



WIFV Members in the News - Oct 2022

Jessica Lauren Walton, Catherine Wyler, Melissa Houghton, Cid Collins Walker, Sandy Cannon-Brown, Barbara Neri, Gail Cronauer, Joe Dzikiewicz

Walton on Artistic Fuel Podcast

Jessica Lauren Walton, a communications strategist and writer in the US defense industry, recently spoke to the Artistic Fuel Foundation on its podcast about the importance of storytelling in the security field. Jessica also spoke about her entertaining career and upcoming memoir about her experience as an American woman in the Israeli security community. While it's rare for artists to be involved in the world of war and military affairs, Jessica believes more creatives are needed in this arena to share its incredible stories. You can learn more about her work at www.jessicawaltonwriter.com. **You can listen to the podcast, Why Storytelling Matters in the Security Community here.**



Wyler & Houghton Receive Women of Impact Awards

Catherine Wyler was a featured presenter at the 2022 Chesapeake Film Festival where she discussed the work of her father, William Wyler, after a screening of *ROMAN HOLIDAY* and the documentary, *DIRECTED BY WILLIAM WYLER* on October 2. Catherine is the producer of the doc. Also discussed was Catherine's career as a producer, arts administrator, and filmmaker. **Melissa Houghton** had the honor to moderate the discussion. Both women were recognized with Women of Impact Awards, presented by Chesapeake Film Festival Director, **Cid Collins Walker**, and joined on stage by **Sandy Cannon-Brown**, Vice President, Communications and Environmental Programming for the Festival. *Pictured: Cid Collins Walker, Catherine Wyler, Sandy Cannon-Brown, and Melissa Houghton*

Concept Trailer Wraps

Barbara Neri just completed shooting the concept trailer for *UNLOCKING DESIRE*, a feature-length drama mystery, in early pre-production with a start date of May 8, 2023, in Michigan. *UNLOCKING DESIRE* - An institutionalized woman claiming to be Blanche DuBois must unravel the tragic circumstances that brought her there. *UNLOCKING DESIRE* began as a play that Neri wrote and produced in Detroit in 2011. She adapted it to a screenplay and it won the 2017 Marfa Film Festival screenplay competition and was read during the festival. **For more info, visit the**



website.

Pictured: Writer / Director Barbara Neri, 'Blanche' Zakiyya Gray, and DP Peter Polous.



Cronauer in Newly-Released Short

Gail Cronauer plays Martha" the Mob Boss in this comic short directed by Johnathan Brownlee, screening October 18 at DALLAS INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST. [Read more here.](#)

An earlier film, AMBER THE ACROBAT, continues to get festival screenings, most recently at the Amsterdam Lift Off Festival and the Hollywood FL Film Festival. Gail plays the "mature Amber" in this short about a woman finding the courage to go on after several life setbacks. It first screened in the 2021 Louisiana Film Prize Festival and was directed by Abigail Kruger.

The TELL-TALE PLANT at AFF

An Edgar Allan Poe-style story about a woman and her pet plant. Written by Jaki Demarest and directed by **Joe Dzikiewicz**, the short will be included in the Alexandria Film Festival screenings on November 11 at the AMC Hoffman. [Get your tickets here.](#)



Alexandria
Film Festival

The **Alexandria Film Festival** (AFF) announced it will screen more than 50 films in person over three days, November 11-13, at the **AMC Hoffman** theaters and **The Lyceum** in Old Town, Alexandria. Created by a diverse group of local and international artists, the films represent a variety of genres and tackle topics ranging from serious social issues like discrimination and racism to crowd-pleasers like drama, romance, sci-fi, comedy, and horror. [More info here](#)

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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.

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