

November 2022

Barger is OCTFME Filmmaker of the Month



Sara Barger is an award-winning documentary filmmaker based in DC who specializes in creating short form non-fiction content. Sara has traveled the world making documentary films as a director, producer and

editor, creating content for the U.S. State Department, USAID, Discovery Channel, and think tanks. Her work has taken her to Iraq, Congo, India, China, Tibet, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Some of Sara's most notable film-making credits include producing **The Southern Ladies** (2018) about the struggles of being gay in Pittsburgh and **The Good Candidate** (2020) which focuses on the old "big tent" ideal of the Republican party in light of a 2020 Congressional Republican primary in Virginia where the incumbent officiated a same-sex wedding. Sara also directed the experimental short film **Brothers** (2019) and **Little but Fierce** (2020) about Madison Davis, a nine year-old girl battling a rare form of brain cancer and her search for traditional and alternative treatments for her rare condition.

Sara is currently working on a short documentary on the DC Zebras, as well as another short documentary titled "Blue" about an aging father, his daughter, and a very old Chevy.

In a male-dominated industry, we must do better to elevate and support female voices in the media and all arts. Thank you OCTFME for recognizing my work and the work of all female artists in the District.

Sara currently serves as the head of video production for the Defense Health Agency

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Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: *THE ROAD TO GALENA Case Study*
Monday, **Nov 7, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Veterans: Honoring and Preserving Their Stories*
Monday, **Nov 14, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters Co-op
Wednesday, **Nov 16, 7:00 pm**
Registration will open soon

Screenwriters: *First Five-Page Readings*
Monday, Nov 28, **6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

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

(DHA), Sara leads a full-time broadcast operations team to produce videos on a weekly basis for use at various levels throughout the Military Health System. Prior to joining DHA, Sara ran a successful production company, producing videos for clients across the globe.

Sara currently serves as President of Women in Film & Video. During her tenure, Sara has overseen the launching several programs to support the careers of media-makers in the Mid-Atlantic, including a Mentorship Program, a Narrative Feature Fellowship Program, the DC Student Film Festival, a local monthly filmmaker showcase, and the Media & Monuments Podcast.

To learn more about Sara and her work check out her professional website.

must pre-register to receive login links for online programs.

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, and being a stellar PA. Send your photos to director@wifv.org. Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

News You Can Use



Cerebral Lounge Helps NatGeo Celebrate 10 Years of SharkFest

In order to celebrate Nat Geo's 10th anniversary of SharkFest, the Cerebral crew took a deep dive into the many aspects of these magnificent creatures. Following up our award winning contributions to last year's campaign, our team created over 55 deliverables spanning seven creative executions including social media strategy from our sister company Gigawatt

Group. From blissful moments in *Seas the Day* to bizarro factoids in *WTFin!*, we showed the world why sharks are the coolest creatures in the ocean. **[View the case study of the work here.](#)**

Gates Moves to Events DC

The board of directors of Events DC named Angie M. Gates president and chief executive officer of the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia, following a comprehensive national search. Gates, who most recently served as DC's Director of the Office of Cable, Television, Film, Music and Entertainment (OCTFME), will guide the organization tasked with generating economic and community benefits for DC residents and businesses through premier events beginning on November 14, 2022.



Reel to Real Party Supports MFIC

The 11th Annual Fundraiser for the Maryland Film Industry Coalition was held on Friday, October 21. MFIC is an alliance of business leaders, labor unions, educational institutions, government entities and individuals who are dedicated to improving the business conditions for the film industry in Maryland. Jed Dietz, Founding Director of the

Maryland Film Festival was the event's honoree. There were many WIFV members and supporters at the event and it was a great place to catch up and support the Maryland Film Industry! **[More info on MFIC here.](#)**

THE GIRL WHO WORE FREEDOM Screening - November 9

The French Embassy will present an in-person screening of [The Girl Who Wore Freedom](#). Christian Taylor's documentary is a touching tribute to D-Day and the longstanding friendship and bond between France and America. This film unveils the untold stories of the Norman citizens who lived through German occupation and the Allied liberation of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. [More info and purchase tickets here.](#)



Alexandria Film Fest - Nov 11-13

This year's Alexandria Film Festival – the 16th -- has a line-up of more than 50 films including 14 with premiere status. The premieres – East Coast, DC Metro Area, Virginia – are programmed across 13 showcases consisting of two or more films per showcase. Films will be screened in person at AMC Hoffman Center 22 on

November 11 and 12. On November 13, the festival offers a day of family friendly, free cinema at The Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria.

SHOWCASE: "THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE" Friday, November 11, 2022 12:00 PM EST at AMC Hoffman 22. [For more information, trailers, and tickets go here.](#)

SHOWCASE: "LOVE & DESIRE" Friday, November 11, 2022 7:00 PM EST, AMC Hoffman 22. [For more information, trailers, and tickets go here.](#)

Wheaton Film Fest - November 12-19

For a limited time, General Admission FREE Tickets are available for the online 8th Annual Wheaton Film Festival ("WFF"). WFF is a great event to learn about the entertainment industry and to watch some amazing short films. Tickets are required to attend. [Get them here.](#) Free ticket offer expires 10/31/22 11:59 pm EST. [General festival info here.](#)



ALL ACCESS - ALL film screenings, educational panels, online networking event, the awards ceremony, and replays. Replays are available through December 19, 2022 and include all film screenings, educational panels, and the awards ceremony.

\$20 Available October 17 - November 19, 2022 [See the Tentative 2022 WFF Schedule here.](#)

WIFV Cusumano Grant and Narrative Fellowship Deadlines

The **Jane Cusumano/WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Fund** supports WIFV Members with the completion/post-production of a short film (no longer than 15 minutes including credits). This grant program is made possible with proceeds from the 2001 DC screening of WHAT MATTERS MOST, written and directed by Jane Cusumano and limited in-kind services from [Henninger Media Services](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [Ott House Audio](#), and [ReelPlan](#). The program is administered by Women in Film & Video. There is one call for applications per year. The next application deadline is January 30, 2023. [More info and application instructions here.](#)

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. Three meetings per month with mentors – 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. [More info and application instructions here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Filmmaker Conversation: Joan Carr-Wiggin - Nov 1



Many of you know that Melissa H. has developed a crush on the films of **Joan Carr-Wiggin**, a writer/director based in Canada. Carr-Wiggin is making the kind of films, with a stable of actors, that we keep being told no one will watch. Let's prove them wrong. Her films, and their availability, are listed on the registration page! Watch some films and then join the conversation on November 1.

Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 pm [RSVP Here](#)

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

ScriptDC programs are sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME / 202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).



Film Case Study: CURED - November 2

CURED takes viewers inside the David-versus-Goliath battle that led the American Psychiatric Association to remove the diagnosis of homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses in 1973. The film attracted 1.5 million viewers during last October's national PBS premiere on *Independent Lens*. [You can watch the trailer here.](#)

The panel presenting this case study includes WIFV members **Patrick Sammon** (CURED co-director) and **Julianne Donofrio** (CURED co-producer). The film's impact producer, **Julie Sandler**, will also be part of the conversation, which will cover the financing, production, and distribution process. [The film will be available to stream online from October 28th to November 3rd here.](#)

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

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

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

Pitching Master Class - November 3

Join **Diana Kerew** and **Laurie Scheer** to learn how to make a masterful pitch of your film or series. The presenters bring years of experience from both sides of the desk that will be shared in this program. Our goal is to give you the confidence and information you need to sell your ideas to producers, investors, and family members. [Presenter bios here.](#)



Thursday, November 3, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

This is a meeting held on Zoom. You will receive login information 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 / 202Creates](#) and the Gem Star Foundation.



Riding the Edge - Nov 9

How do we grab onto those universal themes that invite us to open our writing to the brave and exciting discovery of new territory – without and within? Well, here's a clue: we give a lot of thought to telling our stories, but are we

listening and paying enough attention to what our stories have to tell us? Join us for this "cutting edge" workshop, where we'll chat, engage, laugh, explore and, of course, write! We are delighted that ScriptDC attendee favorite, **Dara Marks**, is returning this year (via Zoom) as a presenter. [Read her bio here](#).

Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 pm [RSVP Here](#)

\$15 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$30 for public
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

ScriptDC programs are sponsored by [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME / 202Creates](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).

THE FAREWELL - Nov 21

A Chinese family discovers their grandmother has only a short while left to live and decide to keep her in the dark, scheduling a wedding to gather before she dies. Written/ directed by Lulu Wang and starring Shuzhen Zhao, Awkwafina, and X Mayo it was release in 2019 and is an award winner. [Watch the trailer here](#). Available on Showtime and Prime Video.



Monday, November 21, 7:30 pm [RSVP Here](#)

You will receive the login info with your registration confirmation.

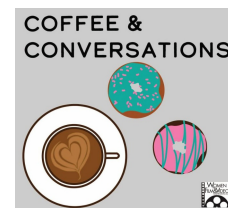
Your WIFV Film Club Hosts: Ericka Boston, Connie St. John, and Cathie Saadeh



BIPOC [RSVP here](#)

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 pm

This is a free, online event. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.



Reel Moms Coffee [RSVP here](#)

Friday, November 18, 10:00 am

Short Film Challenge Theme is Jobs
This is a free, online event. You will receive the login with your registration confirmation.

The WIFV Office will be closed November 24 & 25

New & Renewing Members (Sept 29 - Oct 25)

Tsedey Aragie
Brittney Barbour
Francesca Basso
Christine Brown

Peter Hackes
Lorelei Harloe
Tod Hopkins
Amy Johanson

Tilahun Selassie
Zahra Shahhatami
Adam Spector
Patty Stern

Diana Cantrelle
Emma Conner
Elyse Cosgrove
Jamie Coughlin
Sharon Derby
Travis Edwards
Jacob Fisk
Sedrick Gary
Hadeel Ghaida
Alyss Gear
Jacqueline Greff
Katy Grossman

Ife Johnson
Vanessa Johnston
Nanci Kaiser
Patrick Kirchner
Emma Klein
Nyrene Monforte
Ruby Nitzberg
Kathryn Pasternak
Kaitlyn Quiroigico
Morgan Reid
Maureen Sasscer
Lisa Scott

Heather A. Taylor
Dianela Urdaneta
Cindy Vaughn
Clarissa Villondo
Mary Beth Warner
Marilyn Weiner
Aura Wharton-Beck
Gerri L. Williams
Gillian Willman
Lacey Young

Corporate Supporters:
Tonal Vision

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.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

