

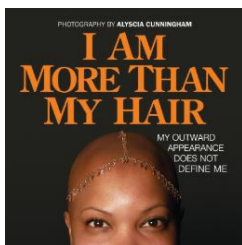
# WIFV NEWS



## Members in the News - April 2021

Alyscia Cunningham, Cintia Cabib, Eric Waters, Interface Media Group, Monda Webb, Mark Maxey, Kayona Ebony Brown, THE Artist Agency, Central Casting, Wonder Pictures, Skye Wallin, Victoria Bruce, Ben Weinberg, Nina Gilden Seavey

### Film Becomes Exhibition



**Alyscia Cunningham** is having a screening of her documentary film *I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR*, in connection with her exhibition at Sandy Spring Museum. The

screening takes place on Eventive on Sunday, May 2, 2021 2:00-3:00pm, which includes a Q&A with the Director. [RSVP for the screening here.](#)

*I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR* will be on exhibition at Sandy Spring Museum until September 15, 2021. [Go here for more info and to RSVP to see the exhibition.](#) Alyscia has been intentional in making the exhibition accessible to all, including 3-D models for the visually impaired. Another way this project pushes boundaries!

### Cabib Receives Award



**Cintia Cabib** was one of 66 Maryland artists to receive the Maryland State Arts Council's 2021 Independent Artist Award. Cintia's documentary

**KINDRED SPIRITS: Artists Hilda Wilkinson Brown and Lilian Thomas Burwell** premiered on PBS in February and is currently streaming for Passport members. On Tuesday, April 27 at 5:00 pm, Cintia will be discussing her film **A COMMUNITY OF GARDENERS** as part of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's "After Hours" series. The documentary explores the vital role of seven community gardens in Washington, D.C. It will be streamed for free to all program registrants between April 25-28. [Visit Cintia's website to learn more about her films.](#)

### New Album from Waters

**Eric Waters** spent all of 2020 writing/recording a '50s **Album** for a British Library ("lovely music library"). The music was released earlier in



April. It will be distributed in the US by Warner Chappell Production Music ("they're huge"). Everything but the drums was recorded in Eric's studio. The drums

### IMG & Smithsonian Channel MAKING TRACKS ON MARS



This is far out! IMG crafted dynamic sound design and final audio mix for the Smithsonian Channel's

[Making Tracks on Mars.](#) The new 1-hour doc explores the challenges of building, testing, launching, and landing a rover on the red planet. The Perseverance

were recorded in England. Yep, that's Eric singing the Doo-Wops on POODLE SKIRTS (they let him pick the song titles). [Download the album here.](#)

engineering team is one of the most diverse in NASA's history, whose decade-long efforts paid off big time!

## Webb Wins Again!



WIFV Board Member and Treasurer, **Monda Webb** is pleased to announce that her short film **ZOO** (Volkerschau) was just selected as a **WINNER** by the **4th**

**Dimension Independent Film Festival** headquartered in Bali.

[You can watch ZOO \(Volkerschau\) and see Monda's other projects here.](#)

## BEYOND SIXTY Distributed

Executive Producer **Mark Maxey** is having a busy year with three films he's involved with going into distribution in 2021. **BEYOND SIXTY**, directed by Melissa Davey, is being distributed by Gravitas and is available on television and several streaming services.



The myth that older women are invisible is shattered in this inspirational, revealing look at remarkable women thriving, leading lives rich in experiences and accomplishments that defy perceptions and reveal what is possible beyond sixty.

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## Brown Wins, Repped, and Broadcast



By Kayona Ebony Brown

Last July, I won the **Roadmap Writers Diversity Initiative**, after which I met a bunch of execs who requested to read the pilot script I was pitching throughout the program. One of those people was a junior exec at Showtime. We hit it off, talked several times, and then this January, she randomly emailed me asking if I like sports. "I love sports more than anyone not working in the field!" I said. So she told me that a friend of hers at CBS was looking for a writer...

I sent them some sample material, I interviewed with the execs and producers, and was hired, all within the course of one weekend! That piece they needed a writer for was the **BEFORE JACKIE** a short film starring **Viola Davis**, which aired during the Super Bowl pre-game show. It tells the story of the NFL's "Jackie Robinson moment"--how football was integrated. [Watch it here.](#)

That piece was *extremely* well-received. So, they called me back for the NCAA Tournament Finals to contribute to the pre-game tease, starring **Jon Hamm**. [You can see it here.](#)

Meanwhile, Joey, CEO of Roadmap, continued to push my screenplays. With great writing samples in both TV and film, along with the Super Bowl film, I met with a lot of managers and agents. In March, I chose manager Ryan Cunningham at Anonymous Content to help grow my career as a multi-hyphenate.

Being such a big sports fan, this is a dream come true to be able to take part in this rather unexpected capacity. I'm looking forward to doing more with CBS, as well as other opportunities to make sports-related narrative films, like my WNBA-centered feature film--a film with necessary themes that takes place alongside a brand where the attention is well overdue. [You can learn more about Kayona at her website.](#)

# THE Artist Agency Acquires Central Casting USA



THE Artist Agency founded in 1985 to represent models and stylists, has joined forces with Central Casting USA founded in 1970 to represent actors and voice talent, have united to create one full-service talent booking agency. The union of the two long-standing women-owned Washington, DC-based agency businesses reflects the trend of small business consolidation and the forecast of continued growth and opportunities for talent in global digital, multimedia platforms. Since the merger in January, THE Artist Agency now represents over four thousand professional talent for film, television, fashion runway, digital media, print ads, social media marketing, and other usages. To date, they have successfully cast extras and day players for two feature films, including Denzel Washington's JOURNAL FOR JORDAN, a film currently in production for Paramount Pictures.

**THE Artist Agency** founder and president, Lynda Erkiletian, has witnessed the digital expansion and has a clear vision for the future by merging with and acquiring **Central Casting USA** to create one umbrella agency for talent representation. Ms. Erkiletian, a cast member on Bravo TV's REAL HOUSEWIVES OF DC where her modeling agency was often featured states, "Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, we may not have all the answers just yet, but we see the trends and can act with foresight, positioning ourselves together for a stronger, more resilient future for our business and for the talent we represent."

Dagmar Wittmer, who with Carol Ness co-founded Central Casting USA to represent actors and voice talent a half-century ago says, "Over the years, we have collaborated with THE on many projects and we know their team's strong work ethic, booking experience, and stellar client and model management reputation are aligned with our company values."

According to a published analysis report entitled "**COVID-19 Outlook on the US Media and Entertainment Industry**" by Deloitte Financial's US Technology, Media & Telecommunications division states, "Media and entertainment companies have made significant job cuts and business changes to survive the initial disruption due to the COVID-19 crisis. But as they transition from response to recovery, they can develop strategies that can position them to be more successful after the pandemic subsides. With consumers re-evaluating and experimenting with how they live, work, and **play** because of the COVID-19 crisis, the imperative for robust digital platforms, mature direct-to-consumer connections, and innovative content has never been clearer."

Elizabeth Centenari, THE Artist Agency vice president, explains, "As the digital market has grown, we have seen the blur between models and actors taking shape in booking talent. Clients are intentionally casting popular "influencers" with the most

social media followers. She adds, "It's a challenging time for small businesses like ours, and this alliance with Central Casting will set us all up for a brighter future."

## Ohio River Short Festival Recognizes Wonder Pictures



WONDER PICTURES, led by WIFV Board member **sheri ratick stroud** and Rich West, is excited to share the following correspondence from the 1st Annual Ohio River Short Film Festival:

*Hi Sheri,  
Congratulations. You have several awards from the festival.*

*Best Comedy: HEROES' HONEYMOON  
2nd Place Drama: THE LAST PAPERBOY  
2nd Place Sci-Fi: NEXT DAY'S NEWS  
Official Selection: SPANISH LESSON  
Official Selection: SUSPICIOUS DENSITIES*

*Thanks very much.  
Dave Shelton, festival producer*

"Wonder Pictures is very honored to have THREE of our submissions win awards at this festival. **Thank you to the casts, crews and financial supporters whose generosity allows us to continue to make films.**" sheri ratick stroud

## AMERICAN GADFLY Premieres at Ashland Indie FF



**Skye Wallin**, director of AMERICAN GADFLY, is thrilled to announce the North American premiere of the doc at Ashland Independent Film Festival, which will be held virtually April 27-28. The film tells the story of a group of teenagers that convince 89-year-old former senator Mike Gravel to run for president in the 2020 Democratic primaries in order to push an anti-corruption, direct democracy, and peaceful foreign policy platform. It's a fun ride to say the least! "**Victoria Bruce** and **Ben Weinberg**, both WIFV members, assisted me immensely with research and motion graphics. Both were found when I reached out for help on the listserv-- I could not be more grateful to them and to the organization." **You can get tickets now for the event.**

## MY FUGITIVE Podcast Now Available

Documentary filmmaker **Nina Gilden Seavey** has launched a new podcast with Pineapple Street Studios, **MY FUGITIVE**. The eight-part series is the tangled story of her search for the second-longest fugitive in U.S. history, her father's client Howard Mechanic. What she finds - after hundreds of Freedom of Information Act requests and hundreds of thousands of pages of documents - is shocking. My



Fugitive is a tale of FBI surveillance and confidential informants, Russian moles, conspiracy theories, the murder of a civil rights icon, and the sacrifices America makes in the name of national security.

Listen to new episodes every Tuesday on [Apple Podcasts](#). Or you can binge the entire series today, exclusively on the [Audacy App](#).

## Thanks to our sponsors



### News Deadline

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](mailto:director@wifv.org).



### About WIFV

Women in Film & Video (WIFV) 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.

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