



WIFV NEWS

February 2012 - WIFV Members in the News Edited by Flo Dwek

Ten Thousand-Dollar Martini on

Festival Circuit



Kudos to Matthew Hahn, whose new movie, *The Ten Thousand-Dollar Martini*, has been making the rounds of the festival circuit, playing at Portobello Film Festival in London in September and DaKino in Bucharest

in November. Hahn says the film will also be showing at Video Festival Imperia in Italy in March, and the Hollywood Shorts Film Festival. Want to sneak a peek now? No problem—turns out you can see *The Ten Thousand-Dollar Martini*, along with its sequel, *The \$3500 Scotch*, and Hahn's other movies at youtube.com/grouchobeer. His upcoming projects include a post-9/11 neo-noir, *Rotten to the Core*; a political satire; *Dubya and the Monkey in Sealab 2021*; and two episodes of his web series, *Sugar Babes*. Hahn also does work in animation for commission or on spec. *Want to know more? Follow Hahn at twitter.com/grouchobeer and/or facebook.com/matthew.hahn, or just send an email to mathahn@yahoo.com*

Open Letter from Rona Fitzgerald



Dear WIFV:

It was simply amazing for me to start off the New Year by receiving the Liesel Flashenberg Award for Community Service from WIFV. I would like to thank Hilarey, Sandy, Melissa, the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee and the membership for their support and guidance throughout my service to WIFV, and now, on my new journey as Director of Development at JMG Productions. As many of you already know, "Listen To Our Voices", JMG's inaugural launch, responds to the critical issues of bullying and youth violence. I

am so gratified that WIFV has chosen JMG as one of three to participate in this year's Image Makers, and we are excited to get started. *If you have a story to share with JMG about youth violence and bullying, please contact me at 410-596-3182 or Rona.Fitzgerald@jmgproductionsinc.org*

Rona Fitzgerald

Ratick Stroud Kicks Off New Film



Sheri Ratick Stroud, Vice President of Wonder Pictures, is excited to announce a new film project—*Suspicious Densities*. Written by WIFV member Jane Barbara, *Suspicious Densities* takes a humorous look at a very serious subject. Ratick Stroud's ambitious production schedule includes auditions in January, filming in March

and submissions to festivals by late summer. Formed in 2010, Wonder Pictures' first film, *Spanish Lesson*, won a Silver Leaf award at the Mexico Film Festival in 2011. Another of their films, *The Last Paperboy*, won the silent film competition sponsored by Signature Theatre and was just selected to be screened at the Dam Short Film Festival in Boulder City, Nevada. *For more information, visit their Kickstarter Campaign or contact Ratick Stroud at itsme-sheri@cox.net or call 703-644-4113.*

Journey to Planet Earth - 13 Episodes and Counting!

Producer/director/writer Rebecca Howland, founder of Hanging Cup Pictures, works on the national PBS documentary series, *Journey to Planet Earth*, hosted by Matt Damon and produced by Screenscope. The series reports on some of the most important environmental and sustainable development issues of the 21st century. The 13th episode is currently in pre-production, with shooting scheduled to begin this summer. Howland is also developing a scripted television series about the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II. And in her "spare" time, she says she is transforming her award-winning screenplay, *Mistress of the Sea*, into a novel. The tale reveals the true story of Anne Bonny, "a young, wealthy socialite suffocating in her gilded cage of 18th century Charleston." *For more information, contact Rebecca at rebecca.howland@gmail.com.*



Snyderman Completes Pentagon Photo Display

Television producer Judith Snyderman recently completed work on a large-scale photo display for installation at the Pentagon. The exhibit illustrates how the military has advanced medical science from the American Revolution to the present day-touching on areas such as mind-controlled robotic limbs. "It was quite a learning experience to visualize images being blown up to a size that will span more than 40 feet down a corridor," Snyderman says. Despite the differences between planning for video and planning for a virtual wall mural, she believes the creative process is the same and relies on finding compelling personal stories and strong images. A key lesson learned from working at the Pentagon? Snyderman is very clear on that score: be sure to plan ahead and build in extra time to secure approvals. *To learn more, contact Snyderman at jsny@rocketmail.com.*



Schlossberg Announces Media Central Films



Media Central, the worldwide crew, gear and production support agency founded by Jay Schlossberg in 1993, has given birth to

healthy, bouncing baby named Media Central Films. Currently this new feature doc and TV series production company has four projects pretty far down the development pike. The first, *AutoExotika*, is a high energy, high quality, celebration of the world's most exotic automobiles and the men and women who design, build, collect and drive them. Right behind that are two other series in the automotive and racing world and, making a complete left turn, a four part series looking at a certain aspect of comedy. *For more information contact: Jay Schlossberg at 301-217-0049 or jay@mediacentral.net*

Cocklins Featured in January Issue

Broadcast Engineering published an article by Steve and Ann Cocklin about their AJA Ki Pro Mini digital recorder and how they have linked it with a Sony PMW-F3 camera. Read how they make it all work!



Davis Expands to Fort Lauderdale

For Jenise Davis, 2011 was a challenging and exciting year in terms of her career path. "The goal was to juggle and manage multiple projects simultaneously," she explains. Davis is in the process of expanding both her production company (Jenise Davis Productions) and her IT consulting business (Global Technologies & Strategic Marketing) to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.



She has also been writing episodes for her series, *Drama Capitol*, which she plans to actively market this year. Davis describes it as "a provocative new series that delves candidly into the secret lives of diverse 30-something professionals in our nation's capital." Lust, envy, seduction, temptation and deception depict the relationship landscape of married and single life in a dramatic yet comedic fashion. Davis is also co-writing the screenplay for a psychological thriller, to be shot on location in Ft. Lauderdale. And on the modeling front, she was featured in *O Magazine South Africa* in a February 2011 fitness article. View her *Drama Capitol* trailer here. *You can contact Davis at 202-361-3131 or jenisedavis@jenisedavis.com or jenise_davis@qtsmcorp.com*

Double R Turns 25

Double R Productions started 2012 with President and Owner Rosemary Reed's "Filmmaker of the Month" award from the District of Columbia Office of Motion Picture and Television Development. "On our 25th anniversary year, I'm so honored," Reed said. "Double R has had such a great working relationship with the



DC Film Office over the years. We really appreciate the recognition."

The DC Film Office launched the Filmmaker of the Month initiative in 2011 to elevate the national and international profile of the city's most talented filmmakers. Reed's media experience both in front of the camera and behind the scenes, an academic background in theatre and speech, plus teaching experience on the high school and college levels sets her apart from other professionals in the media industry according to the DC Film Office.

Sundance Film Festival 12: Screenings and a Filmmaker's Conference

By Cid Collins Walker

The majestic mountain villages of Park City and Deer Valley are perfect settings for the Sundance Film Festival. There was little snow before our arrival, but once the festival kicked off on Thursday, January 19 the anticipated snowstorm arrived, the heavens opened up and more than a foot of snow fell to earth. It created a crisp, clean and elemental backdrop for the festival as huge bowls of fire blazed from iron cauldrons in the icy mountain air at Sundance Headquarters.



As Black Opal Productions LLC has just finished *ARC OF LIGHT: A Portrait of Anna Campbell Bliss*, and has two premieres coming up in March, we were at Sundance to promote the film. Kimberly Skyrme of Wonder Wheel Entertainment and I were able to discuss the outreach possibilities of the film with distributors from other markets. There was a sea of filmmakers, buyers, distributors and film lovers at the festival, and networking was rich with potential. If you have a product, Sundance is the place to be and we came away with a renewed sense of direction, energized and refreshed.

(Pictured Collins Walker, Skyrme & Kotlar)

Getting involved was easy after obtaining film credentials, film schedules and tickets. A fabulous panel, "Power of Story: How Docs Changed Change at the Egyptian Theatre", was moderated by Soledad 'Brien with Robert Redford, Sheila Nevins, President of HBO Documentary Films and Nick Fraser, commissioning editor of Storyville Films. Redford shared two clips of early documentaries and recalled how growing up in Los Angeles watching post WWII news reels inspired his desire to become a documentary filmmaker. Fraser also showed a clip that had influenced him, and Nevins provided insight into why documentaries drive her vision for this division at HBO.

On Tuesday, February 24, WIF LA hosted a brunch and panel discussion with women filmmakers including Lucy Walker, whose documentary *The Tsunami and the Cherry Blossom*, won the Award for Best Short. Women in Film & Television International (WIFTI) was a sponsor for the event and WIFTI board members, Kimberly Skyrme, Chairperson, Janet Davidson, Vice Chair and Christina Kotlar, Communications Chair were at the panel providing information on upcoming programming such as the 2012 WIFTI Summit.

During the festival I screened 18 films and recommend the following rom-coms including *Your Sister's Sister* directed by Lynn Shelton with Emily Blunt, Rosemarie DeWitt and Mark Duplass about a contemporary love triangle including two sisters; *Liberal Arts* a charming look at a romance between a college student and a newly single older guy, rich in innuendo in a college setting, directed and written by and starring Josh Radnor with Elizabeth Olsen; and *Celeste and Jesse, Forever* a clever, bright and very funny slice of southern California life about two people whose lives remain entwined in spite of their relationship split, directed by Lee Toland Krieger with Rashida Jones, Andy Samberg and Elijah Wood.

Arbitrage is an engaging thriller starring Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon and Brit Marling directed by Nicholas Jarecki. Fabulous documentaries include *The Invisible War* about rape in the U.S. military that received the Sundance Audience Award; *Ethel* an excellent HBO doc about Ethel and Robert F. Kennedy and the Kennedy legacy, directed by Rory Kennedy, their youngest daughter. I also recommend *Chasing Ice*, the devastating and accurate account of the melting of the global ice caps and global warming, written by Mark Monroe and directed by and featuring Jeff Orlowski; *The Ambassador*, an engrossing film directed by Mada Brugger about white imperialism in Liberia, the blood diamond wars and government corruption. Two additional films of merit include *Room 237* that sets out to interpret the symbolism in the Stanley Kubrick film *The Shining*; and the amazing *Beasts of the Southern Wild* directed by Benh Zeitlin, written by Lucy Alibar and Benh Zeitlin and starring the talented six year old Quvenzhané Wallis, about a mythic adventure revealing abject poverty and the effects of global warming in the deep South.

Cid Collins Walker is Executive Producer/Director of ARC OF LIGHT: A Portrait of Anna Campbell Bliss premiering in conjunction with the Utah Film Center at the Utah Museum of Contemporary Art in Salt Lake City on March 9, 2012 and, as part of the Environmental Film Festival at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, on March 19, 2012 in Washington. For more information contact Cid at Black Opal Productions, LLC, at bop@smart2.net or 202-210-8383.

Upcoming WIFV Events

February 15, 2012 - **WIFV Board Meeting**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC

February 23, 2012 - **Executive Breakfast: Wake Up to Reality TV**

8:00 to 9:30 am

Pyramid Atlantic/Washington Printmakers Gallery, 8630 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD

\$15 Executive Members/\$25 other WIFV Members/\$35 Public (includes breakfast)

RSVP REQUIRED

February 23, 2012 - **Documentary Roundtable**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street, NW, Washington, DC

RSVP to matthewradcliff@mac.com

February 27, 2012 - **Screenwriters Roundtable: Table Readings**

6:30 to 8:30 pm

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW, Washington, DC

RSVP to sicilyusa@comcast.net

February 29, 2012 - **Tax Tips for Freelancers with Terry Jones, CPA**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Location TBA

\$15 WIFV Members/\$30 Public

March 7, 2012 - **March Weds One: Women Filmmakers at the Environmental Film Festival**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Location TBA

\$15 WIFV Members/\$30 Public

March 8, 2012 - **WIFTI Shorts Showcase**

6:30 to 9:00 pm

Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, Washington, DC

\$5 WIFV Members/\$10 Public

RSVP and film info [here](#)

March 10, 2012 - **Career Boot Camp: Building a Successful Career in a Slow Economy**

8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Discovery Communications, One Discovery Place, Silver Spring, MD

Reservations REQUIRED Early Bird Pricing to February 24

Venue sponsored by Discovery Creative

March 24, 2012 - **WIFV Media Job Fair**

Noon to 4:00 pm

Luke C. Moore Academy, 1001 Monroe Street, NE, Washington, DC

\$10 WIFV Members/\$20 Public [Register here](#)

\$5.00 discount for DC Residents courtesy of DC Office of Television and Motion Picture Development

Info on all upcoming WIFV events can be found at www.wifv.org

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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