

June 2021

President's Message



Y'all knew this President's Message was going to be about the cicadas, right?

Funny how those of us in the DMV mark our lives in 17-year increments. In 1987, I had just graduated

from high school and was excited to start college in the fall, where I planned to major in fine arts.

Fast forward 17 years. Guess what? I was not making my living as a studio artist, splattered in paint. Instead, I was working as a journalist in the financial services industry.

And 17 years later, here I am, an entertainment lawyer. Go figure.

The cicadas, of course, have stayed exactly the same.

Cicada life cycles serve as useful measuring tool. WIFV is 2.4 cicada cycles old. Film has been around for 7.8 cicada cycles. But entertainment? And the need for humans to get together around the fire and tell stories? I venture to guess that that is as old as the cicadas themselves (which Google tells me is many tens of millions of years).

The timing of this brood's emergence is especially poignant. As vaccines, safe practices, and antibodies do their job, and the pandemic seems to recede, we have begun to emerge, slowly breaking out of our stay-at-home shells, spreading our wings, and buzzing into the sunshine. My calendar is starting to fill up with lunches and coffees – the real kind, not the Zoom kind. An insurance broker told me she's seeing delays in securing production

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Roundtable Roundup

Editors: Happy Hour

Wednesday, **June 9**, 6:00 pm [RSVP here](#).

Documentary: Waterlust Case Study

Monday, **June 14**, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#).

Reel Moms: Coffee (all caregivers welcome), Friday, **June 18**, 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Makeup/Hair, Monday, **June 21**, 6:30 pm
Registration will open soon

Screenwriters: First Five Page Reading,
Monday, **June 28**, 6:30 pm

[RSVP here](#) - More info about how to have your work read is on the registration page

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members (BIPOC and Reel Moms Coffee are free for

insurance, because “everyone’s gearing up.” People are once again heading to LA and NY for meetings.

Buzz, buzz, buzz! Such a great sound.

So whether you are a cicada lover or a cicada hater, perhaps you can take some inspiration from these little critters. Just like them, we’ve had to wait a long time — but it looks like we have finally made it through. With that, good luck to all WIFV members who are finally emerging into production, live performance, and/or travel. Try not to get eaten by the squirrels out there! I look forward to seeing you — on screen or hopefully soon in person — at an upcoming WIFV event very soon!

Cathie Saadeh

WIFV Board Election in June

WIFV General and Executive Members will receive their ballot in early June to elect colleagues to serve on the WIFV Board of Directors for a two-year term (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022). The ballot will contain candidate statements so respondents can make informed decisions about the people who will help steward WIFV. We encourage all voting members to participate as the WIFV Board serves and represents the membership. Results of the election will be announced after June 16.

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. Send your photos to membership@wifv.org. Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

News You Can Use



Screening WIFV Member Films June 4-13

A TALE OF THREE CHINATOWNS, Produced by Tiger Sister Productions
In 2015, *The Washington Post* reported that the population of Chinese Americans in Washington, DC’s Chinatown had shrunk from a high of 3,000 to about 300—half of whom are now fighting to be able to stay. This illuminating debut by DC-based filmmaker **Lisa Mao** and producer **Penny Lee** profiles Chinatowns in Washington, DC, Chicago, and Boston and features the voices of residents, community activists, developers, government officials, and others who have a connection to these ubiquitous neighborhoods.

Reserve your ticket here

The following films are featured in the Metro Shorts Selections! **Reserve your ticket here.**

SUPER BELLA, Written/Directed by **Adielenah Perez**
8-year-old Bella is enlisted by her neighbor, Karen, to look for her missing cat. As their search unfolds, they each realize the weight of a secret they are holding inside. **See trailer**

[here](#).

LANDFILL, Written/Directed by **Heidi Scott**

In the late twenty-first century, an old municipal landfill becomes a battleground in the competition for precious resources and an unintended memorial to a bygone consumer culture. [See trailer here](#).

TIKKUN OLAM, Written/Directed by **Bob Ahmed**

An 8-year-old is unexpectedly affected by the plight of a homeless veteran. [See trailer here](#).

[More info on FilmFestDC can be found here](#).

Waites Launches MD Film Focused Podcast

Join me **Brigitte Waites** aka Brie, actor, producer, production manager and all around film/TV enthusiast and a rotating cast of guests of industry professionals, leaders and aficionados every other week as we explore the good, the bad and everything in between happening in the film & television industry in the Maryland region. It's OPEN CALL WITH BRIE and you're invited.

It's a forward-looking positive space to support the regional community and the continued effort to build an even better, sustainable film and television industry. In this podcast we will talk about the commercial and indie film world -- from films being made in and by Marylanders to film festivals to the latest equipment and the future of the business. This podcast is for everyone in the industry doing amazing work and wanting to stay and do their work here in Maryland. [Follow us on Instagram](#). Send story ideas to OpenCallwithBrie@gmail.com

BIRD'S EYE Accepted Into Two Festivals!

WIFV member, **Mike Kravinsky's** short film, BIRD'S EYE has been accepted into both the Sedona Intl. Film Festival (June 2021) and the Richmond Intl. Film Festival (Sept. 2021). It premiered at the Virginia Film Festival in October 2020. BIRD'S EYE also made the second round at the Austin Film Festival screenplay competition and was a quarter finalist at Screencraft screenplay competition. At 14 minutes, BIRD'S EYE tells the story of what happens when the perfect life of a pet parrot is suddenly interrupted and it has to navigate a new world when it can no longer understand the humans around it. With a DC- based cast and crew as well as **Joan Darling** who acted in this short film. [Follow updates on Facebook](#).



THROUGH A CULTURED LENS Completes S2

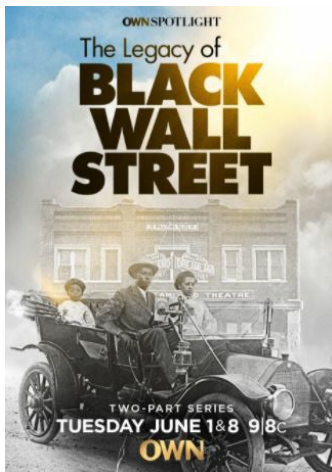
In Season 1 of THROUGH A CULTURED LENS, filmmakers **Amber Gray** and **Michael Anthony** discussed media and Black culture issues on a live stream show. Topics included media literacy while consuming media, conversations on activism discussing the media treatment of Colin Kaepernick, Black women filmmaking trailblazers, and the hosts' favorite 2020 movies and TV shows. Season 2 topics ranged from Amazon's THEM and the hosts' take on the controversial series CANCEL CULTURE -- its origins and how it's been co-opted and misused by the GOP.

During May, the team also hosted special guests discussing the uprising at North Carolina

A&T State University campus in 1969, highlighted in Michael Anthony's film WALLS THAT BLEED. The documentary chronicles the Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro, NC; the birthplace of the world-renowned non-violent Sit-In Demonstrations in 1960, and leads us to the most successful student-led uprising in the history of the United States. What started out as a simple student council election at a local High School in 1969, quickly erupted into a three-day gun battle at the nearby campus of North Carolina A&T State University. During the course of this armed conflict, only one person was killed and it remains the oldest cold case in the city's history. They even brought in genealogy experts during their black diaspora conversation.

We have so much in store for our viewers this season, and we can't wait to reconnect with our third cohost, the audience. We have so much in store for our viewers this season, and we can't wait to reconnect with our third co-host, the audience. Further information can be found on the Through a Cultured Lens Instagram, Facebook, [YouTube](#), and Twitter accounts. [You can also email us.](#)

Riley Draper & LEGACY OF BLACK WALL STREET



OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network will explore the rise and fall of Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma with a two-part special event **OWN Spotlight: The Legacy of Black Wall Street**. The special will premiere on OWN and Discovery+ on June 1, the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, and will be followed by the second episode on June 8. Both at 9 pm.

THE LEGACY OF BLACK WALL STREET follows the rise of the 36-block economic hub in Oklahoma's Greenwood district up until its tragic destruction at the hands of racist mobs. Instead of focusing solely on the historic moment, the program will amplify the voices of those Black pioneers then who went West to build their American dream, weaving their stories with the inspiring modern-day Black pioneers now who

continue the path to healing and rebuilding the rise of the Black community who presently occupy Greenwood.

Directed and produced by **Deborah Riley Draper**, whose previous work includes the NAACP Image Award nominee OLYMPIC PRIDE, AMERICAN PREJUDICE, the fashion film classic VERSAILLES '73: American Runway Revolution, and TWENTY PEARLS. Ms. Riley Draper has been a presenter at two ScriptDC Filmmaker Conferences!

Upcoming Events

Co-Production - June 2

You've heard about co-productions. You've even watched lots of them. Now you have a story that might be right for one, but how do you get started? What does co-production even mean? Get your questions answered at this Weds One panel featuring **Shannon Kring**, **Samantha Cheng**, and **Beth Mendelson**. Moderated by WIFV Board Member **John Benedetto**.



Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

\$10 for WIFV Members (must be logged in to register) and student / \$20 public

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

Editors Roundtable Happy Hour - June 9

Here's a chance for editors to get together to talk tips,



techniques, and projects!

Wednesday, June 9 at 6:00 pm [RSVP here.](#)

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

Doc Roundtable: Waterlust - June 14



Waterlust brings science and media into active people's lives. Founded as an experimental project by marine scientists Patrick Rynne, Ph.D. and Fiona Rynne, M.S., they sought to change the paradigm on conventional methods of sharing scientific findings with the world. Their early days were spent learning how to use online media to engage the public with marine science in an entertaining,

fun and informative way.

From a small graduate student run passion project, Waterlust has now grown to be a purpose-driven brand that creates environmentally responsible products to support marine science research and education, and media to inspire scientific curiosity and an adventurous spirit.

Documentary shorts such as JUST KEEP SWIMMING, DRAWN TO THE SEA, and FREEBURDS are just some of the documentary shorts produced by Waterlust. The Rynne's found that they could help support important scientific research and have an impact by branching out to advocate apparel.

Monday, June 14 at 6:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

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

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

Film Case Study: tender - June 15

tender follows two women (Farelle Walker and Trishauna Clarke), at very different stages of their lives, who after an unexpected one night stand, share an intimate morning after. **tender** sets out to capture the power of bonds shared between Black women and explores emotional intimacy, sexuality, and loss, from a Black woman lens. This directorial debut from TV/film writer Felicia Pride explores how we can find both joy and connection in unlikely places -- if we allow ourselves to. [View Felicia Pride's bio here.](#)



ScriptDC is sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME/202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#). Tweet [@WIFVDC](#) using the hashtag [#ScriptDC](#)

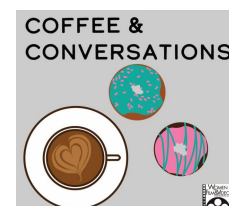
Tuesday, June 15 at 7:30 pm [RSVP here.](#)

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and students / \$30 public

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



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



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

Happy Hour, **Tuesday, June 15, 4:30 pm**
[RSVP here](#)

BIPOC Happy Hour, **Thursday, June 17, 4:30 pm**
[RSVP here](#)

Happy Hour, **Tuesday, June 29, 4:30 pm**
[RSVP here](#)

Executive Member Coffee, **Tuesday, June 8 at 9:00 am**
[RSVP here](#).

Talent Coffee, **Thursday, June 10 at 9:00 am**
[RSVP here](#).

Reel Moms Coffee, **Friday, June 18, 10:00 am**
[RSVP here](#)

Coffee, **Thursday, June 24, 9:30 am**
[RSVP here](#)

New & Renewing Members (April 29 - May 26)

Sadia Alao
Jax Baires-Diener
Barbara Ballow
Beth Baunoch
Debbie Brodsky
Sheila Brooks
Birgit Buhleier
Rebecca Bustamante
Celeste Caldwell
Anne Chapman
Julianne Donofrio
Joe Duquette
Gabrielle Ewing
Adesola Fasoro
Peggy Fleming
Marcus Ford

Charles Germain
Derrick Greene
Jill N. Jackson
David Joyner
Susan Kehoe
Katie Kirlin
Thomas Lawrence
Carolyn McCulley
Isabel McLane
Edie Meyers
Roland Millman
Jasmine Mitchell
Danielle S. Mooney
Beryl Neurman

Alison Nichols
Amy Oden
J. Overstreet
Jordan Resnick
Mark Ricche
Shantay Robinson
Quincy Saadeh
Rachell Shapiro
Lisa Sheldon
Monda Webb
Keri Williams
Edythe Wise
Donna Woolf

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VIRGINIA IS FOR FILM LOVERS



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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