

# WIFV NEWS

## Members in the News - June 2021

Featuring Bridget Bell McMahon, Monda Raquel Webb, Shoshana Rosenbaum, Maggie Burnette Stogner, Joe Fab, Diane Naughton, Joe Dzikiewicz, Sara Barger, Rick Preve, Wonder Pictures, sheri ratick stroud, John Aaron, Brandon Kramer, Lance Kramer, Dawn Porter

### 1st Place for McMahon

We are delighted to report that **Bridget Bell McMahon** was awarded First Place in the Baltimore Screenwriters Competition for her script **GISELLE, AWAKENED**. In her script, a teenaged girl seeking acceptance to a renowned ballet school is derailed when her first love dies in her arms just weeks before her big audition. Bridget tells stories about complicated women. Her scripts have earned distinction from The Writers' Lab, Athena Lab, Stowe Story Labs, Nicholl, PAGE, Austin, Kairos Prize and many others. She has trained with Dave Trotter, Scott Myers, Roadmap, Max Adams and with a longstanding critique group that's outlasted her first marriage!



Also recognized in this year's competition: second place to Mike Barroga for **SIX SHOTS FROM NOW**, and third place to Evan Balkan for **ABOLITION**. In the shorts category, Leesa Ashley won first place for **MAMA**. James A. Burkhalter won second place with the **LAST CALL** and Micael O'Donnell took third with **STINK BOMB**. Competition judges included film industry professionals Ken LaZebnik, Nina K. Noble, MK Asante, and Annette Porter. The Baltimore Screenwriters Competition is a project of the Baltimore Film Office, a division of the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts, in conjunction with film programs at Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University. Sponsors include Morgan State University, the

### Panavision Voices X Vision Features Webb



WIFV-DC Treasurer **Monda Raquel Webb** is the Featured Filmmaker of the Month in the **Panavision Voices X Vision initiative** to promote storytellers of color and their project.

Monda's films are also continuing to tear through the film festival circuit, garnering Finalist and Award-Winning status this spring and early summer for a number of festivals.

Finalist - **POOCH SITTER** and **ZOO** (Volkerschau) - Toronto International Film Festival of CIFT  
Finalist: **POOCH SITTER** - Hollywood International Golden Age Festival  
Official Selection - **POOCH SITTER** and **ZOO** (Volkerschau) - Phoenix Shorts  
Award Winner - **POOCH SITTER** and **ZOO** (Volkerschau) - Beyond the Curve International Film Festival  
Award Winner - **ZOO** (Volkerschau) 4th Dimension International Film Festival  
Finalist - **POOCH SITTER** - 4th Dimension International Film Festival  
Official Selection - **POOCH SITTER** - Niagara Falls International Short Festival  
Official Selection - **POOCH SITTER** - San Francisco International Short Festival  
Official Selection - **POOCH SITTER** - Paris International Short Film Festival

[Learn more about her films and other media here.](#)

## Back-to-Back OCTFME Filmmakers of the Month



**Shoshana Rosenbaum** (above left) was recognized as the May 2021 Filmmaker of the Month by the District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME.) [You can listen to her DC Radio interview here.](#)

Shoshana's award-winning supernatural horror and science fiction films have screened at festivals across the US and internationally. Her most recent film, **NIGHT WAKING** (produced by WIFV colleague **Robin Noonan-Price**), won Best Sci-Fi Film at the 2021 Sick Chick Flicks Film Festival, and was nominated for Best of Fest and Best Cinematography at the 2020 Frankly Film Fest. [Click here for more information on Shoshana's work.](#)

**Maggie Burnette Stogner** (above right) received OCTFME Recognition for June 2021! Maggie is the Executive Director of the **Center for Environmental Filmmaking** and a professor of Film and Media Arts. She brings more than 30 years of filmmaking experience to the Center and the classroom. During her nine years at National Geographic, she produced, directed and wrote numerous docs, and was senior producer of the award-winning weekly programs EXPLORER and ULTIMATE EXPLORER. Her current film UNBREATHABLE is on the festival circuit. [Visit Maggie's website to see for more information.](#)

## WHEN MY TIME COMES Special Screening June 15



The Virginia Film Festival is excited to present a special screening of the documentary **WHEN MY TIME COMES**, followed by a conversation with the film's subject, Peabody Award-winning journalist and longtime NPR host Diane Rehm, its award-winning director **Joe Fab**, and executive producer **Diane Naughton** on **Thursday, July 15** at 7:00 PM ET at The Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, VA. [Buy tickets here.](#)

**WHEN MY TIME COMES** chronicles Diane Rehm's exploration into the right-to-die movement, as she crosses the country and speaks to people on all sides of the issue, uncovering the pros and cons, and the facts and misinformation surrounding this controversial practice.

Rehm will sign copies of *When My Time Comes*, the companion book to the documentary, in The Paramount Theater's Ballroom following the event. Copies of the book will be on sale in the main lobby prior to and after the screening. Thank you to [New Dominion Bookshop](#) for their support of the book sales and signing.

## Storylanes Podcast S2

**Joe Dzikiewicz** has started the second season of his *Storylanes* podcast. The first season was all about analyzing screenplays. This season

## Telly for Barger Doc



**Sara Barger's** short film **LITTLE BUT FIERCE** won a 2021





is about Joe taking the knowledge he gained to produce his first feature film. He'll be discussing all of the challenges and decisions, from writing the script to recruiting the team to production and beyond. Joe promises to

be as honest as he can about his successes and mistakes as he navigates the rough waters of the first-time feature filmmaker. [Check it out at here](#) or on any of the usual podcasting platforms..

bronze Telly award in the Social Issues category. **LITTLE BUT FIERCE** tells the story of 9-year-old Madison Davis and her fight to beat a rare form of brain cancer. Madison's mother, an ER nurse, does everything in her power to save her daughter's, including buying cannabis off the black market to treat Madison's pain and seizures. **The film is now streaming on Amazon.**

## Preve Doc in Comic Strip



**Rick Preve's** doc **COMING HOME** about an Italian World War II submarine is the subject of a comic strip story in one of the most important publications in that genre worldwide, the 2,309 edition of the magazine *Skorpio*.

Published in Italian, Spanish, and English the strip was drawn in part from the storyboards of the film, which recreated the events of 1940, and compares Rick's involvement in returning to Italy the remains of the only sailor to die in the wreck, with the more recent story of the loss of an Argentine submarine in the Atlantic.

## Wonder Pictures' Wins



**Wonder Pictures**, co-led by Board Member **sheri ratick stroud**, is excited to share the news of their latest accolades

for **HEROES' HONEYMOON**, which began its journey to festivals last year, was voted Best Comedy at this year's Land of Enchantment Film Festival in Albuquerque, NM. Their latest film, **JULIE LEAVES THE NEST**, which is just making its way out into festivals, received a Merit Award from the Accolade Global Film Competition (cast photo above). The script was written by WIFV member **John Aaron**. "We thank Melissa for introducing us to John and a big thank you to John for allowing us the opportunity to bring it to life."

## Kramers and Porter at AFI DOCS



On June 23 at 5:00 pm, at AFI Silver **THE FIRST STEP**, directed by **Brandon Kramer** and produced by **Lance Kramer** will premiere! [Get your tickets here](#). In the face of

Donald Trump's 2016 election, CNN commentator Van Jones, devastated by the outcome, decides that, rather than "resist, resist, resist," he will instead engage directly with the new administration. Jones, a longtime advocate for prison reform, sees an unlikely opportunity to forge an unholy relationship with Jared Kushner, who has expressed support for the issue....Brilliantly plotted and politically nuanced, the film reveals how the sausage gets made, explores deeper questions of "top down" leadership vs. grassroots activism and shows how, for those who choose to bridge the political divide, the personal costs can be devastating. —Ken Jacobson

## Guggenheim Symposium features Dawn Porter

Honoring a master of the nonfiction art form, this year's Guggenheim Symposium will include an in-depth conversation with celebrated filmmaker **Dawn Porter** hosted by *Variety's* Film Awards Editor Clayton Davis, featuring clips from her acclaimed work and a free screening of her most recent project, **RISE AGAIN: TULSA AND THE RED SUMMER**. [Register here for free event, June 23](#). Ms. Porter is a 2015 WIFV Women of Vision Award recipient.

# 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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