

February 2022

President's Message



The days are getting longer, the second season of “Cheer” is on Netflix, and the city is starting to come back to life after the holiday slumber. (Yay!)

I also had the recent opportunity to teach a co-worker that his slightly sexist joke was not appropriate for a work call...or any audience for that matter. So I'd say life is looking pretty good these days. It would be better if I wasn't constantly reminded that women are second class citizens in this country, but hey, it's 2022, why expect anything to change? Yet, here I am, writing to the mediamakers and reminding you that we have the power to help change the narrative. So I challenge you this: When you are writing your scripts, casting those parts, finding interviews for your docs, and hiring crew, can you make decisions that help change the “traditional” narrative, even just a little? Are you going out of your way to find female and other minority voices? Are you avoiding stereotypes and unflattering (and often untrue) tropes? Can you cast someone who “doesn't look the part” and by doing so, change what we think that part is *supposed* to look like? Representation matters. It's 2022, let's use our tools to help change the narrative, one story at a time!

Speaking of narratives, we have the **Narrative Script Development Fellowship deadline** fast approaching. If you want professional help getting your feature script developed, I highly encourage you to apply to this exciting new program.

Yours truly,

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Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: *Storyboarding*
Monday, **Feb 7, 6:30 pm**
Registration will open soon

Documentary: *Trailer Night*
Monday, **Feb 14, 6:30 pm**
Register at Docs In Progress website

Sci-Fi Creators: *Topic TBA*
Wednesday, **Feb 23, 7:30 pm**
Registration will open soon

Screenwriters: *First 5-pages Readings*
Monday, **Feb 28, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members **You**

Send 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.

We welcome receiving photos of you at work - writing, filming, acting, being a stellar PA. Send your photos to director@wifv.org. Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

News You Can Use

Vision to Viability: WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship Application Period Closes February 10

Through the nine-month WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship, **open only to WIFV members**, accomplished film professionals will work with 4-6 Fellows to take feature-length scripts from page to production. The scripts will become the basis of collaboration between the mentors and Fellows. Two meetings per month with mentors – a master class and a follow-up session – will workshop the scripts through all aspects of pre-production and development. The Fellows will also meet monthly, forming a cohort to support each other as they move out of the Fellowship. By program's end, the Fellows will have a shooting script, budget, a plan to make their films and access funds OR a project they can successfully pitch to producers outside of their teams. This Fellowship will enhance the local narrative film infrastructure and strengthen the Mid-Atlantic as an independent film production hub.

What's the Plan?

February 10 – Applications are to be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm (eastern time). The applicant must provide:

- Contact info;
- Title and logline for script under consideration;
- Feature-length narrative script OR pilot script with series arc;
- Why you? Why now? Include body of work summary;
- Goal – Are you looking to package the script to sell it or make it yourself?
- Distribution – Theatrical, Broadcast, Streaming, MoW, other;
- Define success for your project.

[More info and apply here](#).

The WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit www.arts.gov. Additional support was received from the Gem Star Foundation and [OCTFME/202 Creates](#).

THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT Premieres Feb 15



American Experience returns on Monday, February 7, 2022, with four new documentaries that explore American history through fresh and diverse perspectives, with subjects ranging from a 1900 San Francisco bubonic plague outbreak to the fascinating history of jeans, from the Los Angeles water wars to a look at pioneering African American diplomats.

Tuesday, February 15 at 9:00 pm, marks the premiere of THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT which spotlights three pioneering Black diplomats assigned to advocate for American ideals abroad while contending with racism at home. Directed by FLOWSTATE Films Co-Founder, **Leola Calzolari-Stewart**, THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT represents Leola's directorial debut on a project she has been passionate about for many years, dating back to her graduate work at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Co-Founders of FLOWSTATE, **Rachell Shapiro** and **Kiley Kraskouskas** serve as the film's Producers. The film is a co-production with PBS's flagship series, American Experience and executive produced by Cameo George. Also on the team as is award-winning filmmaker Sam Pollard as Executive Producer. THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT is fiscally sponsored by Women in Film & Video.

THE AMERICAN DIPLOMAT has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. American Experience is produced for PBS by GBH Boston. Visit pbs.org/americanexperience

Let's Make Short Films - Script Submission Period Closes March 1



Calling all Directors, Writers, Actors, Editors and Producers, 2022 will be your year to SHINE! The WIFV Narrative Directors and Screenwriters Roundtables are launching an exciting project, *"Let's Make a Short Film."* We know we have the talent pool to accomplish this goal based on our organization meetings.

The deadline to submit a script for production consideration is **March 1 at 5:00 pm EST.**

Criteria

- Scripts may be from **1.5 to 10 pages** (not counting the cover sheet)
- No more than 3 locations
- Should be able to be filmed over the course of a weekend

Make sure your contact info is on the cover page of the script (not counted in maximum page count) and to register your script with the Copyright Office.

The \$25 application fee will go into a funding pool for the films. We anticipate 4-5 films will be produced from this initiative by the end of 2022. **Submit your script here.** Questions? Call the WIFV office at 202-429-9438.

Upcoming Events



ScriptDC is made possible with support from [202Creates](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#). These programs will be **online webinars** and you will receive the login link with your registration confirmation. All times are Eastern Time Zone.

4 Webinars - Directing Intensive Begins 2/1

This **series of four webinars**, led by **Joan Darling** and reprising her 2-day ScriptDC seminar, will teach the practical things that a director does to bring the performance they want from the actors out of the script, onto the set, and into the camera. Ten attendees (all slots taken) will actively participate in all four sessions and will direct a scene they have written or present a scene provided by Ms. Darling. Observer spaces are available. You will be involved throughout the series. We suggest that you take all four workshops.

Fee for all four webinars starting February 1 - [RSVP here](#)

\$50 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$100 for general public
You will receive the login info with your registration confirmation.

Individual Webinars (Feb 1, 8, 15, 22): [Register at WIFV calendar here](#)

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

Beyond DEI Weds One - February 2

How can we become more ethical media makers and in turn, more ethical people? This panel will discuss ways to advance our thinking about identity politics, and the ways in which they show up in our work. If, as filmmakers, we aim to move beyond an "extractive" model for our craft, how can we shift our tactics to be more holistically inclusive and collaborative? For example:

awareness about the political nature of representation has slowly become more mainstream. How can we tie this idea to more compassion and less tokenization behind the scenes? How can we be more deliberate in our business practices, hiring, training up, community engagement, profit sharing, exhibitions, and curation? Simply: how can we be more mindful about the ways in which our work impacts others? This panel will tease out some of these topics, and begin to equip attendees with some ideas for tactical approaches towards systemic change. Panelists include **Rahne Alexander**, **Malkia K. Lydia**, **Jules Roskam**, and **Day Al-Mohamed**. [You can read their bios on the registration page](#). The panel will be moderated by WIFV Board Member, **Amy Oden**.



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

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

This is a meeting held on Zoom. You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Event sponsored by [Everywoman Studios](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [202Creates](#), and [OCTFME](#).

Film Club: LOVE & BASKETBALL - Feb 21



While growing up in the 1980s, both Monica and Quincy dream of playing in the NBA. But as Quincy's star rises and Monica's limited options become clearer, they must soon choose: love for the sport vs. their love for each other.

Join us when the WIFV Film Club discusses **LOVE & BASKETBALL**, the 2000 debut feature film from writer-director Gina Prince-Bythewood (**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**, **BEYOND THE LIGHTS**, **THE OLD GUARD**). It was produced by Spike Lee, and its all-star cast includes Sanaa Lathan, Omar Epps, Alfre Woodard and Dennis Haysbert. You can stream it on HBOMax.

Some questions for discussion:

- What's the film's central message and how is it executed?
- In his review, the late Roger Ebert remarked on how special it was that this film tells a sports story mostly through the eyes of a female character. Have sports films caught up or is this still a rarity?
- What about this film, if anything, would you have changed?

We won't be watching the film during the meeting, just discussing it. We'll announce the next film at the end of each meeting. Your Film Club hosts are **Ericka Boston**, **Connie St. John**, and **Cathie Saadeh**.

Monday, February 21, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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.

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

Networking Happy Hour, Thursday, Feb 24, 5:30 pm [RSVP here](#)



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

Executive Member Coffee, Tuesday, Feb 8, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Networking Coffee, Tuesday, Feb 15, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

New & Renewing Members (Dec 29 - Jan 26)

Beth Adler
 Wesley N. Bailey
 Victoria Barrett
 Madeleine Becker
 Kayona Ebony Brown
 Jason Bunyan
 Sharon Burtner
 Cintia Cabib
 Claire Callahan
 Marcella Caro
 Caitlin Carroll

Catherine Hand
 Frances A. Hardin
 Stacy Hickman
 Lisa M. Hodsoll
 Emma Honore
 Adam Hurst
 Anna Reid Jhirad
 Aviva Kempner
 Kurt Klaus
 Ana Koo
 Lia Kvatum

Melan Perez
 Christie Perry
 Mark Phillips
 Bannon Preston
 Ricardo Preve
 Rain Pryor
 Haley Reed
 Hillary Reskin
 Bonnie Rich
 Linda Robbins
 Helen Saks

Frank Cevarich
Adrienne Cleary
Shaneka Jones Cook
Gail Cronauer
Karina Dar-Juan
Serge Delpierre
Maxine Downs
Renee Eastman
Rhonda Fleming-Makell
David Flood
Toni George
Joel Gershon
Maureen Gosling
Umit Gulsen

Lisa Laden
Cameron Lawson
Myra Lewis
Tim Lorenz
Shannon Malone-
deBenedictis
Connie Day McClinton
Marian Merewitz
Marilyn Munder
Sarah Nelson
Andrea Palombella
Brian Pascale
Maria Patente
Kathryn Patterson

Anne Saul
Heidi Scott
Liane Scott
Justin Swain
Daniel Taylor
Barbara Valentino
Ben Weinberg
Ginger Weingarten
Jeff Weingarten
Jordana Wells

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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.

Thanks to our sponsors



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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