

WIFV NEWS

WIFV People in the News - April 2023

Ariel Baska, Debbi Mack, Phil Shapiro, Gideon Elron, Mel Howerton, Jay Schlossberg, Media Central, Duke & Duck, Kayona Ebony Brown, Malkia Lydia, Jean Rosolino, Kathryn Raaker, Akima Brown, Laurisha Yniguez



Baska Presents on Disability Representation in Horror at SXSW

RespectAbility's Vanni Le with Entertainment Lab Alumni **Ariel Baska** and Kiah Amara, who both spoke on a SXSW panel, **Disability & Horror: Identity & Community** at SXSW.

The history of disability representation in horror has been full of questionable portrayals, but why do so many people with disabilities love horror movies? In this conversation, moderated by Rabia Sitabi, three award-winning horror filmmakers with disabilities will discuss how their disability identity has shaped their work in genre cinema as well as their craft. Additionally, they will discuss the relationship between the horror community and the disability community, and how gatekeeping of identities still prevents both of these spaces from becoming truly inclusive.

Look out for Access:Horror, coming this July, a three-day event packed full of academic panels, short films, and a gala concert exploring and celebrating the history, impact and future of disability in the horror genre. Hosted by Alexandra Heller-Nicholas (author of *1000 Women in Horror*, critic, and FANGORIA columnist), the event will feature various luminaries in the horror and disability advocacy communities. Confirmed guests include a host of established genre filmmakers including Peter Strickland, Rebekah McKendry, Mattie Do, Amanda Kramer, and Brea Grant.



Shapiro Interviews Mack

WIFV member **Debbi Mack** has her feet planted firmly in two worlds -- the world of creative writing and the world of media making. A *New York Times* bestselling author, Debbi has self-published eight novels, two box sets and story collections, and some nonfiction. She also has her own podcast and dabbles with video. WIFV member **Phil**

Shapiro took a moment to do a video chat with her on Zoom and has uploaded their video conversation to YouTube. In this conversation you can learn about the Maryland Writers' Association and Sisters in Crime, the self-publishing web service named Lulu.com and the course Debbi teaches on Udemy -- "Beginner's Guide to Writing Mystery Fiction".

Debbi is always on the lookout for creative collaborators. She's in two screenwriters groups (one of which also welcomes actors) in the DC area and hopes to expand her network closer to Howard County. She has considered, at various times, making a short film, making documentaries, and/or producing a scripted podcast. Among other things. Her website is debbimack.com.



Elron Films in Montana

Gideon Elron spent the winter in Montana skiing and work at the Big Sky Documentary Festival. After watching his skiing footage you can [email him here](#) to get pointers! Of course you can also ask him about his favorite festival docs.

THE RECIPE Premieres in May

THE RECIPE, produced by **Mel Howerton** has been selected to screen at the International Christian Film Festival. Howerton will be attending, along with the lead actress, Candy Dennis. Ms Dennis has been nominated for Best Actress in a Short Film. The Festival will be held May 3-6 in Orlando, FL. [More festival info here.](#)

Written and directed by John M. Forte, the film opens when Delores Sampson invites family friend, Gary Baxter, to dinner in hopes of reconnecting by sharing memories of her son Bobby. Things take a turn when the truth comes out and Gary tries to leave. Forced to face the inevitable pain of what happened to Bobby, Gary and Delores must decide to deal with the reality of healing.



As Howerton shares "This short film proves with the right ingredients, anything is possible. Shedding light on loss of a loved one and PTSD through hope and healing by way of forgiveness. If it touches just one person, the link has already begun."



FEAST YOUR EARS Festival Bound

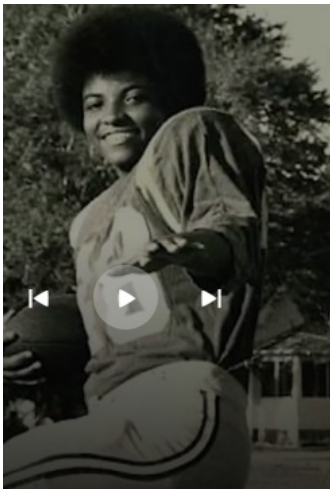
BIG news! **Feast Your Ears: The Story of WHFS 102.3 FM** has received its first **official selection** film festival laurel and, on April 15th, the film will be shown at "ECU - The European Independent Film Festival" in Paris. That's Paris, France not Texas or Tennessee! It

is the 2nd largest indie film festival in Europe and everyone at TeamFeast are quite thrilled about it!

Read more in a recent interview by [The New Current](#) with the film's Director and Executive Producer, and long time WIFV member and sponsor with his company **Media Central, Jay Schlossberg**.

Duke & Duck Receives ADDY

The team at **Duke & Duck** was honored by the American Advertising Federation in DC with two Gold and two Best Of Category awards for Meet Your Covid-19 Vaccine and Nestle Global Family. [Read more here](#) and join the happy dance!



DIARY OF A FORGOTTEN GOAT

DIARY OF A FORGOTTEN GOAT is an NFL Network feature celebrating women in football that explores the legacy, life, and career of one of the sport's overlooked greats, a pioneer for women in the game, and leader of the "winningest team in pro football history," the Toledo Troopers, Linda Jefferson.

In the 1970s, Jefferson rushed for more than 1,000 yards in five straight seasons and finished her career with more touchdowns than Jim Brown. The latest episode of the Emmy Award-winning series is produced by an all-female storytelling team including producer/director by Emmy-Award winner, **Kayona Ebony Brown** and archival producer **Malkia Lydia** and tells the story of a sports pioneer through the words of

Jefferson's diary she kept during her playing days.

The full and short versions of the Linda Jefferson story can be found online at NFL.com. The short version airs throughout linear programming while [the full 11-minute version lives across NFL streaming platforms](#).



Rosolino on Stage

CraftTown, a world premiere runs through April 23 at Maryland Ensemble Theatre in Frederick, MD.

When crime comes to CraftTown, Assistant Manager Scotty DelRio finds a purpose. Can Scotty construct a new identity as a P.I. and sleuth his coworkers' secrets while keeping his own? Comedy and mystery collide in this mid-size retail noir by local playwright Lydia Hadfield. [Get your tickets here](#).

Raaker Co-Authors New Mystery Novel

Jan-Carol Publishing, Inc., of Johnson City, Tennessee, is proud to announce the upcoming release of *Elizabeth Bromwell: The Case of the Chinese Leopard* by mother and son author duo, **Kathryn Raaker** and Robert Taggart.



Together this mother and son duo crafted *Elizabeth Bromwell: The Case of the Chinese Leopard*, which follows Elizabeth and her family as they are tangled in a deadly spy game between the U.S. and China. A stolen file has disappeared, and they are being hunted by the world's deadliest assassins to find Harbinger. Elizabeth will risk losing family and friends to protect this file from getting into enemy hands. The life of an expatriate can be lonely, especially without boundaries in a strange, foreign land full of adventures, longing for home. *Elizabeth Bromwell: The Case of the Chinese Leopard* will be make its debut on Thursday, April 6th and will be available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes&Noble.com](#), and through [Jan-Carol Publishing, Inc.](#)

Kathryn Raaker is Founder and CEO of the Tri State Connection, LLC, Multi Media Company. Ms. Raaker is an International Syndicated Radio and TV personality, novelist, actress, and public relations consultant. She has produced TV programming for children and adults in the U.S. and abroad. Raaker is publisher of Relocation Guides and magazines. Robert Taggart is a former city and sports journalist for the Castro Valley Forum and radio show host for NBC Sports Radio KDUS AM1060, and he also formerly had his own podcast on W4CY. He spent 23 years in sales, marketing, and editing.



RFC's Brown at Festival Panels

The Reel Families for Change family is growing, and with that, its Founder **Akima A. Brown** was invited to speak at not one, but TWO film festivals on panels of fellow change-makers working to make the screen industry more inclusive and accessible.

First, Akima attended SXSW in Austin, TX and spoke on the Parenthood with Cameras panel. They examined and imagined solutions to the constraints placed on parents in the industry. Some of you may have been lucky enough to see this in-person! [Listen to the panel discussion here.](#)

Next up was WIFT-Atlantic's [Making Waves](#) Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia! Akima was a featured panelist on "The Kid Stays in the Picture" discussion, offering advice on how to maintain a balance between a career and a life at home. Akima LOVED visiting Canada for the first time and meeting so many members of the RFC family there!

Yniguez, Script Supervisor

Laurisha Yniguez recently returned to the DMV after being on location in the Mojave desert for the sci-fi movie, *THE LIGHTS ABOVE*. Managing continuity during dusk was challenging, but seeing the stars made wrap every day special. She is now available for summer projects as a scripty. [You can email her here](#) and see her in photo with script!



THE LIGHTS ABOVE was a challenging project, especially for a short film. A period piece set in 1942 Los Angeles, the film featured extensive production design, ranging from minor props to major sets, all of which required the oversight of a skilled script supervisor. Laurisha not only maintained continuity from shot to shot in a variety of locations but also cataloged every visual detail so that the editor (and the post-production team in general) could make certain decisions more efficiently. Abhinav Tiku, film editor

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.