

June 2022

Inclusion, like Freedom, Should Not Be an Afterthought



Many of us are familiar with Juneteenth, a celebration that began in 1865, two months following the end of the civil war, two years after the Emancipation,

officially freeing all slaves. Can you imagine people purposefully keeping pertinent information from you that's guaranteed to change the trajectory of your life, on purpose, for two years? It's a lot to reconcile.

Fast forward to a recent five-year cumulative study released by the Think Tank for Inclusion & Equity on inclusion in TV Writing. The results are staggering. 70% of BIPOC writers who developed new series projects did not get paid, compared with 53% of non-marginalized writers. This number, although astonishing, is further compounded by the fact that 67% of BIPOC writers with management experience get to show run. This, compared to 81% of upper-level white writers with no experience, who get to show run their development ideas. Often, writers are not paid in the development stage. Therefore, many Black writers are, as their ancestors did with helping to build this country, building content for networks and distributors, working for free.

It's no secret that most major U.S. systems (housing, work sector, entertainment, health et al.) were created with a special blend of baked-in racism. In my opinion, it's our job to crack the industry wide open by prioritizing working with BIPOC creatives and the disabled to create a more culturally

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Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: *Crowdfunding*
Monday, **June 6, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Trailer Night*
Monday, **June 13, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters Co-op: *Page Critiques*
Thursday, **June 16, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: TBD
Monday, **June 27, 6:30 pm**

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.**

appropriate and authentic viewing experience for all.

With WIFV, I'm happy and honored to serve an organization laser-focused on contributing to a more equitable and just industry to normalize inclusivity. WIFV provides access to entertainment information, events, and gigs. Grant opportunities, super programming, and an unapologetic stance for hot topic issues. In this case, we shouldn't wait two years to practice inclusion, it starts now. Many thanks to our members, allies for progress, improvement, and change. I am hopeful for a future where BIPOC and Disabled aren't simply boxes to check off; I'm hopeful for a transformed industry that doesn't need boxes.

Yours truly,

Monda Webb

WIFV Executive Vice President

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.

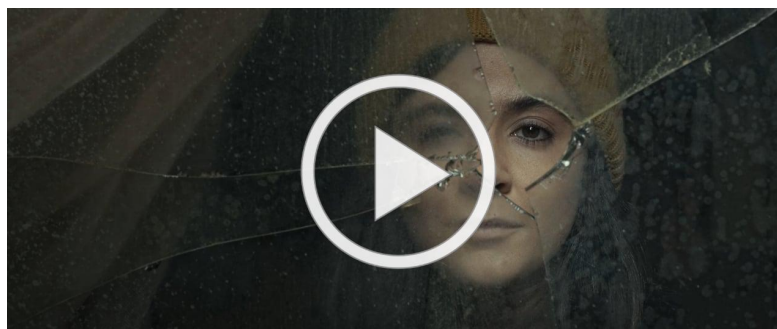
News You Can Use

Eller & Germain Film Wins!



WIFV members **Ramata Eller** and **Charles Germain**'s short film **MIDLIFE CRISIS** won the Best Micro Short Award at **YouFilmFest 2022** on April 2nd at the Reach at the Kennedy Center. It was filmed in DC with local actors Cristen Stephansky, Brian Mac Ian and Kirk O'Neal. You can watch the film here: www.ramataeller.com/film.

Exclusive Sneak Peek at RIFF - June 7



Join us for an Exclusive Sneak Preview of **THERE IS NO RAIN IN HELL** on Tuesday, June 7 at 9:15 pm, opening night of the Richmond International Film Festival. Link to the

event and tickets: <https://bit.ly/3PDA9fm>

It is the feature debut film of WIFV member and Iranian independent filmmaker, **Zahra Shahhatami**. The movie is an anti-war film. Her intention is to dedicate her work and its proceeds to the people of Ukraine.

Log line: "The survivors of a brutal war are captives in an old candle factory. Every single character protects something which represents a strand of life in a place where there is no sight of existence."

"War is the most sorrowful reality in the world. We all understand an injustice and should not remain silent when others are in pain. This film gives the audience the possibility to live the life of innocent civilians during war. The aim as an artist is to create compassion."

Zahra Shahhatami will be present at the opening night and do an in-person Q&A after the screening.

WIFV Board Election in June

General and Executive Members (including those representing WIFV Corporate Supporters) are eligible to vote in this election and will be emailed ballots. It is important to participate as the Board is responsible for overseeing programs, governing the organization, ensuring financial stability, and forming partnerships to benefit the membership. Questions? Email director@wifv.org



Work-Life Sustainability Summit - 6/22

Join Reel Families for Change on **Wednesday, June 22** for our national **Work-Life Sustainability Summit**. This virtual event will bring our industry's thought-leaders and changemakers together in one place to share viable solutions and tangible actions for creating a more equitable, inclusive, and family-supportive screen industry. Hear from special guests like **Madeline Di Nonno** (Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media), **Bliss Griffin** (Actors Equity Association), **Rachel Spencer**

Hewitt (PAAL Theatre), and more!

Register here with code **CUZA22** for a special 50% discount. Questions? Email events@reelfamilies.org for additional support.

Artistic Fuel Speaker Series - June 3

WIFV Executive Director, Melissa Houghton, will be the guest of the Artistic Fuel Film Fund in their speaker series on June 3. We will be discussing the importance of having a community of creatives to support your work.

Please join us on Friday, **June 3, 7 pm ET REGISTER HERE**



Upcoming Events



Camera Show & Tell - May 31

Come see and try some of the best equipment around: You can demonstrate the Sony FX9, FX6, Ronin RS, and Red Komodo! Check out mirrorless Canon cameras, anamorphic lenses, etc. Try out the gear and see for yourself what you'd like to use for your next project! Cinematographers **Erich Roland** and **Sheila Smith** will be on hand to demonstrate cameras and answer your questions.

Tuesday, **May 31, 6:00 pm RSVP here**

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

DC Camera, 2810-B Merrilee Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031

This is an in-person event. TWO SPACES LEFT. We are following all COVID-19 regulations for in-person events. Bring proof of vaccination and please do a rapid test the day of the event. It is a masked event!

Production Insurance 101 - June 1

Stacie O'Beirne, Sr. Vice President of Front Row Insurance Brokers and a long time Film and Entertainment Insurance Broker will detail the special coverage needed for Productions, from pre-production through principal photography to distribution. Stacie brings her depth of experience to bring to you everything you want and need to know about Production and Errors & Omissions Insurance Coverage.



Wednesday, **June 1, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 Public

You will be sent the login link to this webinar with your registration confirmation.

If you registered for this program on the original date, you are still registered and will be sent the updated login link.

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



Acquisition & Distribution - June 2

Understanding where your script figures into the acquisition and distribution landscape is critical whether you want to sell your script or produce it yourself. **Steve Douglas-Craig** will share his expertise about getting films into the marketplace. This workshop is a public part of the Narrative Script Development Fellowship for June.

Thursday, **June 2, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

\$15 WIFV Members / \$30 Public

You will be sent the login link to this webinar with your registration confirmation.

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 [OCTFME/202 Creates](#) and the Gem Star Foundation.



Filmmaker Conversation: BEST SUMMER EVER - 6/8

Sage and Anthony have had the "Best Summer Ever" after falling in love at a dance camp in Vermont. Not expecting to see each other again until the following summer, Sage, by a twist of fate, arrives unexpectedly at the same high school as Anthony. Now faced with the

drama of high school cliques, an evil cheerleader, and the illegal secret that keeps Sage's family on the move, they are forced to reevaluate their relationship as Tony struggles to be both the high school football star and the dancer he's always wanted to be. Watch the trailer above!

Panelists: **Michael Parks Randa**, Director, Executive Producer, Screenwriter, Editor, **Ila B. Halby**, Executive Producer, Casting Director, **Ajani Murray, "AJ"** Actor/Advocate and **Madeline Rhodes, "Mumu"** Head Songwriter/ Musical Supervisor, Actor.

Wednesday, **June 8, 6:30 PM** [RSVP Here](#)

\$10 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and students / \$20 for Public

This is an online webinar. You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Film Club - June 20 - QUIZ SHOW

Based on a true story, a big-money, high-stakes TV game show becomes the subject of a scandal when a Washington investigator uncovers corruption behind the scenes – implicating both current and former winners. Directed by Robert Redford and starring John Turturro, Rob Morrow, and Ralph Fiennes.



Monday, **June 20, 7:30 pm** (ET) [RSVP here](#)

This is an online meeting. You will receive the login info with your registration confirmation. Watch the film in advance of the meeting. Discussion questions on registration page.

The WIFV Film Club is another great way to build connections with fellow members of the film community. We meet on the third Monday of each month, from 7:30 – 8:30 pm ET. Join us via Zoom for a lively, unrecorded discussion. (What happens in Film Club stays in Film Club.)

We'll announce the next film at the end of each meeting.

Your WIFV Film Club Hosts: Ericka Boston, Connie St. John, and Cathie Saadeh



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

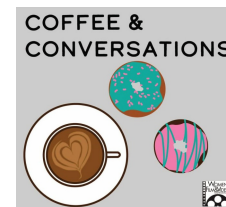
BIPOC Happy Hour

Thursday, **June 16, 4:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Networking Happy Hour

Wednesday, **June 22, 5:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Save the date - Tuesday, June 28, as we are looking for a venue for an in-person New Moon Happy Hour!



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

Executive Member Coffee

Tuesday, **June 7, 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

Program sponsored by [OCTFME/202Creates](#)

Reel Moms Coffee

Friday, **June 17, 10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

Short Film Challenge Theme is Dad

Gift WIFV for Your Grad or Friend

Do you know a college student graduating to make their mark



in the film/television industry? Know someone transitioning that could use a community boost?

We've got the perfect graduation gift!! A WIFV membership! There's no better way to connect a new graduate with professional opportunities and connections in our region.

They graduated with a degree in this industry; help them actually get a job in what they went to school for! We can take the info over the phone (202-429-9438) **or you can sign them up here**. As our gift to you, we will refund you the processing fee!

New & Renewing Members (April 29 - May 26)

Barbara Ballow
Catherine Batavick
Alison Bauer
Shaina Blackman
Leslie Bono
Debbie Brodsky
Birgit Buhleier
Rebecca Bustamante
Celeste Caldwell
Lauren Cardillo
Rachel Skopp Cardillo
Anne Chapman
Dylan Graves Comstock
Carlyn Davis
Danielle Davy
Donna Deter
Julianne Donofrio
Sue Dorfman
Hugh Drescher

Peggy Fleming
Andrea Fuller
Jack Gerbes
Charles Germain
Emma Mankey Hidem
Ben Howard
Jill N. Jackson
David Joyner
Jen Katz
Serena Lee
Diandra Leslie-Pelecky
Kathy Nguyen Li
Alexis McCombs
Isabel McLane
Bridget Bell McMahan
Judith Meschel
Adam Myers

Beryl Neurman
Martha Newman
Amy Oden
J. Overstreet
Emma Pearce
Mark Ricche
Malikkah Rollins
Nikki Rouiller
May Santiago
Connie St. John
Ramsey Telhami
Juliana Vaccarro

Corporate Supporters:
Carlyn Davis Casting
Fusilli Films
Maryland Film Office

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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