



# WIFV NEWS

## WIFV People in the News - Nov 2023

Bridget Bell McMahon, Joseph Dzikiewicz, Mary Beth Warner, Lexi Christie, Wonder Pictures, sheri ratick stroud, Jean Rosolino, Tonal Vision, Mark Ricche, Robin Farmer, Audrea Topps Harjo, John Aaron, Day Al-Mohamed, Felice Berkowitz, Shira Gordon, Steve Douglas-Craig, #GalsNGear, Samantha Panchevre, Dr. Susan Perz, ScriptDC instructors and participants.



### And the Winners are....

WIFV was honored to include a table read of the four finalists from its First Short Screenplay Competition on Saturday, October 21 as part of ScriptDC. **The Actor's Center** coordinated the amazing readers - Alexandra Ade, Carol Cadby, George Kassouf, Shari Lewis, Karyn-Siobhan Robinson, and Joel Snyder. The finalists were:

COFFEE CHOICE by **Bridget Bell McMahon**

CYBERLIGHT by **Joseph Dzikiewicz**

EXCUSE ME by **Mary Beth Warner**

MONTAGE by **Lexi Christie**

The first place check of \$500 was given to Ms. Christie. Mr. Dzikiewicz received the \$250 second place prize and Ms. McMahon and Ms. Warner both received Final Draft 12. We look forward to watching the progress of all these scripts.

This competition is one of many ways that WIFV provides direct support to its members.

## STAR TIME and More Awards

**Wonder Pictures LLC** headed up by Board Member **sheri ratick stroud** is thrilled to share exciting news about their latest film STAR TIME. Screening at the 4th Dimension Independent Film Festival, Director Rich West was voted Best Director of a short. In addition, STAR TIME screened in the Pittsburgh Moving Pictures Film Festival where Rich won Best Director in a Fantasy short film AND WIFV member **Jean Rosolino** won Best Performance in a Dramatic short. Congratulations to you both!



The Crawdaddies' Last Squeeze Tribute, sponsored by **Tonal Vision**, was held on Sept. 22, 2023 at the Creative Alliance Theater. The 25-minute highlights video above captures performance and video clips from the 3+ hour event. [The complete video series from the event is available here](#). Thanks to the many musicians who donated their time and talent, to the Creative Alliance for their facilities and great-sounding stage, and to Nancy Longo and the Pierpoint Restaurant for their excellent refreshments.

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## Ricche Wins at VA Screenwriter's Forum

WIFV Executive Member **Mark Ricche** was recently the recipient of the Virginia Screenwriter's Forum *First Act First Look* Screenwriting Competition Grand Prize for his script DAREDEVIL. At a ceremony held on August 26th, at the Ashland Theatre in Ashland, Virginia, Mr Ricche was recognized by honored guest judge **Erica Arvold**, and **VSF** Director **Robin Farmer** (pictured L-R above). DAREDEVIL centers on a young mother of three who is challenged with breaking the all time female car jumping record set in 1974 by America's stunt sweetheart Debbie Lawler, who beat **Evel Knievel's** indoor record by jumping 101 feet, being the first woman to set such a record.



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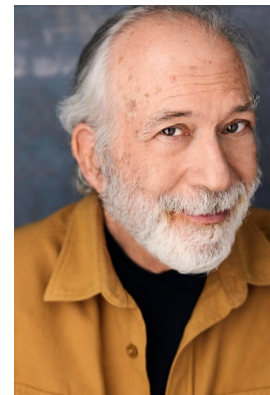
## AMPAS Gold Reception

Earlier this month the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) in conjunction with Howard University, hosted a Gold Reception in DC with featured guests Ruth E. Carter and Kim Taylor-Coleman. Pictured are Ms. Carter and WIFV Executive Member **Audrea Topps Harjo**.

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## Aaron Debuts Standup

**John Aaron** will debut his standup comedy routine at the Rock Bottom Lounge in Bethesda on November 18. John is a writer, actor and former WIFV Board Member. His award-winning romantic comedy screenplay JULIE LEAVES THE NEST was produced by fellow WIFV member **sheri ratick stroud**. After carefully concealing his comedy chops during a 40-year career as a CPA, John is finally letting his hair down – at least what's left of it. Please help John protect his fragile ego by cheering him on at the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, 7900 Norfolk Ave (corner of St.Elmo Ave & Norfolk) Bethesda, MD 20814. [Make dinner reservations here](#). Just going for laughs? The Comedy Showroom Seating is first come/first seated and cash only. Seating in the Comedy Showroom opens at 7:15 pm. Show starts at 8:00 pm.



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## A Talk with Filmmakers and Disability Rights Advocates James LeBrecht and Day Al-Mohamed

James LeBrecht, photo by Irene Searles and Day Al-Mohamed, photo by Rachel Ellis-Muniz

“Be willing to hire that person with a disability.... This

isn't just about diversity because it's nice. These are things that make your film better, that make your industry better, and as a whole, actually can make the country better. Why? Because everyone has a place, and has a say, and has something to offer.” -- **Day Al-Mohamed**

In this podcast, LeBrecht and Al-Mohamed discuss their work to create a space in media for stories by, for, and about people with disabilities. [Listen here](#) They are two founding members of **FWD-Doc**—a global, intersectional community of disabled creators and allies working in media to build a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable entertainment industry that cultivates and champions disabled media-makers, and elevates stories by, for, and about people with disabilities. LeBrecht is a film and theater sound designer and mixer, author, disability rights activist, and filmmaker, who with Nicole Newnham produced and directed **CRIP CAMP**. Al-Mohamed is an author, filmmaker, disability policy strategist, and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. **THE INVALID CORPS**, a documentary about disabled veterans' contributions during the Civil War, was her first documentary as a blind filmmaker.



## Berkowitz Researched Wilder!

REMEMBERING GENE WILDER, will have limited screenings in the northern VA, DC area in December. If you have enjoyed any of Wilder's films over the years or are just curious about him, this is your chance to learn more. The film was directed by Ron Frank of Frank Productions. The film will be playing at Cinema Arts in Fairfax on Sunday, December 3rd at 2:30 PM and at the Cafritz Hall at the Edlavitch Center in Washington, DC on Thursday, December 14th at 7:30 PM. [Get tickets here for either screening.](#)

**Felice Berkowitz** did research, mainly tracking down photos of Wilder's early life history in Milwaukee, speaking with some folks who knew him, or knew of him, in his early years. She received a film credit as a "research assistant".

## Gordon & SheRockScience

**Shira Gordon, Ph.D.**, is excited to join WIFV. After many years as a research scientist, she switched directions to science communication in 2018. As a video producer she has written, directed, edited, and even appeared in some of her videos. In 2020, Shira won the producer of the year award for the Community Media Access Collaborative in Central California. She specializes in science and health topics as well as adventure--combining the two when possible! [You can see some of her personal work on her website.](#) Shira's most recent video is one of a new series highlighting researchers at the National Institute of Health Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) for the institutes 75th anniversary; she has interviewed 18 scientists for this project. Shira loves to collaborate and connect, [email her here](#).



## Douglas-Craig Interviewed

**Steve Douglas-Craig** shared the link to his recent Film Courage interview (watch at



left). In it he discusses 'Should a character in your story have a super objective? Why? What is a super objective and how does it function to elevate your screenplay? These and other questions about plot versus character make this a must watch interview. [Learn more about Douglas-Craig's new workshop series here.](#)

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## #GALSNGEAR Happenings

#GALSNGEAR launched their virtual **Tequity Hub** to share monthly Q&A's on technical and career topics, and links to upskilling/reskilling tools. Plus they launched a new Beta Testing program to pair companies with women who can beta test software and hardware (only 23% of beta testers are women!) First up will be Chyron and Adobe!



They have also been connecting internationally! A full article by TVB Europe includes info on #GalsNGear on page 20. [Access magazine here.](#) They were also at IBC/Amsterdam in September. [Read more here.](#)



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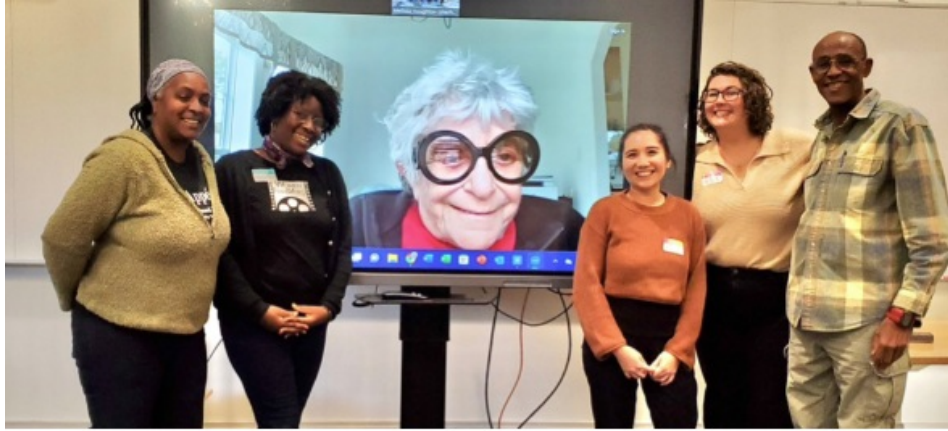
## Announcing Fall 23 Cohort

We are honored to share that WIFV Members **Samantha Panchèvre** and **Dr. Susan Perz** are part of the Fall 23 Cohort of **Stories Change Power**. Eight talented people from around the country were selected for the inaugural cohort of new advocacy communications professionals.

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## ScriptDC - Make It!

WIFV was delighted to again host ScriptDC as an in-person event focused on immersive learning to get ideas to screens. Participants and actors totaled 70 indie filmmakers! Pictured below are Lisa Scott, Ramata Eller, Kathy Nguyen Li, Laura Kroeger, and Tilahun Selassie participants in the Directing Soup to Nuts with Joan Darling (on screen). The lower photos are from the Lighting and Camera Motion Master Class taught by Sheila Smith, Louise Hernon, Daniela Mileykovsky, and Mike Peters. Other master classes were Line Producing for Narrative Films with Maureen Ryan, Documentary Directing and Producing with Nina Gilden Seavey, and Editing in DaVinci Resolve and Premiere Pro with Lily Klein, Grace Novak, and Sara Barger.



ScriptDC 2023 is supported in part by [Office of Cable Television, Film, Music & Entertainment](#), [The Maryland Film Office](#), [Virginia Film Office](#), [Blackmagic Design](#), and [Final Draft](#).

**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](mailto: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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