



WIFV NEWS

July 2013 Members in the News

Edited by Flo Dwek

Sciannella: Calling the Shots for High End Cable



Chris Sciannella, owner of CAS Video Productions in Huntingtown, MD, has been a fixture in the Washington, DC production scene for 29 years and has

traveled extensively throughout the United States and overseas for various clients. In 1984, Sciannella began his career as a cameraman and learned to edit. As he perfected those skills, he added producing and directing to his list of services. Sciannella's camera work can be seen on several programs now airing on cable TV, including Animal Planet's *Tanked*, HGTV's *My First Place*, *My First Sale*, *More Bang for Your Buck* and *Home Makeover Special* and RLTV's *Second Act*. He recently produced, directed and edited a series of training and intervention procedures videos; shot a series pilot for an LA-based production company that will air on VH-1; and edited a series of videos about WWII icon Rosie the Riveter. Currently, Sciannella is Director of Photography for *I Want That*, airing on DIY Network. His client base includes major TV networks, large and small corporations and non-profit organizations. "I'm lucky to stay busy," Sciannella admits. "I have a lot of repeat clients, which means I'm able to give them the service and flexibility they need." *For more information, visit Sciannella's website at www.casvideo.com.*

Chancey: Romancing the Theater

Kudos to Tina Chancey for taking her first leap into professional theater this summer. She is devising, writing, producing and acting



in *Last Show at Max's Picture Palace*, a film about a crisis that ensues at Max's 1908

Harris: Behind the Scenes in Africa

As a producer for VIVA Creative in Rockville, MD, Jennifer E. Harris wears many hats in the world of live events and multimedia production. From producing content for international events to launching the company's first



internship program, Harris has had an exciting year that has kept her on her toes! Recently, Harris traveled to Libreville, Gabon, where she was a content producer for an event designed to recognize the economic achievements of Africa and spotlight business and investment opportunities. Several Heads of State, members of the media, and business leaders participated in the forum. "I was in charge of producing and managing anything that went to screen," Harris says. "Weeks of preparation were required for this event, which included: researching session topics, communicating with the client to develop a creative style that worked with the configurations of the unique set, and planning the logistics. It's a lot of work, but very rewarding when you see the final result." Harris notes that the global exposure and experience that she gained as a producer in the past few years have been incredible! "I just love what I do, and couldn't imagine doing anything else." *To learn more, contact Harris at harris.jennifere@gmail.com*

Nickelodeon when its lead actress (his daughter) elopes over the dinner break, leaving the distraught staff to cobble together the last performance. DC audiences know Chancey as the Director of HESPERUS, a local early/traditional music group with an international reputation. But it is Chancey's decade of experience creating period soundtracks for such silent films as *Mark of Zorro*, *Robin Hood*, *The Golem*, and *Hunchback of Notre Dame* that have given her the tools to attempt this new project. Chancey openly thanks Rob Farr, former director of the Slapsticon, for his encouragement, along with the amazing WIFV listserv, for introducing her to the day-to-day workings of our local film community. *To learn more about HESPERUS' period silent film scores, visit www.hesperusplayszorro.com. To contact Chancey, go to www.tinachancey.net.*

Sobel Co-Produces 55th Annual Regional Emmys®



Sharon Sobel recently celebrated her 10th anniversary as a freelance producer/editor/camera operator, with a focus on corporate events. **To celebrate, she's offering 10% off**

any freelance jobs booked from July 10-October 10th! Sobel has expanded her services into webcasting for production companies in the area. In between her many gigs involving webcasting, shooting, and teleprompting for local companies, Sobel also continued producing feature segments for Fairfax County Public Schools, and shooting/editing events for Arlington Public Schools. In June, she was the supervising producer for the 55th Annual Regional Emmy® Awards held in Baltimore, Maryland. The intrepid Sobel also directed and edited three high school graduations and served as a camera operator on four more--all in a span of 10 days! Throughout the year, Sobel recruits judges from the region's TV professionals for Emmy® entries created in other parts of the country. *To learn more about serving as an Emmy® judge, or to take advantage of her 10th anniversary discount, you can reach Sobel at sharon@picturethisvideo.net.*



Bailes Now Freelancing and Blogging

Last December Dan Bailes left GVI to return to freelance writing and producing. Since then he's written marketing copy for a website,

revamped his own, helped fundraise for a non-profit, and participated in workshops on advocacy, fundraising, social media and search engine optimization. Bailes also enhanced his blog *The Vision Thing* - which focuses on creativity, innovation and vision with an emphasis on storytelling and the inspirational moment. You can explore The Vision Thing at danbailes.com/blog and Bailes' website at danbailes.com. "I'm about to start a ten week writing project with Interface Media Group," he said. "I helped them with the proposal and happy to say they got the contract." *To learn more, email Bailes at dan@danbailes.com*

Dismukes: On a Mission for WIFV

Kathy Dismukes likes to think of herself as totally mission driven. "In my world," she says, "John Cusack's character in *Say Anything* has it just right: 'I don't want to sell anything, buy anything, or process anything as a career.'" What she really thrives on is helping independent filmmakers get their projects to the screen--assisting them with everything from pre-production, to production, fundraising, promotion and marketing. Her clients have included Thinking Forward Media, Black Valley Films, Birdman Productions, and James Schneider/Paul Bishow. As a committed supporter of WIFV's mission to advance women in the media industry, she has volunteered in various capacities since 2007. For the past year she has served as chair of the Development Committee, crafting plans and fundraising campaigns, creating strategies and materials, and cultivating relationships with WIFV supporters. Dismukes also works to raise the organization's profile in the media and nonprofit communities. *Believe in the WIFV mission, too? Reach out to her at kmdismukes@me.com and get more involved!*



AutoExotica Drives On!

You can now watch [Media Central's](#) third episode of the series, *AutoExotika Presents:*

Walton Receives Fulbright

Filmmaker and educator Ellie Walton was recently named a US Department of State Fulbright



Scholar. In August, she will depart for rural India for nine months to complete a new participatory film project - *Never Too Late* - following a group of adolescent girls on their journey through Open Schools, a new initiative in partnership with Pratham, the largest NGO providing quality education to underprivileged youth in India. The film will interweave participant-authored video portraits with observational filmmaking, documenting the girls' journey from the first day of class to the months following their graduation. The Fulbright Scholarship will provide an opportunity to build upon the participatory method of filmmaking Ellie has developed through a career dedicated to sharing stories that build mutual understanding between communities and cultures in Washington, DC and provide her an exceptional opportunity to immerse herself in scholarly research, reflection and a supportive network of educators and filmmakers to strengthen her participatory approach to filmmaking. Ellie has worked at Meridian Hill Pictures since 2011 as a director of photography, editor and media teaching artist. She has also continued work on independent productions including *Voices from Within* with Joy Haynes and a WIFV fiscal sponsored project. *Send your congratulations to ellie.walton@gmail.com.*

Gruber Multi- Tasking!



Jonathan Gruber has had a busy spring and beginning of the summer. He just finished directing a piece for *Retro Report* on *The New York Times'* website about the Flavr Savr tomato, the first genetically-modified food

approved by the FDA in 1994. He is currently working on another story on the massive 2003 blackout that hit the Northeast US and Canada.

Jonathan has just returned from Croatia, funded by a successful Kickstarter campaign, to interview Branko Lustig, an Oscar-winning producer who is also a Holocaust survivor. Branko was a slave laborer for I.G. Farben,

Cars 'N Coffee on an internet connection near you. We think it's the best one so far and we hope you agree. You'll know without a doubt you're in southern California!

If you've yet to see the first two they're also on our [YouTube channel](#). We're already viewing footage that will comprise our fourth episode from Cincinnati, OH and we expect that'll be available in just a few weeks. Following that will be Palm Beach, FL and then we'll wrap up the first season with Paris, France. Ooh-la-lah!

Chen Produced Doc on DC Chinatown



Shanghai native Yi Chen has been busy shooting a verité documentary called *Chinatown*, fiscally sponsored by WIFV. Set in Washington, DC's historic Chinatown, it is the first documentary, she says, "to shed light on the real voices and stories behind the impact of urban renewal in the

neighborhood." Chen has been interviewed by both WAMU 88.5 and Voice of America about the film as well as the challenges facing the residents. The film has been seen nationwide at venues including the DC Independent Film Festival, SAG Foundation Shorts Showcase, Katra Film Series, Heritage Film Festival, Falls Church Film Festival, DC Environmental Film Festival, Link TV, MIT TechTV, UNESCO TV and Times Square. In April Chen was recognized as the DC Office of Motion Picture & Television Development's "Filmmaker of the Month". She has also won two Peer Awards and the Best Narrative Short Award at the 2010 Our City Film Festival. Chen is also a film critic with published reviews in the newspaper, *Asian Fortune*. *For more information, contact Chen at yichenstudio.com.*

Sapling Receives Emmy!

Sapling Pictures and Executive Producer Keith Jodoin received an Emmy® Award for *Gold Rush Aftershow: Digging Deeper* at the 55th Annual Emmy® Awards Gala, held June 15 in Baltimore. The National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences sponsored the



which ran a coal mine, concentration camp and synthetic rubber factory at Auschwitz. Branko founded a film festival in his native Croatia to promote tolerance and Holocaust remembrance. Branko's story will be part of a comprehensive history of I.G. Farben than Jonathan is in production on, tentatively titled *A Deal with the Devil*.

Jonathan is also finishing a feature-length documentary called *Miriam Beerman: Expressing the Chaos*, about a dedicated artist now in her late 80's. Miriam has overcome personal suffering and loss to create powerful and disturbing work for more than 60 years. Another documentary Jonathan is currently developing is a biography on Oriana Fallaci, the renowned journalist and author who tangled with some of the world's most powerful leaders over a remarkable 50-year career. See all of Jonathan's work at

www.jonathangruberdirector.com

Leadership Howard County Recognizes Towne as "Unsung Hero"

Anne Towne, President of Towne Group, Inc., a Columbia-based company specializing in management and media services, was awarded the "Unsung Hero" designation by Leadership Howard County (LHC) at its annual awards dinner on June 13. The award recognizes outstanding contributions behind the scenes on behalf of Howard County's nonprofit and business communities. The award citation reads, in part: "(Anne's) leadership has empowered countless individuals and organizations to achieve their missions to serve those in need, and in doing so has enriched the fabric of our community." From the mid-1980s, Ms. Towne has been a mainstay of the Washington-Baltimore nonprofit community, holding various leadership positions. [The Anne Towne tribute video prepared by Leadership Howard County can be viewed here.](#)

Towne Group, Inc. is a woman-owned company offering a complementary blend of media development and management consulting services. Towne Group's Management Division serves mostly nonprofit organizations with consulting in strategy, organization and fundraising. The company's EMMY-winning Media Division specializes in commercial video production services. Its keystone clients are The Pentagon Channel and the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, for which the company manages all aspects of broadcast operations to 2.5 million military service members and their families worldwide. www.townegroup.com

event. *Gold Rush Aftershow: Digging Deeper* aired on the Discovery Channel to critical and ratings success, earning a 1.77 rating with an average 2.47 million viewers to become the night's number one cable program. Jodoïn worked closely with Editor Kevin McCarthy to produce the one-hour program, nominated in the category "Arts/Entertainment Program or Special." Originally contracted to produce two shows, the success of their partnership with Sapling Pictures led Discovery Channel executives to order a third episode. To date, Sapling Pictures has post-produced five aftershows for the popular *Gold Rush* series. Jodoïn credits the collaborative relationship between Sapling Pictures and the Discovery Channel for the success of the aftershow series. "It's all based on a shared creative mission to tell great stories," he said.

Sapling Pictures is an award-winning media company, producing fact- and fiction-based content of all lengths and genres, across all media. They offer pre-production, production and post-production services, as well as print design and marketing. Sapling Pictures was founded in 1998 and is based in Fairfax, Va.

www.saplingpictures.com

Discovery Channel's popular *Gold Rush* series chronicles the lives of men seeking gold and treasure in Alaska and the Klondike. *Gold Rush* airs Fridays at 9 p.m. EST and PST, on the Discovery Channel.

Tolbart Wins CAPBA Award

Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association (CAPBA) President, Mike Hellgren announced that Fox5 Weather Anchor, Gwen Tolbart has been awarded the 2013 CAPBA Award for Outstanding Weathercast with her entry "Tracking Hurricane Sandy."

Metro Teleproductions Wins CINE Golden Eagle Award

Metro Teleproductions, Inc. is pleased to announce that its feature documentary, *The Bayou: DC's Killer Joint*, won a CINE Golden Eagle Award in the Televised Documentary & Performance Division category.

The documentary, 14 years in the making, chronicles the 45-year history of a Washington landmark and takes viewers on a journey from Dixieland to Dave Matthews, from strippers and bikers to hippies and punks. The club saw the debuts of Kiss, the Runaways, Dire Straits, Foreigner and U2, and the final performance of international sensation Eva Cassidy. Told by Bayou performers, employees and patrons, this film celebrates the club's music, mischief, and

enduring legacy and features exclusive footage and rare photos never before seen. *The Bayou: DC's Killer Joint* was directed by Metro Teleproductions' Dave Lilling, written and produced by Bill Scanlan, Vinnie Perrone, and Dave Nuttycombe, and edited by Bill Parks at *Dominion Post*. Graphics were provided by Dick and Linda Bangham of *RipBang Productions*.

Supporter Spotlight

With this issue of WIFV Members in the News, we launch Supporter Spotlight, a feature that highlights the work and contributions to the industry of WIFV's corporate supporters. This month's Supporter Spotlight shines on Capital Audio Post, a new Sustaining Corporate Member. As a 501(c)3 charitable organization, WIFV relies on financial support from individuals, foundations, government entities, and corporations. To find out how your company can support WIFV, please click on Partners at www.wifv.org.

Hear That? Good! Thank Capital Audio Post

by Kathy Dismukes

Capital Audio Post and WIFV co-hosted an event on June 18 on the role of sound and techniques for creating exceptional soundscapes. Co-owners Chip Sovek and Frank Scheuring welcomed about 25 attendees to tour their stylish facilities, enjoy refreshments, and participate in the program.

Ali Felix, a creative executive at Catshot Creative, talked about sound in pre-production and emphasized that audio needs to be included in the planning process and budget as early as possible to avoid costly pitfalls down the road. Greg Smith, an accomplished sound recordist who also teaches at American University, reviewed the types of sound set-up and equipment, sound scouting, and the recording of guide and wild tracks.



Sovek and Scheuring described about how they work backwards from the desired end-product on sound design, editing, mixing, and delivery. An instructive slide showed a before and after of an organized soundtrack. Scheuring advised that producers and editors can prevent expensive reorganization steps by laying out tracks in a logical method (e.g., Track 1 = Scratch Narration, Track 2 = Dialog, Track 3&4 = SFX, and Track 5&6 = Music). In addition, it is helpful and economical for the director to

provide a scratch mix (aka reference mix or temp mix) with notes on transition cues, music spotting, FX build, and so forth. Notes from the sound recordist are also valuable.

Sovek had stated frankly at the start of the presentation that doing a good job on sound means you won't be noticed, and viewers will connect with the story. He ended the evening with a walk-through of the workflow Capital Audio Post uses to bring separate audio elements together to create a compelling film. Using a clip from *Bomb Patrol: Afghanistan* (Big Fish Entertainment) Sovek first played only the dialogue/narration track on a clip where soldiers had just experienced the explosion of an IED. He then layered on the sound effects track and played it again. Last, he added the music track. The result was a truly dramatic scene that transported the viewer into the vehicle with the soldiers.

The presenters did a wonderful job explaining the mysteries of sound and helping attendees understand how to incorporate sound into the entire production lifecycle, save money, and enrich the quality of their work. WIFV looks forward to working with Capital Audio Post again soon! [Learn more about Capital Audio Post here.](#)

Conscious Media Screens *I Am* and Talks with Tom Shadyak

The film *I Am*, written and directed by Hollywood legend Tom Shadyak (director of *Bruce Almighty*, *Patch Adams*, *Ace Ventura*, and *The Nutty Professor*), was screened at Interface Media Group by the WIFV Conscious Media Roundtable on April 16. What caused a successful Hollywood director to give up his grand LA lifestyle, move from a mansion, and teach a message of giving and love to large and small gatherings? The same kind of change that moves us all to profound places in life - a change in consciousness. And the film brought a similar change in consciousness to many who attended.



The film chronicles the events leading up to a crippling motorcycle accident that caused Shadyak to realize I AM part of the problem with the entertainment industry - and the world - and "I am" the only one who can change that.

Tom, as he is known to WIFV members who grew up with him in Northern Virginia, was the youngest joke writer ever hired by Bob Hope. Later came a meteoric rise as director and producer of a string of Hollywood hits. Then a motorcycle accident and the long, difficult rehabilitation opened him to a changed consciousness, with a clear vision of where his life had been, and its future potential. He opened to love - of people, life, and the world. He then wrote and directed his most recent film, *I Am*, to help its audiences understand how each of us can have the kind of I Am experience that led to his profound self realization and life change.

Drawing on international leaders in science, philosophy, academia and religion such as Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Coleman Barks, he pieces together the puzzle of life into a single image: love.

This screening inspired audience members to bring the film to area schools and other organizations open to the film's message. Tom generously extended himself to the audience for an extended Q&A via Skype. When possible, he attends these consciousness-raising events in person.

"We are just an incredible species," he responded to one questioner, "if we'd just really, really, really looked. I try as best I can to see that in life and I see it more, the more I am in that life. You know there's a saying, 'We don't see things as they are; we seem them as we are.' So I never try to change anybody out there. I'm always interested in being the change and then what anyone else picks up is icing, is gravy."

About the film's reception, the writer/director said, "We did very well for a documentary. I'm not one to really concern myself with stratification, but to show you how well we did, we were the number one documentary when we came out a couple of years ago. The only higher grossing film was Justin Bieber's concert film. Documentaries are not seen at the same level as narratives, so we rely on people like you. We rely on people spreading the message."

[See more about I Am here.](#) Shadyak has written a companion book, *Life's Operating Manual*.

The WIFV Conscious Media Roundtable is committed to bringing and producing consciousness-raising media live to DC audiences, and globally through our developing web presence. Watch for announcements about our next event on September 10, and our soon to be announced Facebook page. *Contributors to article: Monica Lee Bellais, Joseph McGloin, Satyani McPherson.*

Women in Film Turns 40

The organization celebrated its milestone birthday at its annual [Crystal + Lucy Awards](#) at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles in June. But while the night was one of celebration, honorees and guests said women's move toward equality in the entertainment industry remains slow, even after four decades of organized efforts.

"There certainly is a wider diversity of roles available to women, (and) careers don't instantly end at

29 anymore," said 49-year-old Laura Linney, who received the Crystal Award for excellence in film. "But the progress in every other area has been so slow, very slow. So there's a long way to go, and not just in this industry, but in every industry."

Host Jenna Elfman agreed. "The roles are getting better and more interesting and more abundant, but it's slow going still," she said. "And not just (for) actresses, but cinematographers, sound editors, everything." She said she hopes for the day when billboards for comedies feature just as many women as men.



Debra Messing said it would help to have more women writing, as well "I would love to see more female writers in the rosters of all the nominations as the big nominations come out," she said. "We're still underrepresented, and for some reason, there's a belief that women can't open a film, and *Bridesmaids* proved that that's not the case. I think it's time for everything to equalize and to realize there's enough diversity of taste out there that there's a place for everyone to be."



Sophia Coppola, who received the director's award from Nancy Meyers, said she's seen women's progress since making her first feature in 1999. "There's more women directors and more women executives than when I started, so you feel like that voice is being represented more and more," she said. "It's just great to have as much diversity in what we see and see different people's experiences, so I hope to see more female ones too."

George Lucas was lauded for his humanitarian work, and for putting women in positions of power on and off screen. He accepted his award from the woman he named to the helm of Lucasfilm, Kathleen Kennedy. "George Lucas gave us a fast-talking, blaster-toting spitfire by the name of Princess Leia," Kennedy said. Carrie Fisher, the actress who portrayed Leia, said via video that the character was one of the first women and girls could truly look up to. Lucas said he "turned my whole life over" to Kennedy after being schooled throughout his life in the power of women, first by his sisters, then by his daughters. "In the end, you will win," he said.

The program, which serves as a fundraiser for Women in Film, also included honors for actress Hailee Steinfeld, cinematographer Rachel Morrison and the Lucy Award for excellence in television for the women of *Mad Men*.

Women in Film president Cathy Schulman said it's critical to achieve fair gender representation in Hollywood because "we are the keepers of the planet's storytelling, and it's up to all of us to spin accurate pictures of our lives, our histories and our imaginations....Women need to sit at decision-making tables and hold gatekeeping positions on films and television," she said, "because only gender equality can bring about nonbiased decision making, and thus nonbiased storytelling." More info at womeninfilm.org

New and Renewing Members

to June 30, 2013

Elizabeth Andrade
Marcella Black
Kia Meredith Caballero
Jacqui Campbell
Wendra Chambas
Samantha Cheng
Ben Cohen
Kandy Collins
Shannon Cooper

Beryl Neurman
Kevin Norton
Christopher Oxenford
Barbara Parks
Carol Pineau
Nicole R. Pitre
Jill Pohl
Raul Rios-Diaz
Jennifer Roberts
Derrick Robinson

Aimee Dixon
Marie Gallo Dyak
Tom Fish
Rachel Gordon
David Grant
Todd Johnson
Kathryn Kianpour
Sonja Killie
Jim Lucore
Kian Mckellar
Tracey McKoy
Erik Mueller

Elizabeth Roll
Lisa Anne Ryan
Karen Ryan
Jody Hassett Sanchez
Phil Shapiro
Sharon Sobel
David Stern
Heather A. Taylor
Matthew Vossler
Kathryn Washington

Corporate Members:
Pixeldust Studios



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 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.

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