

WIFV NEWS

WIFV People in the News - June 2023

Ariel Baska, Elizabeth Jacobs, MacKenzie Galloway, Sky Sitney, Vanessa Johnston, Cheryle Franceschi, Eden Raskin Jenkins, Alyscia Cunningham, Mark Ricche, Wonder Pictures, sheri ratick stroud, Virginia Quesada, Andrea Passafiume, Denee Barr, Jacque Greff, Deb Chandler, KF Media Group LLC, Brigid Maher



New Seed Grant Recipients and Fiscal Sponsored Projects

Thanks to the support of this community, WIFV is the only media organization in the area that provides direct support to independent mediamakers. We are pleased to announce that **Ariel Baska** (A BAD DAY) and **Elizabeth Jacobs** (THE STOLEN CHILDREN)

will each receive a **Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers grant** in 2023. Thank you to the donors who support this important program.

The following projects have joined the **WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship program**:

A BAD DAY, **Ariel Baska**, Project Director;

THE CONTEMPORARY RECOLONIZATION OF PUERTO RICO, **MacKenzie Galloway**, Project Director.

DC/DOX Film Festival, **Sky Sitney**, Project Director;

DRAGON FROM CHICAGO: The Story of Sigrid Schultz, **Vanessa Johnston**, Project Director;

FOOD, FIBER, & FEMALE FARMER **Cheryle Franceschi**, Project Director;

NOTES OF A CITIZEN: The Marcus Raskin Story, **Eden Raskin Jenkins**, Project Director;

SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT, **Alyscia Cunningham**, Project Director.

More info on all these projects will be available on the WIFV Donate page. **We encourage you to support them with a tax-deductible contribution.**

Ricche Rewrites & Wins

On Sunday May 21st, **Mark Ricche** was the recipient of the *Pittsburgh Motion Picture Screenwriting Contest* First Place in the Horror/Thriller Screenplay category for guess what... *The Congregation*.

"I couldn't get this script past a quarter-finalist placement at any festival prior to the **WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship**. Which tells me one thing... the Fellowship works! This is only one example of how the WIFV Fellowship truly works. The benefits are far reaching. I encourage every member who is a writer to submit!"



Wonder Pictures Receives Telly

Wonder Pictures is excited to share that their documentary, **ENCORE LEARNING, 20 Years and Growing**, won a 2023 Bronze Telly Award. The film was produced by **sheri ratick stroud** and Rich West. The Telly Awards are the premier award honoring video and television across all screens and received more than 12,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents this year. Entrants are judged by The Telly Awards Judging Council — an industry body of over 200 leading experts including advertising agencies, production companies, and major television networks, reflective of the multi-screen industry The Telly Awards celebrates. Partners of The Telly Awards include NAB, SeriesFest, Stash Media and Production Hub.

The film has also received an Award of Recognition from the Accolade Global Film Competition and was a finalist in the Global Film and Music Festival. Watch it below.



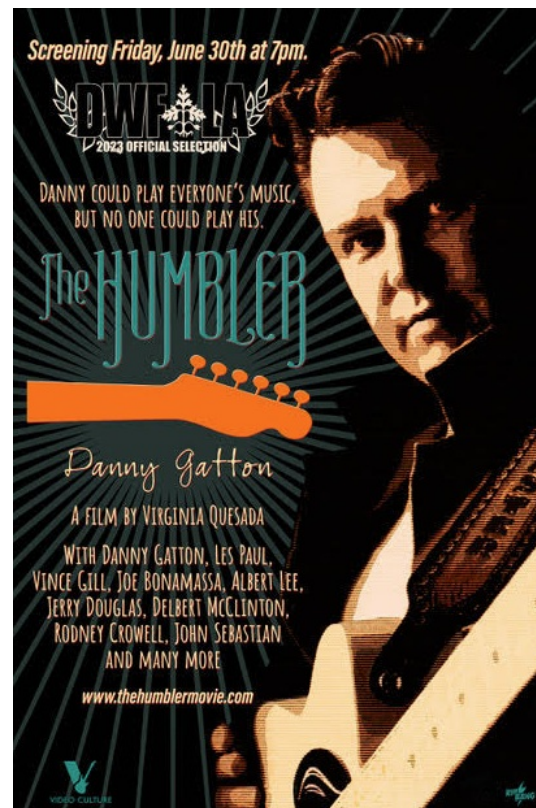
THE HUMBLER Premiere Dancing with Films - June 30

Who is Danny Gatton? If you are a guitarist you probably already know. Danny's mastery of blues, jazz, rock, country, bluegrass and rockabilly so overwhelmed other guitarists, they called him "The Humbler". Though he never got the accolades he deserved in his short life, Danny Gatton has often been called "The World's Greatest Unknown Guitarist".

THE HUMBLER, directed, produced, and edited by **Virginia Quesada**, is the first in-depth exploration of the life, music, and legacy of a troubled genius. We will keep you posted on screenings in the DMV. Encourage your LA-based colleagues to attend the premiere!

[Get tickets here](#)

TCL Chinese Theatre, Los Angeles
7:00 pm on June 30



Passafiume, Festival Programmer

Film programmer **Andrea Passafiume** has been tapped to lead the Programming team for the 2024 edition of the **Seattle Deaf Film Festival**. The festival, now in its 7th edition, will take place in April both in person and online and will highlight films about Deaf, DeafBlind, DeafDisabled and Hard of Hearing experience



and culture.

Passafiume, who also programs documentary features for Tribeca, Sundance, and DOC NYC, is a member of the D/deaf/Hard of Hearing community and recently received her Certificate in ASL (American Sign Language) from Montgomery College's Deaf-led ASL program.

WOCAX Features Barr

Denee Barr is one of the featured artists in the upcoming A Woman of Color Art Expo WOCAX Festival 2023 on Lake Kittamaquandi in Columbia, Maryland at **The 3rd: Women of Color Business Incubator**, Co-Working Space, and Cafe from June 23 - 25, 2023. [Learn more about the event here](#). Attend the Expo FREE on Saturday and Sunday OR support The 3rd by purchasing tickets for their VIP Reception/Fundraiser on Friday and artist panel and networking event on Sunday morning. 10215 Wincopin Circle Columbia, MD 21044



Franceschi Films Focus on Women in Conservation

This time last year, FOREST HER: The Next Wave of Conservation had yet to be completed. Since then, this third original documentary by Por Eco Production's **Cheryle Franceschi** has earned several accolades: Best Short Film, Honorable Mention at the 2022 Utopia Film Festival and laurels from the 2023 Community

Stories Film Festival (Environmental Voices Track), and the 2023 Maryland International Film. Maryland Public Television broadcast the film in December 2022 and April 2023. Melissa Nash, one of the forest-hers featured in the film is pictured above. The National Education Telecommunication Association (NETA) is now offering Franceschi's #ForestHerFilm in its program catalog. [Find out more here](#) under NOLA Code FHNW 0000 H1

Franceschi is already working on her 26:46 documentary, FOOD, FIBER, & THE FEMALE FARMER, slated for release in late 2023/early 2024. The story is about the change makers unified in carrying the torch of justice by upholding solutions for Mother Earth, her fields and waters, and environmental stewards. This will be the fourth original Por Eco Productions presentation edited by WIFV Member **Jacquie Greff**.

New Streaming Platform and Projection Options



As new member, **Deb Chandler**, CEO of KF Media Group, is very excited to share the opportunities her company brings to our industry and membership.

KF Media Group is the exclusive distribution partner for the new streaming platform, **Kokoconnect.tv**. The platform launched 1Q/23 with 50 channels, and has 66 with more coming in 2023. The parent company, ConnectDirect Online expects to add a total of 189 channels to Koko by the end of this year. A FAST TV model, Kokoconnect.tv offers free movies, tv, and sports, VOD (videos on demand,) and Pay-Per-View Events. The platform has fewer advertisements than competitors and no subscription fees! Consumers can watch live from the website, or download the Koko app from Apple App

Store, Google Play, or Amazon Appstore.

ConnectDirect Online is poised to grow [Kokoconnect.tv](#) with captive communities and businesses across the Americas, Europe, and Africa through their free internet offerings.

The company released the Koko Smartphone in May, with projection capabilities from an Android device, allowing consumers to take their entertainment virtually anywhere, by projecting up to a 100" screen from the phone. No surprise that [Kokoconnect.tv](#) is embedded in each Koko Smartphone!

KF Media Group is currently offering non-exclusive rev-share distribution agreements, VOD distribution for film releases, and Pay-Per-View events. If you have great content that is sitting, or you want more eyes on your content, and are looking for distribution let's talk. With certain parameters, we are also willing to offer a Letter of Intent for distribution to [Kokoconnect.tv](#) for your investment raises.

"Don't Go Loco Over High Subscription Fees, Go Koko!" Kokoconnect.tv



Anacostia Youth Media Fest Success

When filmmaker **Brigid Maher** screened **Experimental Curator** at the

Minneapolis/Saint Paul International Film Festival, she also attended the festival's Next Frame Youth Program, founded by Craig Laurence Rice (Minneapolis College of Art and Design) and now run by Deborah Girdwood (Walker Art Center).

Maher was so blown away by the one-day event, she went home and wrote a grant to do the same thing and thus the Anacostia Youth Media Festival was born!

We were thrilled our Anacostia Youth Media Festival events sold out. We had over 100 youth and family participate from all over the city and attend events at the two-day festival. We gave out \$800 in cash awards (THANK YOU DONORS!) and eight outstanding awards! We had a standing room only screening on May 20th!

We are planning our planning our next year and we'd love continued support. Your **tax-deductible donations** will go directly to youth programming and events designed in collaboration between American University faculty and students and participating DC youth and families.

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.