

WIFV NEWS

WIFV Members in the News - Nov 2022

Connie St. John, Laura Waters Hinson, Catherine Hand, Judy Hallet, Catherine Wyler, Aviva Kempner, Cheryle Francheschi, Tonal Vision, Jacqueline Greff, Andrea Mihailescu, Interface Media Group, sheri ratick stroud

Anti-Bullying Musical Premiere

On Friday, October 21, 2022, No Weapon Productions (NWP), led by WIFV Board Member **Connie St. John**, and in conjunction with NexxtOne Academy (N1A), presented *We Don't Do That Here!*, a 30-minute musical designed to combat bullying in middle schools. The showcase presentations, at 10 am and 1 pm, were held at the renowned Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Invited guests included educators, school mental health teams, arts teachers, and administrators in the DC Public School system.

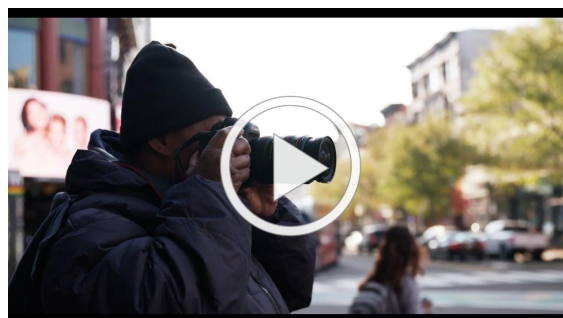
We Don't Do That Here! is just one component of the Don't Be A Bully (DBAB) Project™, a social responsibility campaign that uses entertainment to reduce bullying in middle schools and help prevent teen and pre-teen suicides. The 30-minute musical was followed by a cast talkback. **The innovative campaign includes a comprehensive, ongoing program that middle school educators, in partnership with school social workers, can use to improve school culture.**



St. John OCTFME Filmmaker of the Month

Sometimes you just have a good month! **Connie St. John** is the November Filmmaker of the Month, recognized by the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment. [Read the article here.](#) You will get a great insight into the range of work she does. We are honored to have her as a member of the WIFV Board!

Hinson's Short Doc Qualified for Oscars



STREET REPORTER, directed by DC-based filmmaker **Laura Waters Hinson**, has qualified to compete at the 2023 Academy Awards in the Documentary Short category. The film tells the story of Sheila White, an aspiring photojournalist who discovers the power of her own voice while struggling to survive homelessness. The film was an outgrowth of Laura's role as a film professor and director of the **Community Voice Lab** at American University and was collaboratively produced in partnership with **StreetSense Media**.

STREET REPORTER premiered at the Indy Shorts Film Festival where it won the Overall Audience Choice Award. It screened at prestigious festivals such as the Palm Springs International ShortFest, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, United Nations Association Film Fest, and the Pan African Film Festival. STREET REPORTER won Best Short Documentary at the 2022 Annapolis Film Festival, the Social Impact Media Award for Creative Activism, and audience awards at the Austin Film Festival and DC Shorts Film Fest.

The next DC screening is Friday, November 18 at 6 pm as part of Miriam's Kitchen "Cocktails and Cinema Event" at Tonic at Quigley's in Foggy Bottom. The event is free but you need to reserve a spot, which you can do so here.

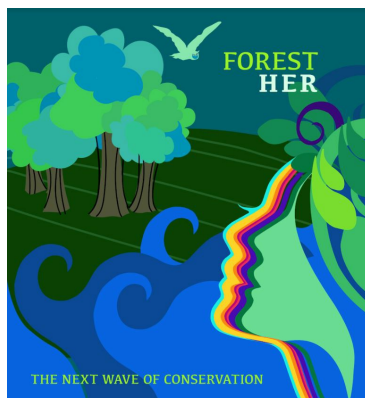
STREET REPORTER is currently engaged in a nationwide educational outreach campaign, making the film available for free to universities, schools and nonprofits that wish to host screenings that spark discussion on community-based solutions to homelessness and housing affordability. **For more information on hosting a screening, click here.**

Becoming a Warrior Book Launch

WIFV was honored to host a Launch Party for *Becoming a Warrior* written by **Catherine Hand**. The book is the triumphant memoir of a shy, 10-year-old girl with a dream who perseveres for 50 years to make that dream come true—to bring Madeleine L'Engle's beloved children's classic *A Wrinkle in Time* to the screen. Working in the worlds of politics and entertainment, Hand learned lessons that gave her the courage and strength to navigate through personal tragedies and professional hurdles. *Becoming a Warrior* is a treasure trove of wisdom and advice for anyone with a dream. Catherine was one of the two producers of Disney's *A WRINKLE IN TIME* released in 2018. **Order the book here.**



Pictured: Judith Dwan Hallet, Catherine Hand, Catherine Wyler, Aviva Kempner at WIFV-hosted book launch at Interface Media Group on October 26.



Tonal Vision Collaborates on Environmental Documentary

This fall, environmental filmmaker **Cheryle Francheschi** explores the historical roles women have provided their communities through scientific forest management with the release of her ground-breaking documentary, **FOREST HER: The Next Wave of Conservation**. The prolific producer/director enlisted **Tonal Vision's Jacquie Greff** to bring the final piece together with her peerless editing skills. This is the third original Por Eco Productions' documentary where Jacquie was the sole editor. According to President, Cheryl Francheschi, "Jacquie brings a high

quality commitment that starts as soon as a project begins. She is a creative editor who truly gets contexts, concepts, and collaboration."

A Pre-Broadcast screening of **FOREST HER: The Next Wave of Conservation** was held on October 22 at The Maryland STEM Festival 2022. The documentary will air

on Maryland Public Television this December. [Celebrate trees in your neck of the woods while watching the official trailer of FOREST HER here.](#)

Tonal Vision is a woman-owned video production company in Baltimore, MD that works with businesses, advocacy groups, filmmakers, and performing artists to create high-quality video messages that promote their cause, their passion, and their livelihood while inspiring viewers.

FIRST CONTACT at Baltimore 48 - First Short for Mihailescu



Andrea R. Mihailescu wrote and directed her first short for the Baltimore 48 Hour Film project. The genre her team drew was "mockumentary." This is her fifth short working with producer Quentin Riegel for the 48 Hour Film project but their first for the city of Baltimore. The team was a fun group all around so making the project was a blast, even with the lack of sleep - having to complete a short in 48 hours. The story is about a young woman who believes she's going to make first contact, but no one believes her, including her own family and friends. Nevertheless, she prepares for the Big Day.

IMG and LWV Collaborate for Women's Equality



Everyone deserves to be treated equally in our society. To highlight this basic human right, the League of Women Voters created a large-scale print/video campaign for Women's Equality Day. IMG crafted 3 powerful videos, contributing scripting, in-studio filming, and remote recording of influential LWV partners. [Watch it here.](#)

ratick stroud Shines at Table Read and Filmalooza

WIFV Board Member **sheri ratick stroud** (5th from left, back row) was one of many actors participating in a table read of Robert J. Morgalo's award-winning original screenplay **CHILDREN OF A FATHERLESS CHILD**, held in Reading, PA. Others actors participating: Vee Starz, Jesse Weidler, Dennis Marburger, Max Alers, Mateo Toro, Ozz Gomez, Adrienne Lauren, Stephanie Weaver, Nikki Gratham, Rick Yeakley, Daniel Fair, Edward Haney, and Pat DiPersia.



Earlier the same week, ratick stroud celebrated **Wonder Pictures'** NEXT DAYS NEWS receiving the Audience Favorite Award for Narrative Shorts at the Filmopalooza event at the Capital One Hall.

Thanks to the WIFV 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.

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