

February 2024

**New and Renewing Members (Jan 2 - 30, 2024)**

Lulu Bennani-Smires  
Susan Borke  
Kayona Ebony Brown  
Cintia Cabib  
Liang Cai  
Claire Callahan  
Elizabeth Centenari  
Frank Cervarich  
Namita Chopra  
Adrienne Cleary  
Elyse Cosgrove  
Deryl Davis  
Ari Davis  
Danielle Davy  
Rebecca Doherty  
Maxine Downs  
Lynda Erkiletian  
David Geraci  
Maureen Gosling  
Jonathan Gruber

Catherine Hand  
Bernice Harleston  
Maureen Cohen Harrington  
Tanya Hutchins  
Heather Hutt  
Yari Jamali  
Stephanie Kolar  
Ellen Lent  
Jennifer Marcano  
Megan Marcotte  
Elise Markle  
Evangeline Mitchell  
Maggie Mulloy  
David Nathan  
Sue O'Hora  
Teresa Palaia  
Andrea Palombella  
Brian Pascale

Robyn Peterson  
Renata Phillippi  
Jill Ray  
Linda Robbins  
Andrea Rogers  
Douglas Ryan  
Anne Saul  
Alex Schor  
Robin Smith  
Patty Stern  
Daria Strachan  
Kristen Udowitz  
Laura Waters Hinson  
Nicole West

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**President's Message**



What comes to mind when you think of February? Valentine's Day? Black History Month? Awards season? How can we celebrate all three?

*Awards Season*

I admit it. I'm a sucker for award shows, my favorite being the Oscars. Last week, the Academy Award nominations were announced. Certainly, there were some surprises. There were some glaring snubs ("Ken" was nominated, but not "Barbie" and not Greta). There were also some historic achievements for women. This was the first

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## Roundtable Roundup

**Documentary:** Trailer Night  
**Monday, Feb 12, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Editors:** Why Be an Editor?  
**Tuesday, Feb 13, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club:** KING RICHARD  
**Monday, Feb 19, 7:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Screenwriters:** First 5-Page Readings  
**Monday, Feb 26, 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 these 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](mailto: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 supporting colleagues.** Send your photos to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org). Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

**Great month for getting WIFV merchandise.**



time that three women directors had films nominated in the **Best Picture category.**

In Los Angeles, I hosted an annual Oscar viewing party. Perhaps next year, I'll start doing an East Coast version. In the meantime, I'm thankful for our friends at the DC Film Society who host an "And the Winner is..." Oscar viewing party each year. WIFV members receive a discount. [You can register for the March 10 DC Film Society party here.](#) I may have missed the Golden Globes due to my travel schedule, but I will NOT miss the Oscars!

I will use February to watch as many of the nominees as I can. I'll host "watch parties" online, and head to the theater to see as many as possible.

### *Black History Month*

During Black History month, I watch new films made by black filmmakers or films that tell the story of notable African Americans. February's Film Club selection is KING RICHARD (2021). Join us on Feb 19 for a lively discussion about the father of Venus and Serena Williams and how his story was portrayed in this biopic. [Register here.](#)

A few of my favorite films to re-watch in February: HIDDEN FIGURES (2016), SOMETHING THE LORD MADE (2004), REMEMBER THE TITANS (2000), and LADY SINGS THE BLUES (1972).

### *Valentine's Day*

Ahhh...love is in the air. What is your favorite Valentine's Day film or romcom? I have too many favorite romantic comedies to list here, but three of writer/director Nora Ephron's films are in my top five.

WIFV is doing a loving thing in celebration of Valentine's Day. The first 14 new members who join in February will have their administrative fee waived. If they're referred by an existing member, that member will receive a complimentary admission to a Wednesday One program of their choice. [Join WIFV here.](#)

My Valentine's Day movie watching will be LEAP YEAR (2010), starring Amy Adams, since this is indeed a leap year.

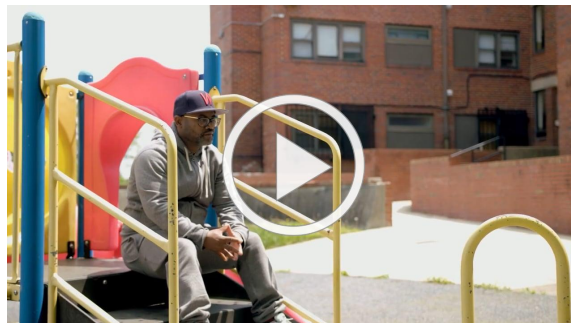
Happy February!

**Connie St. John**

## Having Fun at WIFV Holiday Party!



Upper Right: The door prize winners! CJ Crim, Andre Lutiere, and Namita Chopra (L to R)  
Door prizes donated by Final Draft, OCTFME, Connie St. John, and WIFV  
Photo Credit: Hillary Reskin



## DISTRICT OF SECOND CHANCES Premiere at DCIFF

Please join **Wynette Yao** for the DC premiere of **DISTRICT OF SECOND CHANCES**, a 77-minute feature documentary that follows three men who were sentenced in their youth to life in prison. Thanks to forward-looking "second chance" legislation, Pete, Gene and Colie have the chance to plead for release. The film "grabs your heart immediately, without being naive. It's a very healing and endearing film." (Merle Worth, Filmmaker)

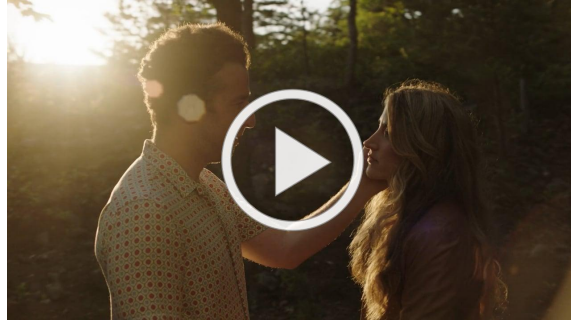
A production of FMM Foundation, the documentary was directed and produced by Wynette Yao, and filmed and edited by Travis Edwards. The original score is composed by Ian McLeod's Cleod9, with additional music by Joseph Jeuxsmeaux Wilson and Dupont Brass. [Get your tickets here.](#)

**DISTRICT OF SECOND CHANCES** offers a different approach to fighting violent crime at a time when Washington, DC is struggling with this issue. DC activist Tony Lewis said-- "Given the debate going on now, it's an important, must-see film." Pulitzer Prize winning author James Forman, Jr. wrote: "Through raw, intimate human stories, this film shows us

how Washington, DC has decided to welcome home a generation it once abandoned. Honest and hopeful, this film is guaranteed to soften hearts, lift spirits, and change minds."

The film had its world premiere at the Dances with Films Festival in NYC on Dec 3, 2023.

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## Exclusive DC Premiere of *BURST THE SILENCE*

Rolling Pictures announces an exclusive showing of the feature film *BURST THE SILENCE* on February 19 at the Miracle Theatre in Washington, DC. Based on the musical *LIGHT YEARS*, which premiered at Signature Theatre in 2018, the film is a musical fable about a father and son and a gift that gives voice to a haunted past. *BURST THE SILENCE* features Bobby Smith, Marcy Harriell, Nick Blaemire, Dylan Silver, Declan Fennell, Susan Rome and Robbie Schaefer. With an indie folk-rock score by Robbie Schaefer, *BURST THE SILENCE* is a poignant memoir about forgetting and remembering and being lost. And being found. The film is directed by Eric D. Schaeffer and produced by **Mark Maxey** and Rolling Pictures. [Purchase tickets here](#)

Limited seating available.

\$20 for film and Talkback with Creatives and Cast

\$45 for film, Talkback with Creatives and Cast, and Souvenir Book which includes a download for the Original Motion Picture Soundtrack.

MIRACLE THEATRE 535 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE Washington, DC FEBRUARY 19 at 7pm

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## Cunningham in London

"I'm writing this while in route back home to Maryland. I honestly struggled with what I should focus on about my first trip to the UK, but... the one thing that became prominent in my mind (and usually does) is what I am grateful for.

Aside from the enlightening array of films screened at the London Short Film Festival, including my own (*SENSES*), the panel discussions, particularly one on the importance of team collaboration, were exactly what I needed during this period of my life. Although I've successfully produced six short films and another is in the works, I do recognize that I am embarking on new territory with my goal of producing my first feature-length film." [Read Alyscia Cunningham's full blog here](#)

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## WIFV Mems at CenFlo Fest

**Susan Perz, PhD** (*SAVING JAGUARS AND OURSELVES*) and **sheri ratick stroud** (*ENCORE LEARNING: 20 Years and Growing*) were both at the Central Florida Film Fest with their docs! Both Perz (left) and ratick stroud (right) will be at other festivals with their films this year!



Both films were well received and Perz was featured in a filmmaker Q&A. More info from

Perz - My film isn't just about saving jaguars--it's really about finding ways to protect the Amazon Rainforest and the Pantanal Wetland located 500 miles south of the Amazon. Both are struggling after five years of extreme drought - 60 of 62 areas of the State of Amazonas were in a state of emergency from fires in fall 2023 . I filmed SAVING JAGUARS in the Northern Pantanal during the summer of 2022--the only year, out of the last four, that it didn't burn. Local people in these areas of Brazil are fighting fires with very little equipment to save their homes, jaguars, and wildlife. What can we do to help? **If we use small local banks or credit unions instead of the big banks--our money is not used to support fossil fuels or deforestation since small banks and credit unions loan money locally.**

The Forest Act is a bill in Congress right now that would require corporations to prove that their supply chains do not include materials from areas that have been newly deforested. Contact your representative! A similar bill has already passed in the U.K. **You can learn more about SAVING JAGUARS AND OURSELVES and find links for actions you can take here.** Perz also created a website to help people understand 10 Main Aspects of Climate Change Discussed at COP28--AND it also has a Climate Action Treaty where you can choose up to 24 items that you would support as part of a Citizens' New Deal Package of Actions and Legislation. **Help save the planet here.**

*I appreciate WIFV for all the many ways it provides support to filmmakers! WIFV has made a huge difference in helping me feel I am not alone on this journey and by providing real and affordable knowledge and skilled information that has been so valuable in so many ways! Susan Perz PhD*

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## Clean Cuts & Asgard's Wrath 2

In collaboration with Sanzaru Games, Inc. and Oculus Studios, our team here at **Clean Cuts Interactive** is excited to announce the release of "Asgard's Wrath 2"!

In this epic adventure, players continue to pursue their ultimate goal of stopping Loki's mayhem throughout the mortal realms. One of the largest in scale action RPGs experienced in VR to-date, players battle monstrous enemies, solve god-size puzzles, and explore several playable realms in a fight for the fate of reality.

This game has it all: A fully featured 100+-hr campaign with four playable characters, a roguelite mode with asynchronous multiplayer gameplay, mind-bending anomalies in mixed reality, and more. Trust us when we say this will absolutely blow you away and really is a full-size undertaking in AAA VR gaming.

More than four years in the making, a team of seven Clean Cuts Interactive sound designers spent thousands of hours creating, crafting, and implementing the custom sound design for this landmark title. From unique weapons to signature sounds, boss monsters to tailored spells & abilities: You hear it, we touched it.

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## Capital Irish Film Festival

## February 29 - March 3

**CIFF 2024** will open with the East Coast premiere of award-winning Irish director Lisa Mulcahy's **LIES WE TELL** (Best Cinematography in an Irish Feature, Galway Fleadh 2023 - Eleanor Bowman), fresh from its American Premiere at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. The film is a sharp, taut, suspenseful and gritty gothic drama with a feminist twist, adapted by Elisabeth Gooch from the revered Sheridan Le Fanu novel, *Uncle Silas*. The cast includes Agnes O'Casey (Bingham Ray New Talent Award Winner at the Galway Fleadh; **RIDLEY ROAD**), David Wilmot (**THE WONDER**), Holly Sturton (**SMOTHER**) and Chris Walley (**YOUNG OFFENDERS**). The film is slated for February 29, 7:00 p.m.

**SOLAS NUA** 

The festival's closing film is the East Coast Premiere of **VERDIGRIS** (Best Independent Film, Galway Fleadh 2023; Best Narrative Feature, Kerry Film Festival 2023; Best Feature Film, Irish Film Festival London 2023; Audience Award–Best Irish Film, Newport Beach Film Festival 2023) by Patricia Kelly, an exciting new voice in Irish cinema. This edgy debut feature depicts an unlikely friendship and the diverse social realities of two women from opposite ends of Dublin (Geraldine Mc Alinden and Maya O'Shea). Using incredible humor and charm, the film tells a powerful story about class, female friendship, and empowerment. **VERDIGRIS** is slated for March 3, 6:45 p.m. [Get passes here](#)



## Narrative Script Development Fellowship Application Deadline - February 9

Through the nine-month WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship, open only to WIFV members, accomplished film professionals will work with 4-6 Fellows to take feature-length scripts from page to production. Three meetings per month with mentors – will workshop the scripts through all aspects of pre-production and development. The Fellows will also meet monthly, forming a cohort to support each other as they move out of the Fellowship. By program's end, the Fellows will have a shooting script, budget, a plan to make their films and access funds, OR a project they can successfully pitch to producers outside of their teams.

**Application process starts here.** There is a \$50 application fee. Applicants must be WIFV Members in good standing. Application deadline for the 2024 program is February 9, 2024. [More info here.](#)

The WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. To find out more about how National Endowment for the Arts grants impact individuals and communities, visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov). Additional support was received from **OCTFME/202 Creates** and the Gem Star Foundation.

## Copyright Alliance Applauds Outcomes of Fair Use Cases Involving 'Appropriation Artist' Richard Prince

On January 25, the district court for the Southern District of New York approved final judgments in two separate copyright infringement lawsuits, which were filed by photographers, Donald Graham and Eric McNatt, against appropriation artist, Richard Prince. On January 26, Copyright Alliance CEO Keith Kupferschmid applauded the case outcomes and issued the following statement:

*The January 25 judgments in the Graham and McNatt copyright infringement cases involving Richard Prince are among the most important fair use decisions in decades. The outcome in both cases is extremely significant and provides us with insights into how last year's Supreme Court decision in Andy Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith will impact future copyright cases involving fair use. The court issued judgments in favor of all claims brought against Richard Prince in both the McNatt and Graham cases, including willful infringement of the photographers' works. The Court dismissed all of the defenses raised by Prince and his co-defendants Larry Gagosian, Gagosian Gallery, and the gallery Blum & Poe, including a fair use defense, which Prince has used in the past to avoid liability for*



## State of the VA Film Industry - Richmond, February 6

The Virginia Production Alliance invites you to one of their biggest events of the year! The annual STATE OF THE INDUSTRY event is a celebration of film and video production in Virginia. Film professionals and those who aspire to filmmaking mix, mingle, get informed, and share information about the current state of the film industry. We will have updates from Andy Edmunds of the Virginia Film Office and legislative news and updates from Matt Benedetti. WIFV will have an information table there.

**Tuesday, February 6, 6:00-9:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Hardywood Craft Brewery - 2410 Ownby Lane, Richmond, VA 23220

Enjoy a complimentary drink ticket and light dinner! VPA Members are \$5, guests are \$10.

This is a great opportunity to become a member of the VPA or WIFV!

### WIFV Receives NEA Funding for Programs

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is pleased to announce the first round of recommended awards for fiscal year 2024, with 1,288 grants totaling \$32,223,055.

Recipients include organizations from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, recommended in the categories of Grants for Arts Projects, Challenge America, Research Grants in the Arts, and Research Labs.



- View a [state-by-state listing](#) of the grants announced in this release
- View a listing of awards by [discipline / grant category](#)

The grant to WIFV will support educational and professional development programs for independent media makers in the Mid-Atlantic.

## Upcoming WIFV Events



### In-person in Annapolis - February 6

We look forward to welcoming you at an in-person Happy Hour in Annapolis. Feel free to bring your favorite snack!

**Tuesday, February 6, 5:00-7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Thibodeau Media Group / Two Producers Studios

11 Lincoln Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

### Marketing Oneself - February 7

A career in filmmaking is all about who you know. Learn from **Laurisha Yniguez** how to network effectively, establish yourself on social media, and share your work periodically to build and maintain your network. By the end of the session, you'll have practical tips and resources to build your brand. [Read Ms. Yniguez's bio here.](#)



**Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Executive Members (must be logged in and use discount code)

\$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](#).



## Coffees in February

### New Member Coffee

Friday, February 2, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login info for the zoom with your registration

### Executive Member Coffee

Tuesday, February 13, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login info for the zoom with your registration

### Reel Moms Coffee

Friday, February 16, 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

The two-minute film challenge theme is THOUGHTS.

Info on how to share your short will be with your registration.

You will receive login info for the zoom with your registration

## KING RICHARD - February 19

WIFV Film Club invites you to join us for our February 2024 selection, KING RICHARD (2021). A look at how tennis superstars Venus and Serena Williams became who they are after the coaching by their father Richard Williams. Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, written by Zach Baylin, starring Will Smith, Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, Saniyya Sidney, Demi Singleton, and Jon Bernthal. KING RICHARD is available to stream on Max and AppleTV and available to rent on Prime Video.



**Monday, February 19, 7:30-8:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the Zoom login information with your registration confirmation.

**Make sure you watch (or re-watch) the film in advance of the discussion.**

Be prepared to share your likes, dislikes, and insights.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



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