachel Ament

Jean Isani  
Emily Jerison

Kathi D. Overton  
Kristian Perry

Stephen Ames	Erin Jesionowski	Patricia Perry-Burgess
Corey Anklaam	Jeannie Johnson	Mark Phillips
Victoria Barrett	Terry Jones	Marcus Pitts
Tracy Baumgardner	Joy Jones	Linda Robbins
Shaina Blackman	Richard Kain	S. Mari Robinson
Sandra Brennan	Clara Kelly	Patrick Sammon
Bonnie Breuner	Hilarey Kirsner Leonard	Liane Scott
Suzanne Brindamour	Margaret Kivlen	Laura Seltzer-Duny
Alexandra Carrera	Mark Kokkoros	Jacob Staley
Betsy Cox	Stephen Kolb	Charlotte Steiner
Justin Cuthbertson	Mike Kravinsky	Flo Stone
Serge Delpierre	Shannon Kring	Sheri Ratick Stroud
Robyn DeShields	Matt LeClair	Dounia Sabah
Sunnye Durham	Serena Lee	Robert Justin Swain
Maya El-Hage	Fabienne Lips-Dumas	Diego C. Torres
Carol Federman	Raquel LM	Julia Vickers
Renee Fischer	Jennifer Manner	Richard Volin
Cheryle Franceschi	Kris Marvin Hughes	Frita Walker
Debra Fulk	Rhonda McDaniel	Brigitte Waites
Michael Gabel	Faith McKane	Skye Wallin
Paige Gold	Emily Morrison	Eric Waters
Itzel-Marine Gourmelon	Yaminah Mujahid	Aaliyah-Janay Williams
Nicole Gray	Fran Murphy	Sara Wolfley
Lawrence Green	Heming Nelson	Hanie Yousefian
Megan Hajdo	Michael Nephew	Brigitte Yuille
Dominique Hinman	Jodi Nicole	
Jaime Horrigan	Robin Noonan-Price	<b>Corporate Supporters:</b>
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		Wonder Pictures

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**Send Stories to:**  
[director@wifv.org](mailto: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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