

March 2023

President's Message



Awards season is upon us, which means glitz, glamor and a whole lot of disappointment. We all do a great job at promoting our wins, but anyone who has ever applied to film festivals knows the less publicized

side of the game, which is an overwhelming number of rejections. This month, as we're celebrating the winners, I also want us to embrace our failures too. Even if you don't get into a festival, you still made the film. You finished. Most people don't even get that far. And every time you finish a film, or podcast, or script, you've learned valuable skills to take with you to the next project.

Filmmaking is hard. Not every film is going to be amazing. I'm very thankful that most of my first projects are long gone on tapes that never made it to the internet. And I'm also very thankful that some of my epic failures were excellent learning experiences that ended up not being as catastrophic as they could have been (I did get fired once, but that was a blessing in disguise).

I'd love to swap an epic failure story with you at the next WIFV event. We have 4 in-person events this month, including a coffee in Silver Spring on March 3, a LGBTQIA+ happy hour on Wednesday, March 22, dinner with Board Members on Friday, March 24, and a Resume Swap on Tuesday, March 28. I hope to see you soon and hear about the projects that taught you something new. We can't grow unless we try. Keep trying!

Sara Barger

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Roundtable Roundup

Documentary: *Magazine-style Docs*
Monday, **March 13, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: *First Five-Pages Reading*
Co-hosted by The Actors' Center
Monday, **March 27, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

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.**

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.

New and Renewing Members (Jan 26 - Feb 28, 2023)

Nikki Abban
Nasreen Alkhateeb
Sacha Allen
Andee Arches
Sandra Brennan
Suzanne Brindamour
Jason Bunyan
Michael Camoin
Alexandra Carrera
Nutan Chada
Randi Cohen Coblenz
Anne Cocklin
Emily Colon
Gail Cronauer
Cindy D'Agostino
Ben Dally
Araceli De Leon
Susan DeFord
Matteo Deneux
Robyn DeShields
Irene Fanous
Debra Fulk
Tracy Garrett
Toni George
Paige Gold
Nicole Gray
Maureen Cohen Harrington
Jennifer Harris
Melanie Hart
Nazia Hashimyar
Diana Ingraham

Ramah Johnson
Joy Jones
Terry Jones, CPA
Susan Kehoe
Clara Kelly
Aviva Kempner
Peter Kimball
Kelly Kimbis
Hilarey Kirsner Leonard
Margaret Kivlen
Shannon Kring
Damien Krzesinski
Kevin Lahr
Cameron Lawson
Donna Lewis
Myra Lewis
Fabienne Lips-Dumas
Lisa Lucas
Susan Lutz
Dani Marek-Gamez
Rhonda McDaniel
Emily Messina
Joan Michelson
Michael Nephew
Robin Noonan-Price
Geoffrey O'Gara
Carmen Paral
Maria Patente
Patricia Perry-Burgess
Wanda Petty
Mignon Pinson

Rosemary Reed
Hillary Reskin
Charlotte Rinderknecht
S. Mari Robinson
Melissa Rogers
Malikkah Rollins
Erica Rowe
Douglas Ryan
Silvia Samayoa
Patrick Sammon
Gary Schonman
Alexis Siegel
Darryl Singletary
Oksana Skrynnik
Carol Slatkin
Sheila Smith
Flo Stone
Daria Strachan
sheri ratick stroud
Sarah Teagle
Diego Torres
Waleed Waite
Emily Wathen
Olivia Whiteley
Rebekah Wingert-Jabi

Corporate Supporters:
Double R Productions
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Wonder Pictures

News You Can Use

Emerging Filmmaker Survey - Your Input Matters

My name is Kayla Patterson, and I am currently a master's student at Georgetown University. This survey is being released by WIFV on behalf of my capstone project. The purpose of this survey is to gauge the thought process and actions behind individuals, aged 20-30, who choose to join film and media organizations like WIFV. To ensure privacy, all information and responses will remain confidential. [Take the survey here](#). I appreciate your time and participation. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Kayla Patterson at kap177@georgetown.edu. Thank you!



This research was funded by **Telefilm Canada** and undertaken by digital strategist **Annelise Larson**. During this research, which included a review of multiple reports, articles and studies from 2020 to 2022 on the state and future of the film industry and conversations with 25 experts from around the world, including some patterns have emerged. There are significant challenges, potential opportunities, and foundational best practices to better support Canadian film in the world. The way to create a more sustainable independent feature film ecosystem in Canada can be guided by this understanding. [Read full report here.](#)



‘This is real’: Sesame Street’s first Black woman puppeteer fills ‘impactful’ role

Megan Piphus Peace grew up watching her friends on *Sesame Street*. She loved the characters so much, she thought they were real.

Piphus Peace never dreamed that decades later, she’d be working on the same set as the

characters she watched as a child — while inspiring young Black girls to pursue their own unique talents.

Piphus Peace, 30, is the first Black woman puppeteer on *Sesame Street* in its 50-plus year history. What started as an internship in March 2020 evolved into a permanent role as the voice of Gabrielle, a 6-year-old, "fun-loving" Black Muppet who likes singing, dancing, animals and nature. [Read full article here.](#)

Megan Piphus Peace, poses with Gabrielle, her character on *Sesame Street* (photo credit: Zach Hyman)

DAWG From Reflection to Release: Framework for Values, Ethics and Accountability

Documentary Accountability Working Group’s **From Reflection to Release: Framework for Values, Ethics and Accountability** has six guiding principles.

- Integrate anti-oppression practices into your work.
- Be transparent in your relationships.
- Acknowledge your positionality.
- Respect the dignity and agency of the people in your film.
- Prioritize the needs, wellbeing and experience of the people associated with your film.
- Treat all potential audiences with dignity, care and concern.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Impact Producing - Feb 1

In this workshop, Award-Winning Documentary Filmmaker and Impact Producer, **Laura Seltzer-Duny** will share successful impact strategies based on her films. She will help attendees assess how their film (or film idea in development) can:

- Encourage social action & activism;
- Help change public policy;
- Engage experts to develop & coordinate educational materials to accompany the film;
- Support causes and communities featured in a film.



Wednesday, March 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.

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



You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation for the coffees held on Zoom.

In-Person Coffee [RSVP here](#)

Friday, **March 3, 9:00 am**

Panera, 8541 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring

WIFV Executive Members

[RSVP here](#)

Tuesday, **March 14, 9:00 am**

Reel Moms Coffee [RSVP here](#)

Friday, **March 17, 10:00 am**

Short Film Challenge Theme is PACE

LGBTQIA+ In-person Happy Hour

Wednesday, **March 22, 6:30 pm**

WIFV Office, 1200 18th Street NW, DC

[RSVP here](#)



Strategizing for Your Series - March 16

How do you grapple with a story that is too big to be just one movie and really needs to be a series? You join a workshop with **Ligiah Villalobos** that will center on the importance of thinking about your story in terms of 39-100 episodes and the importance of having complex characters that can grow and evolve over multiple series. She will also discuss the difficulty of sustaining a high-concept idea through multiple seasons rather than through character-driven stories. By participating in this workshop you will have a perspective to truly evaluate your idea related to series longevity, be better informed about how your scripts need to progress, and be more prepared to develop your pitch.

Thursday, March 16, 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](#).

IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT -

March 20

A renegade reporter trailing a young runaway heiress for a big story joins her on a bus heading from Florida to New York, and they end up stuck with each other when the bus leaves them behind at one of the stops. Starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert; directed by Frank Capra; screenplay by Robert Riskin, adapted from a short story by Samuel Hopkins Adams. Watch on Crackle or Tubi for free; rent on Amazon Prime.



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

Monday, March 20, 7:30 pm [RSVP Here](#)

You will receive the login info with your registration confirmation.



Dinners Across the Region March 24

In March 1979, nearly a dozen women hungry for change gathered at Ginny Durrin's house for the first, informal meeting of what would become Women in Film & Video. The WIFV Board look forward to welcoming you to dinners across the region as we celebrate that first gathering, the community that exists to this day, SWAN Day, and Women's History Month. There will be dinner, conversation, and fun!

Dinners will be hosted at five homes on **March 24** with the following hosts: **Sara Barger** (NW, DC), **Candice Bloch** (Falls Church, VA), **Carolyn Dodd** (Bethesda, MD), **Sheri Ratick Stroud** (Falls Church, VA), and **Judith Dwan Hallet** (NW, DC). No more than 8 guests per house. You may list your preference of location when you register, but we do not guarantee any locations.

Friday, March 24, 6:30 pm [RSVP Here](#) Registration closes March 20 at noon.

\$45 WIFV Members / \$55 Public

You will receive the host info and address after March 21.

Resume Swap - March 28

An excellent resume has the power to open doors. Get ready to respond to job postings as the production community gets back to work. We are delighted to work with a range of HR professionals and hiring decision-makers to give you feedback on your resume during the Resume Swap! **There are in-person and Zoom options for participation.**



Industry experts will include:

- **Sara Barger**, Documentary Filmmaker and WIFV President
- **Ken Nice**, Senior Program Manager, TeamPeople
- **Rosemary Reed**, Owner and Founder, Double R Productions
- **Leslie Champagne**, Documentary Film Producer
- **Kate Tsubata**, Producer, Dancing Joy LLC

Tuesday, March 28, 6:30 pm [RSVP Here](#)

\$10 WIFV Members and Students / \$25 Public

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.

