

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC WIFV NEWS

May 2021

President's Message



Looking for a good time? Love WIFV? Why not join the WIFV Board of Directors!

Being part of the WIFV board is a great way to show your support for our great organization — and have some fun in the process. Whatever your skill set, it can be put to good use by our busy non-profit! The board is responsible for developing programs, offering strategic guidance, and providing governance and financial oversight. Directors serve for two-year terms, participate in monthly board meetings, and are asked to offer their unique talents, interests, and insights in service to the WIFV membership. We especially welcome new directors with expertise in development/ fundraising, event planning, and PR/marketing.

If you're a current General or Executive member of WIFV and are interested in running for the board, you simply need to provide a candidate statement by May 11.

Candidate profile and campaign guidelines are available [here](#). To learn even more, you can join an online meeting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 4 for prospective board members. [Click here to sign up for the meeting](#).

Currently, the WIFV board consists of 21 collegial individuals from all walks of life: directors, producers, documentarians, actors, podcasters, academics, lawyers, and even a sound designer! **We've had a busy 2020-2021 term:** We conducted a member survey, developed programs geared to our Executive Members, and launched the WIFV 2021 Mentorship Program, which has paired over 50

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Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: *Meet the Film Makers GOLDEN ARM*

Monday, **May 3**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

[RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Trailer Night*

Monday, **May 10**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

RSVP will open soon at docs.inprogress.org

Reel Moms (all caregivers welcome)

individual WIFV members of varying levels of experiences. Most recently, we unveiled a snazzy new website — very much a team effort between Executive Director Melissa Houghton, our outside web designer, and a team of committed board members and WIFV members who drove the project forward.

The board does a lot behind the scenes, as well. We have a director who focuses on helping members maximize the benefits of WIFV membership; one who hosts networking events for our BIPOC members; and another who focuses on ways to increase corporate sponsorship of WIFV. Our directors represent WIFV at national and international level women-in-film organizations, and on industry panels and meetings. Many others have taken on special initiatives, such as the fabulous “Filmmakers We Admire” section on the WIFV website, which was spearheaded by Executive Vice President Sara Barger. Definitely check that out if you haven’t already.

A key part of our role is to actively guide WIFV’s course and strategic plan. Currently, we’re grappling with the challenging question of determining when, and how, WIFV should resume in-person events. This is a tough issue, and I’m grateful for the varied perspectives and suggestions that my fellow directors have already brought to bear on this topic.

Over the course of our term, as we meet monthly to review past business and discuss new ideas, we’ve all gotten to know each other pretty well. Our Board meetings are often filled with laughter. I am certain that the friendships and connections forged among the current directors will last long after the current term. For me, our meetings truly feel like getting together with a bunch of like-minded friends.

If that all sounds good to you, start working on your director candidate statement now. Again, the deadline to run for director to join the WIFV board is May 11.

Thank you,

Cathie Saadeh

Friday, **May 21**, 10:00 - 11:00 am
[RSVP here](#)

Makeup/Hair

Monday, **May 17**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Registration will open soon

Screenwriters: *Spec Script*

Monday, **May 24**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
[RSVP here](#)

Editors will be scheduling a meeting.

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 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. **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 is where you should email them. Provide project name and photo credit.

News You Can Use

MOM & M Screening at Maryland Film Festival

WIFV member **Jena Burchick** is screening her feature-length directorial



debut, MOM & M, at the Maryland Film Festival, **May 23, 2021** at 1:00PM Eastern Time with an accompanying Q & A. MOM & M is an intimate portrait of modern American parenthood. Meet Nikki, a transgender writer; Elise, a social media influencer; and Sansa, their adopted daughter who battles leukemia. The Richard family offers a deep-seated glimpse of love's power in surviving extraordinary circumstances. [Learn more about the film here.](#) [Get your festival screening tickets here.](#)

Emmy Noms for Brown

Kayona Ebony Brown was a writer for **BEFORE JACKIE**, a short film starring Viola Davis, which aired during the 2021 Super Bowl pre-game show. It tells the story of the NFL's "Jackie Robinson moment" - how football was integrated. Since the film aired, it has received four Emmy nods, including OUTSTANDING WRITING AWARD - LONG FORM and OUTSTANDING LONG FEATURE. [You may see the film here.](#) Congrats, Kayona!

Art for Growth is Offering Office Space

The 501(c)3 nonprofit **Art for Growth** is opening a production-focused office space within its new DMV location. The Hub is intended to give film industry professionals an affordable business environment. The space is perfect for Pre- and Post-Production work that requires a secure, safe office, conference room, and presentation area. The Hub provides all three including a multi-purpose room that can be used for pitch receptions, small screenings, casting, and more. [For more information, click here.](#)



Upcoming WIFV Deadlines

WIFV Board Candidate Statements are due May 11, 2021. WIFV gains from the expertise and enthusiasm of the WIFV Board of Directors! They set the organization's direction, ensure its sustainability, and represent the organization. **There will be an orientation meeting for interested WIFV members on May 4, 2021.** [Register for meeting here.](#) If interested in being a candidate but can't make the meeting, email director@wifv.org and materials will be sent to you. Board service is for a two-year term. A member can serve three consecutive terms. General and Executive Members may serve on the WIFV Board.

There is one call for **Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers** applications per calendar year. **The 2021 application deadline is May 17.** The application form is [here](#). The application checklist is [here](#). FAQs are [here](#).

WIFV Member Benefit with The Actors' Center



WIFV Members may receive The Actors' Center (AC) Curtain Call weekly email and a \$5.00 discount off the non-member price for AC workshops and events. Login to the WIFV member page on wifv.org to view the discount code!

Upcoming Events

Meet the Filmmakers: GOLDEN ARM - May 3

GOLDEN ARM, a SxSW 2020 official selection, is releasing in select theaters and VOD on April 30th. WIFV member **Ann Marie Allison** co-wrote and co-executive produced the

film alongside her writing and producing partner **Jenna Milly**. **GOLDEN ARM** stars Mary Holland (**HAPPIEST SEASON**) as Melanie, a down-on-her-luck baker who gets pulled into the fantastic world of ladies arm wrestling by Danny, her truck-driving best friend. Danny is played by UCB alum, Betsy Sodaro (**DISJOINTED**), who stars alongside many other funny ladies including Dot Marie Jones (**GLEE**), Kate Flannery (**THE OFFICE**), Olivia Stambouliah (**AMBULANCE**) and Aparna Nancherla (**CRASHING**). A heartening ride, **GOLDEN ARM** wrestles with newfound badassery and female friendship. [Panelist bios and register here.](#)



Watch the [trailer here](#). You can watch the film on AppleTV and [Altavod](#). It is available for pre-order before April 30 on both sites

Monday, May 3 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#).

Free for WIFV Members (must be logged in to register) / \$10 for public
You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

COVID Waivers and Other Issues - May 5



As vaccines roll out and states roll back restrictions, filmmakers wrestle with how best to keep their cast and crew safe and their productions compliant with ever-changing rules and guidelines. Many companies are relying on waiver, indemnity, and "assumption of risk" forms. But how can you make your forms effective and enforceable? Can you exclude people who refuse to comply with safety procedures? Can you require workers get the vaccine as a condition of employment? Do you need a Covid-19 compliance officer on set?

In this **Weds One**, our panel will address these evolving issues, and try to answer your questions on getting back to producing content. Panelist are **Nancy Greene, Esq.** and WIFV Board Member **Rich Volin, Esq.** [Panelist bios here](#).

Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#).

\$10 for WIFV Members (must be logged in to register) and Students / \$20 for public
You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN - May 7

WIFV Executive Director Melissa Houghton really likes this film, and she wants to know what you think! Join [@WIFVDC](#) for a discussion of **PROMISING YOUNG WOMAN** written/directed by Emerald Fennell. We might even discuss what the Academy thought of it. Bring your opinions!



Watch **PROMISING YOUNG WOMEN** on platforms including Amazon Prime!

Friday, May 7 at 4:30 pm [RSVP here](#).

You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation for this free online event.

TOSS IT Case Study - May 13



How did **Michele Remsen** write, direct, produce, and act in her first feature film TOSS IT? That question came up a lot during our DIY panel earlier this year, so she is coming back to share her methods (and just in time for "wedding season")! [Read her bio here.](#)

TOSS IT (The Anti-Romantic-Comedy) was awarded the New York Women in Film & Television Nancy Malone Marketing & Promotion Grant in 2018 and screened at the Marché Du Film in Cannes in 2019 where it was picked up by Journeyman Pictures for a worldwide distribution deal on Amazon Prime, Apple TV, Google-Play, and other streaming platforms. www.StevedoreProductions.com

Thursday, May 13 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in to register) and Students / \$30 for public
You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation.

This ScriptDC program is sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).

THE BIG PICTURE - May 20



13TH

THE BIG PICTURE: The Fight for the Future of Movies by Ben Fritz. The author will join us at the book club!

Ben Fritz crafts an electrifying and essential book that carefully chronicles how Hollywood tradition is collapsing and new models are fueling the future. A must-read.—Ava DuVernay, director of A WRINKLE IN TIME, SELMA,

You can purchase the book at smile.amazon.com and benefit WIFV and at [Barnes & Noble](#). It is available at some public libraries.

Thursday, May 20 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation for this free online event.

Spec Scripts - May 24

You may have been told to write a spec script to show how you can "mimic" a show in production when trying to get into the writers room. At this meeting, we will read and discuss Joya McCrory's SCHITT'S CREEK spec script which helped get her into the Warner Brothers Writers' Workshop. You will get the link to her script with your registration confirmation!



Monday, May 24 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

Free for WIFV Members (must be logged in to register). / \$10 public

You will receive the login link with your registration confirmation for this free online event.



These are free, online events. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

Happy Hour, **Tuesday, May 4, 4:30 pm**
[RSVP here](#)

Happy Hour, **Tuesday, May 18, 4:30 pm**
[RSVP here](#)

BIPOC Happy Hour, Thursday, **May 20, 4:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)



These are free, online events. You will receive the login credentials with your registration confirmation.

Coffee, **Thursday, May 13, 9:30 am**
[RSVP here](#)

Reel Moms Coffee, **Friday, May 21, 10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

Coffee, **Thursday, May 27, 9:30 am**
[RSVP here](#)

New & Renewing Members (March 24 - April 28, 2021)

Bob Ahmed
Opulence Biles
Luis Blandon
Thomas Bloom
Leslie "Teresa" Bono
Tatiana R. Breslin
Sandy Cannon-Brown
Marjee Chmiel
Judy Cohall
Zac Coleman
Michelle Do
Ama Duncan
Amr El-Bayoumi
Gena Ellis
Gia Foretia
Ben Gordon
Scott Gordon

Meagan Healy
Shirine Hossaini
Ben Howard
Tanya Hutchins
Joniqua Hutchinson
Robert Jackson
Monique Johnson
Michelle L. Kim
Elena Kritter
Melissa Leebaert
Nicole Livas
Mary Alice McMillan
Gabrielle Mitchell
Anne Montague
Shanadah Nicole
Charles Finn Peña
Emma Pearce
Wanda Petty
Angela Pinaglia
Alex Portaluppi
Michelle Pruitt

Kathryn Raaker
Moriel Randolph
Robin Reck
Lindsey Sandifer
Amita Sarin
Caitlin Schrein
Paula Simpson
Stephanie Smith
Kamilah Thurmon
Juliana Vaccarro
Michelle Vessels
Shannon Vossler
Rangeley Wallace
Eliana Weiss
Genise White
Diane Williams
Tracey Wood

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Send Stories to:
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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