

September 2020

FEATURING John Aaron, Mark Maxey, David Joyner, Barbara Ballow, Samantha Cheng, Suzanne Brindamour, Dorlisa Hommel, sheri ratick stroud, Diane Williams, Call for Production Photos, Patrick Sammon, Caty Borum Chattoo

Aaron Produces Book Trailer



John Aaron produced, directed, and served as narrator for this trailer to promote the novel, *For Paris With Love and Squalor*, written by M.J. Moore and published by Heliotrope.

The format is the "memoir" of a woman who first met an aspiring novelist - J.D. Salinger - at a Glenn Miller concert at Rockefeller Center while they were both serving in the US Army during World War II. Our narrator conjures up the echoes of an era when they were briefly reunited in Paris after it was liberated - and their experiences in the demi-monde where an older, exhausted Hemingway blesses the young, aspiring Salinger.

Joyner on Finalist Team!

RUSSELL'S PARADOX is a finalist in the category of "Professional Dramatic, Short" at the Raw Science Film Festival. The crew for this Annapolis Filmmaking Group Project included:

Director/Editor/Lights - James Angiola;
Writer/Editor/Camera - **David Joyner**;
Producer - Carolyn Chun

Logline: Russell, a contractor, and his wife Bertie, a mathematician, are enjoying a

UP TO SNUFF Wins!

Exciting news from **Mark Maxey** about the W.G. "Snuffy" Walden documentary UP TO SNUFF. The doc was screened at 60 film festivals across 28 states and won 22 awards including Best Documentary, Best Film, Best Soundtrack, Best Director, and Audience Favorite. The film has been acquired for distribution. [You can see the trailer here.](#)

Snuffy is excited to start work on ABC's *Thirtysomething(else)* sequel that brings many of the original cast back together along with Snuffy's iconic music score. During its initial run, *Thirtysomething* earned 41 Emmy nominations, winning 13, and we're all excited for these characters' stories to return and continue.

Ballow Edits and Interviewed



Barbara Ballow recently completed editing a documentary on Justice John Marshall directed by Leo Eaton with post-production provided by **Henninger Media Services**. The 2-1/2

hour documentary is the first documentary film ever to illustrate John Marshall's life and work, revealing the Great Chief Justice as one of America's most important and influential Founding Fathers whose impact on America today is as great as it was in his own time. [The film is available for viewing on Amazon.](#)

quiet night at home when Russell gets a call from his boss giving him a new job description. Bertie points out a problem with that paradox that Russell didn't predict. See trailer below or [full short here](#).

The mission of the Raw Science Film Festival (RSFF) is to humanize science and bring fact-based experts to the forefront of popular culture by celebrating the best science storytelling in the world. The top festival winners are awarded theatrical Oscar-qualifying runs.



Barbara's experience is also being documented in the recently-published book, "The Insider's Guide to Factual Filmmaking" written by Tony Stark. [The book is available for purchase here.](#)

Cheng Recognized

E. Samantha Cheng has been notified that her documentary, **HONOR AND DUTY** "The Mississippi Delta Chinese is among the winners of the 2020 Terres Travel Festival - Films & Creativity Festival held in Spain. [More info on the festival is here.](#)



ANACOSTIA DELTA Released

Produced by **Suzanne Brindamour** and directed by Bryan Reichardt, **ANACOSTIA DELTA: The Legacy of DC's Telemasters**, a



documentary celebrating a unique DC electric guitar driven music scene championed by the late Danny Gatton and Roy Buchanan was released on DVD and digital download. The film features interviews and stories of their heyday woven around a tribute concert with 30 of DC's finest musicians who continue to keep the musical tradition alive, proving again that DC is a music town. Produced through Boru Television in association with Newsgroup Communications, the film has already been reviewed twice in the *Washington Post*, on **DCist** and mentioned in blogs and magazines. Brindamour, who's also a composer, is currently writing scores for a short-form episodic series created during the pandemic called "The Myth of Control." Mark Segreaves of NBC news will be featuring the film and filmmakers sometime soon.

Caption: Suzanne Brindamour Tolford with Nils Lofgren, one of the celebrity guitarists featured in ANACOSTIA

Hommel Makes MOM'S Doc

Dorlisa Hommel took an online class a few years ago to learn film making online from and fell in love with story telling through film. She also shopped at MOM's in Bowie and noticed all of the unusual things they were doing for the environment and decided to make a short film about the business.

Almost 4 years later she completed **MOM'S: More Than an Organic Market** (see trailer below). The film is about the CEO of MOM's and his passion for the environment and how he uses his organic grocery store chain to do everything he can for the environment. The world premier was August 20, 2020 at the New Haven Documentary Film Festival and came in a close second for the audience award! The film was also selected for the Richmond International Film Festival. The film was also selected for the first round of the Love Wins Film Festival film competition. After several more rounds of the competition the winners will screen their films in NYC January, 2021.



Coffee Yields Collaboration

Wonder Pictures, the production company of WIFV (DC) board member **sheri ratick stroud** and Rich West, are pleased to announce that they have optioned **John Aaron's** short play "Julie Leaves The Nest." Plans are in the works to begin pre-production shortly. We all want to thank WIFV Executive Director Melissa Houghton for hosting the Virtual Coffee zoom networking meeting that brought us all together.

WEBSITE: <https://www.wonderpictures.net/>

Williams on Winning 48 Team

Diane Williams was a member of the creative team for Star Wipe Film's ONE DAY, which won Best Film for the 2020 Washington, DC 48 Hour Film Project that took place from July 31 to August 2. ONE DAY also received awards for Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design, Best Actor, and Group A Audience Favorite.

See <https://www.48hourfilm.com/en/washington-dc> for all of the award winners.

IMG Sizzle - NRF Foundation & Nat Geo



The [NRF Foundation](#) partnered with [Interface Media Group](#) to create [3 sizzle videos](#) for their RISE Up Training & Credentials program, which highlights the retail industry's wide range of job possibilities and helps people build foundational skills for launching their careers. Services: scripting; casting; production; editing; gfx; color; music; final mix; and captioning.

What are the most armed and dangerous animals in the world? Tune in to Killer Animal Tactics to find out. IMG crafted a fierce [gfx show package](#) for this new Nat Geo show about survival of the fittest.

ISO: Production Photos!

WIFV is seeking photos of you working on set. As we refresh the website and close our 40th Anniversary this year, we want to



have production photos handy to keep the stories moving forward and show more positive, inclusive images of independent media makers. Please send jpg format photos with photo credit to membership@wifv.org. Thanks to Adele Schmidt for this photo.

Submit Your Article

The deadline to submit your information for the monthly Members in the News e-publication is the 10th of the month. Send your article (100 words or so) and a jpg-format photograph or link to your video project to director@wifv.org.

Sammon Premieres CURED and Optioned

CURED, a new feature-length documentary from WIFV member **Patrick Sammon**, had its World Premiere – virtually – in late August at [Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival](#). Sammon teamed up with LA-based filmmaker Bennett Singer to direct and produce CURED, which will be featured at other virtual film festivals this fall. The film tells the story of the



activists who brought about a pivotal but little-known victory in the movement for LGBTQ equality: the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses. CURED is a co-production that includes the Independent Television Service (ITVS), which is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It will be broadcast nationally on PBS during the fall of 2021.

In a recent review, the Hollywood Reporter called CURED “fascinating,” adding that the film finds “a fresh slant that scintillates” and features “so many vibrant and articulate participants [who] recall their part in a battle that did a great deal to change longstanding (and not yet extinct) prejudices.”

In addition, CURED has been optioned by 20th Century Television as the basis for a limited scripted series for FX or Hulu. Steven Canals, the co-creator of Pose, is writing and executive producing the series; Sammon will serve as a producer.

Borum Chattoo's STORY MOVEMENTS Published

Caty Borum Chattoo's book about contemporary documentaries and why they matter in equity and justice, **Story Movements: How Documentaries Empower People and Inspire Social Change** is officially published! You can order it here. It is also available at Barnes & Noble and at Amazon.



Only a few years after the 2013 Sundance Film Festival premiere of *Blackfish* – an independent documentary that indicted the treatment of captive orcas – visits to SeaWorld declined, major corporate sponsors pulled support, and performing acts canceled appearances. Unfolding against a steady drumbeat of public criticism, the “Blackfish Effect” culminated in a stunning 2016 corporate policy change announcement from SeaWorld – an end to its profitable captive orca shows.

Documentaries like *Blackfish* are art for civic imagination and social critique. Today's documentaries interrogate topics like sexual assault in the U.S. military (*The Invisible War*), racial injustice (*13th*), government surveillance (*Citizenfour*), and more. These artistic nonfiction films have changed national conversations, influenced media agendas, and mobilized communities and policymakers – accessed by expanding audiences in a transforming media marketplace. In **Story Movements: How Documentaries Empower People and Inspire Social Change**, award-winning producer and scholar Caty Borum Chattoo explores how documentaries disrupt dominant cultural narratives through complex, creative, often investigative storytelling. Featuring original interviews with award-winning filmmakers and field leaders, the book reveals the influence and motivations behind the vibrant, eye-opening stories of the contemporary documentary age.

“Documentaries have the power to entertain and educate – and, in the right hands, inspire people to take action on the most pressing issues of our day. The genie is out of the bottle, and we are just beginning to understand the ways nonfiction shapes our cultural and political landscape. Caty Borum Chattoo's examination of the power of documentary is as timely as it is welcome.”

—Stanley Nelson, Documentary Director and Founder, Firelight Media

“Caty Borum Chattoo's book provides crucial insight into the ripple effect of documentaries that deal with social issues. It is amazing, upon reflection, to see how personal stories have nudged the conscience of the world. A must-read for anyone interested in social change and the relevancy of the documentary form.”

—Sheila Nevins, Executive Producer, MTV Documentary Films

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Send Stories to:
director@wifv.org



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