

WIFV People in the News - February 2023

Dylan Graves Barbeta-Comstock, Randi Cohen Coblenz, Susan Perz, Maggie Burnette Stogner, Sue O'Hora, Andrea Passafiume, Phil Shapiro, Alyscia Cunningham



Barbeta-Comstock Named a RIFFAI Distinguished Fellow

Artist **Dylan Graves Barbeta-Comstock**, WIFV mentorship committee chair in his fifth consecutive year of service on the Board of Directors, was recently appointed as a distinguished fellow at the Richmond International Film Festival Arts Institute. During his fellowship, he will be developing his experimental narrative, *The Pressing Bed*.

A metaphor for the compression of unchosen identity layers within a crime victim, *The Pressing Bed* is a reflection of surviving sexual violence. The film is derived from a 26-panel visual art series titled "Disruptive Nocturnal Behaviors," created by Barbeta-Comstock in the summer 2022. The series combines photography, textual art/poetry, and collage in presentation of PTSD predicates and sequelae. Within the series, the term *disruptive nocturnal behaviors* is folded in on itself by illustrating how the name of the symptom can also describe the cause of the harm. The art series and film will be used in conjunction with talks, aimed at engendering empathy and generating awareness around male survivors of sexual violence. [Learn more about Barbeta-Comstock's work here.](#)

Cohen Coblenz Interviewed

Recently, Documentary Round Table Coordinator and rug hooker **Randi Cohen Coblenz** was interviewed by noted Canadian fiber artist Deane Fitzpatrick. The topic was Aging and Creativity. Randi and Deanne discussed ways to keep creative and fresh and how that is reflected in their approaches to their fiber art.



Randi is also the host/producer for WERA FM's BROADWAY BOUND, and was so inspired by her conversation with Deanne that she immediately wrote her radio program on...Broadway music which tackles aging! Ranging from Jacques Brel's *Old Folks*, *Wicked's Dancing Through Life* to *I'm Glad I'm Not Young Anymore*, from Gigi, it was truly an example of harnessing the creative muse. BROADWAY BOUND can be heard Mondays at 7:00 pm and Wednesdays at 11:00 am on 96.7 WERA.

Perz Doc Chosen for Nature Without Borders Int'l Film Festival

THE SACRED LOVES OF BIRDS celebrates the beauty, sentience, and lives of birds--their right to have safe places to live--what we have in common



The Sacred Loves of Birds

with them as humans—why they are declining--and ways we can protect them.

Director **Susan Perz**'s desire is to inspire empathy and deepen our connection to birds to inspire action to protect them. Birds have their own families, their own ways of showing affection - some mate for life - their own experiences of loss and connection. They are sentient beings and, in some ways, they are not that different from humans. Coastal birds are declining due to climate change and habitat loss and birds, in general, are in serious decline. I want to inspire people to protect birds, their habitats, wetlands, and increase wild places, save trees and forests, plant native plants at home, and realize the importance of addressing climate change.



UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER available in Spanish!

The 30-minute documentary by Maggie Burnette Stogner is now available with Spanish subtitles, and recently screened at the national Green Latinos Clean Water Event. It is available for educational and community screenings through **New Day Films** with English and Spanish captions as well as audio description.

Save the Date! - March 21 at American University

UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER will have a special screening on March 21 at American University School of Communication Doyle Forman Theater, 6 pm reception, 7 pm screening and panel, followed by a dessert reception. We are encouraging alumni to attend this in-person networking event! The event is open to the general public.

O'Hora Writes Video for Communicators Blog

WIFV member and writer/producer/director **Sue O'Hora** has launched "**Video for Communicators**," a bi-weekly blog that delves into the nitty-gritty details of the video production process. Recent topics have included a breakdown of the two-column script format, the questions to ask when starting an animation project and the importance of being proactive when managing projects. Formerly of Henninger Media Services, Sue started Rising Night Productions in 2022 with the goal of making the video production process easier for communications professionals of all stripes. **You can subscribe to the blog on LinkedIn** to be notified of new installments when they're posted or catch up on back issues through the **Rising Night Productions website**.



Passafiume Consulting for AMPAS

Film Programmer **Andrea Passafiume** was selected by the AMPAS Academy Foundation and Academy Film Archive to serve as a consultant for their new *In Frame* project, which seeks to build an



open access database of filmmakers and films across broad areas of focus related to disability, ethnicity, gender, race, sexual orientation, and social and cultural identities. Andrea serves on the disability committee, specifically contributing to d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing issues.

Shapiro Receives Award for Accessibility

Phil Shapiro has received a People's Choice Award for Accessibility on the [Opensource.com web site](#). The site celebrates open source software and open source culture. It's sponsored by Red Hat -- and the editors are always looking for new contributing writers. Shapiro has been a contributing writer since 2011. The site gets more than a million visitors per month. **Shapiro is most proud of "The Day My Mind Became Open Sourced."**



Shapiro has been an educator, teaching students from pre-school to graduate school for the past 35 years. He currently works at a public library in the Washington, DC area, helping youth and adults use their public Linux stations.



Cunningham Going to Stowe

Alyscia Cunningham will be attending the in the Stowe Story Lab Feature Campus script writing program later this year. Alyscia will use the opportunity to develop her second feature script, which is inspired by her short film DOUEN. It's a supernatural horror film based on a Trinidad and Tobago folktale. This will be Alyscia's first time participating in a Stowe Lab.

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.