

Members in the News - August 2021

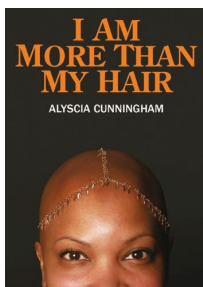
Laura Waters Hinson, Alyscia Cunningham, Robin Noonan-Price, Jane Barbara, Bob Ahmed, Long Story Short, Day Al-Mohamed, Michael Camoin, Cheryle Franceschi, Jacquie Greff, Cast/Crew for WIFV Sponsored 48-Hour Film Festival Teams, Members' Work Currently Streaming

Waters Hinson Doc WINS Overall Audience Choice Award



STREET REPORTER, directed by **Laura Waters Hinson** won the Overall Audience Choice Award at the Indy Shorts Film Festival! They received the highest audience score of ALL the films in the festival (and were competing against 200 other films). "Thank you to everyone involved in making this film possible, especially Sheila White, Reggie Black, and the reporting team at *Street Sense Media*, my students and colleagues at American University, my producing team and Executive Producers, the folks at HumanitiesDC and the Humanities Truck, as well as all the talented people who worked directly on the film's production, post-production or who gave notes on rough cuts or participated in any way."

Cunningham Hermes Win!



Filmmaker **Alyscia Cunningham** is a recent award recipient in the 2021 Hermes Creative Awards competition. Her documentary film, **I AM MORE THAN MY HAIR**, won a Gold Award.

Hermes Creative Awards is an international competition for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional and emerging media. Hermes Creative Awards recognizes outstanding work in the industry while promoting the philanthropic nature of marketing and communication professionals.

TMAO at Bentonville



Robin Noonan-Price and **Jane Barbara** traveled to Bentonville, Arkansas to take part in the Bentonville Film Festival where the WIFV/Jane Cusumano Narrative Short Film Finishing Grant recipient TELL ME

ABOUT ORANGE was screened as part of the LGBTQIA+ shorts block. The festival, an initiative of the Bentonville Foundation, is focused on promoting underrepresented voices of diverse storytellers

Ahmed Short Keeps Winning



TIKKUN OLAM (2021), written and directed by **Bob Ahmed**, is a short, narrative, film about an eight-year-old boy in Washington, D.C. who encounters a homeless veteran. The film was inspired by the director's own experiences while living in Washington, DC, which has the highest homelessness rate in America.

TIKKUN OLAM won "Best Short Film" in the Teens Section, at the 22nd Shorts International Film Festival in Italy in July 2021, one of the world's premier film festivals for short films.

TIKKUN OLAM was an official selection for the 35th **Washington DC International Film Festival**, and the 27th **Sedona International Film Festival**, which is ranked by multiple news outlets as amongst the "Top 10 film festivals in the world." The film was one of four shorts selected globally for the 2021 **Annual Global Seema Summit** along with two Academy Award nominated films, and is selected for the upcoming 21st D.C. Asian Pacific American Film Festival and the 10th DC South Asian Film Festival. Links above will take you to some of Bob's festival interviews!

LSS is a Jackson Wild Finalist



Long Story Short is a finalist for two Jackson Wild Media Awards for **SEARCHING FOR THE LANGUAGE OF DOLPHINS**. The film is being recognized as a finalist for both Animal Behavior - Short Form and Science in Nature - Short Form. LSS, led by **Jessica Stuart**, worked with Richard Sergay of Rebel Media for the Templeton Foundation on this project. The film was produced by Melissa Schmitt.

Jackson Wild believes that "media today deepens understanding of the world around us, inspires commitment to protect and restore the natural systems upon which all life depends and empowers the radical changes that will be required to do so. Nature film's equivalent to the Oscars®, the Jackson Wild Media Awards™ celebrate excellence and innovation in nature, science and conservation storytelling."

The award submissions exceeded 750 entries from nearly 30 different countries. Finalists were selected by more than 150 international judges who together screened more 3,000 hours of media.

The project won a Webby Award in the Stories of Impact category earlier this year.

Al-Mohamed's YouTube Series
AMERICAN MASTERS - RENEGADES is Live!



The pilot for a new YouTube video series created by **Day Al-Mohamed** just went live! **AMERICAN MASTERS - RENEGADES: KITTY O'NEIL** investigates the amazing life of racecar driver, stunt legend and daredevil Kitty O'Neil (1946-2018) and how her deafness impacted her career in Hollywood in the 1970s. Hosted by musician and disability inclusion advocate Lachi, the series as a whole explores the cultural contributions of people with disabilities and how they transformed America.

The 9-minute film is available here. This version has Audio Description, Closed Captions, and ASL. **We also have a version with Open Captions available here.**

"It was important to us that **RENEGADES** be disability-led with authentic storytelling. We are proud of our diverse core team comprising 100 percent women, more than 50 percent women of color, and more than 50 percent people with disabilities." Day Al-Mohamed

Also of note, the accessibility included in this project is above industry standards and should become the new starting point for accessibility of media: open captions, on screen ASL interpretation provided in a way that the ASL interpreter is fully visible (and not tiny), audio description, and closed captions, with all captions being accurate, synched, complete, including descriptive of music and sound effects.

In addition, they are encouraging folks to help shape the series by taking a survey and suggesting disabled rebels, revolutionaries, and renegades for them to profile.

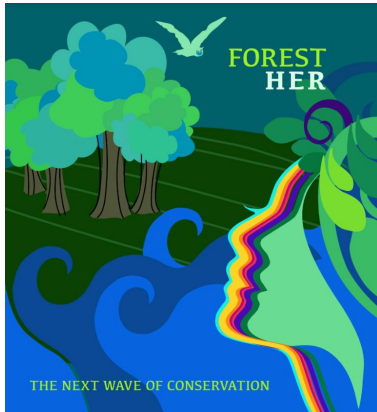
SALLIE MAE NOT Wins Audience Choice Award at Whistleblower Summit and Film Festival



SALLIE MAE NOT: Exposing America's Student Loan Scam, episode one of **SCARED TO DEBT**, a six-part documentary series by **Michael Camoin**, won the Audience Choice Award at the 2021 Whistleblower Summit and Film Festival at The Pillar Awards ceremony held on July 30th. The Pillar is awarded to politicians, community activists, and journalists—including documentary filmmakers, and given on National Whistleblowers Appreciation Day.

SALLIE MAE NOT: Exposing America's Student Loan Scam is the untold story of how the US government gutted student loans of consumer protections such as bankruptcy and statutes of limitations leading to the skyrocketing cost of tuition and indenturing millions, especially women and people of color, into debt for decades through a predatory lending system. The film highlights the US history of student loans and sheds light on how corruption set in making student loans more profitable when in default. Seen throughout the series are borrowers' stories of debilitating debt intertwined with whistleblowers who share insider information on the Board of Education, Sallie Mae, Wall Street, and the US government's role in the student loan debt crisis facing 45 million Americans in \$1.8 Trillion debt.

Franceschi Audience Building Tips and Doc News



Cheryle Franceschi of **Por Eco Productions**, One Idea/Dos Languages, LLC offers these recommendations for getting your project to stream to a broader audiences. One is to include closed-captioning, and the other is to purchase a Title Report (basically, a title deed to your own film).

Franceschi made sure those were included as her deliverables for her two documentaries CONSERVATION KIDS: A Green STEM Documentary and MR. BESLEY'S FOREST. For both, she incorporated Environmental-and-Ag Education learning initiatives connecting conservation to real-world experiences. Por Eco Productions'

presentations are currently streaming nationally on multiple Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) stations. MR BESLEY'S FOREST will have an encore broadcast on MPT Oct 16.

As for distribution plans for 2022, Franceschi is in production of ForestHER -The Next Wave of Conservation. ForestHER came to life during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the connection to the outside world grew, inside the Forest, Mother Earth motioned HER whispering waters beneath the trees to remind us all about clean air spaces, healthy watershed areas, and thriving wildlife habitats. As noted by Gary Allen, President of the Maryland Forestry Foundation "Until recently women foresters were rare. They give voice to a broad set of management values and options beyond the priority given economic returns throughout the [Chesapeake] Bay watershed." Based in Maryland, Franceschi plans to conduct interviews covering a national perspective. As with the previous documentaries, WIFV colleague **Jacque Greff** is returning as editor for the new doc.

WIFV Supports Two 48 Hour Film Festival Teams!

TENNALLY'S TAVERN



The 48 Hour Film Project

family lunch "resolves" a 30-year argument!

Team WIFV had a choice between Film de Femme or a musical. They went with their strength to make TENNALLY'S TAVERN. It's the story of how a

Crew

sheri ratick stroud - Director/Producer
Kathleen Strouse - Assistant Director
Maureen O'Grady - Writer/Food Stylist
Irelene Ricks - Writer
Brittany Morton - Writer/Camera Assistant
Michelle Bowen-Ziecheck - Script Supervisor
Shilette Addison-Reed - Line Producer/ Props Manager
Lacey Young - 1st Camera/Editor/Sound
Lucia Fox-Shapiro - 2nd Camera/Editor/Sound
Keri Williams - CCO/Gear Manager
T'Zion Addison - Production Coordinator
John Mitchell - Production Assistant

THIS IS HAND TAP

Hue Vision had the genres Mockumentary and Sports Film. We decided to do both with mockumentary being the primary. The name of our film is THIS IS HAND TAP. A homage to the first mockumentary THIS IS SPINAL TAP. The film follows an Olympic hopeful, training and preparing to compete in a unique sport called Red Hands.

Crew

Sunnye Durham - Director
Sonya Dunn - Producer/Writer
Andy Evans - Director of Photography
Irene Fanous - Writer
Celia de la Vega - Writer
Daniela González Landero - 1st Assistant Director
Yildiz Yilmaz - Production Designer/Prop Master
Asia Nicholson - Editor/Motion Graphics
Brigitte Waites - Unit Production Manager/Sound
Synistr Carter - Music Composer
Hannah Dunn - Production Assistant
Carlisa Jacobs - Production Assistant

Cast

Genise R. White - Felicia
David Motheral - John Tennally
sheri ratick stroud - Jane Tennally
Sofia Sandoval-Ferriss - Jenny
T'Zion Addison - Driver

Cast

Aaron George - AJ Digler
Gurpreet Singh - Aarit Khatri
Michael Nephew - Coach Bruce Falston
Randall Kish - John Tennally
Celia de la Vega - Ana "Feugo" Fernandez

Sonya Dunn, the Hue Vision team leader believes, "48HFC is one of those career experiences every filmmaker should participate in at least once. It makes you appreciate the whole process of filmmaking. Plus, you get to meet some amazing creatives."

Both teams were led by WIFV Board Members! Hue Vision team was coordinated from the BIPOC Happy Hour gatherings. The films are screening on August 20, 7:00 pm, at AFI Silver. [Get your tickets here](#)

WIFV Members' Work Currently Streaming!

PICTURES FROM A HIROSHIMA SCHOOLYARD, Bryan Reichardt (Director), Shizumi Manale (Producer), **Suzanne Brindamour Tolford** (Associate Producer, closing song)

SOCIAL SOCIETY, Sheena D. Carter (Creator, Director), Latisha Fortune (EP, Director) Shane Colella (DP) and **PictureLock Films** (Post-production).

THE FORGIVING, **David Stern** (Writer/Director), and **John Healy** (Actor)

WHO CARES ABOUT DC?, **Steve Kolb** (Producer)

THE ART OF THIS LONG MARRIAGE, **Bonnie Rich** (Writer/Director/Producer)

If you have work streaming, send the info to membership@wifv.org and we'll share!

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.



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.



Choose Women in Film & Video, Inc. as your charity at [Amazon.smile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and your purchases will generate contributions to WIFV!