

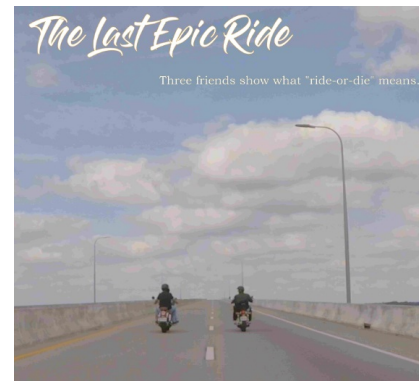
# WIFV NEWS

## WIFV People in the News - March 2024

Rick Kain, Vickie Warehime, Alyscia Cunningham, Kayona Ebony Brown, Debbi Mack, Lois Lipman, Emme Watkins, Jainaba Seckan, Wonder Pictures, Erica Ginsberg, Talaya Grimes, Robin Farmer

### THE LAST EPIC RIDE Screens

THE LAST EPIC RIDE was filmed in numerous locations throughout Maryland and West Virginia including Ocean City, Whaleyville, Easton, Cambridge, Woodbine, Mt. Airy, Thurmont, and Harpers Ferry. Produced and acted in by **Rick Kain** and **Vickie Warehime** it also featured local actors William L. Thomas, Vince Eisenson, Tom Warehime, and David Folderauer. Cinematography was by Jordan Miller and location sound was by Raven Jackson. "We are so proud of all of the local talent we have here in the DMV and glad that we are able to share it with local audiences."



THE LAST EPIC RIDE screened at the 2024 **Ocean City Film Festival** and will screen at the 2024 **Maryland International Film Festival** March 21-24 in Hagerstown, Maryland. The festival is currently setting their screening schedule so stay tuned!

### Cunningham at BGR! Film Fest



**Alyscia Cunningham's** thriller film, **NEGRO MOUNTAIN**, has received its first festival acceptance into the prestigious Black Girls Rock Film Festival. The BGR! FILM FEST, presented by the award-winning BLACK GIRLS ROCK!® brand, is a unique celebration of Black women filmmakers and narratives that honor the Black female experience. The event will take place in June 2024 and will be an integral component of BGR!FEST Week. Watch the trailer below!

### Brown, Sinatra, and Super Bowl Tease

**Kayona Ebony Brown** continues to produce for CBS Sports. "Always an honor to play a little role in BIG sports

stories, especially for the country's greatest and most influential platform, the National Football League (NFL) #SuperBowl." You can watch her work to the right.

"It was beautiful to see Sinatra's version of the song get some shine on the broadcast before the Chiefs and 49ers. The emotional rendition included interviews with players (and their family members) from both teams." *USA Today Sports*



## Mack Script Reading & Podcast Interview



Late last year, **Debbi Mack** received notice that one of her short scripts had been chosen to be read by professional actors as part of the **Environmental Film and Screenplay Festival**. It's a reading by professional actors of the screenplay for a short film called GREEN SCREAM, a horror film about the dangerous effects of plastic on our environment and health. You can watch it to the left! She also had the opportunity to be interviewed on their podcast. [Check it out here!](#)

## FIRST WE BOMBED NEW MEXICO

The story Oppenheimer leaves out.



FIRST WE BOMBED NEW MEXICO exposes the gripping, untold story of government lies, multi-generational cancers, abandonment, and great suffering experienced by local communities in New Mexico since the 1945 Trinity Bomb. Tina Cardova, an inspiring Latina cancer survivor, discovers that residents should have been evacuated before the blast. They were not. Baby deaths spiked, these statistics were covered up - and then the cancers began.

White citizens downwind of later nuclear tests in other states have received some reparations from Congress. Tina's goal is to have Congress extend the act before it expires in June 2024 so the original Downwinders also receive compensation. FIRST WE BOMBED NEW MEXICO exposes the environmental racism and nuclear colonialism in New Mexico and the s-heroes and heroes who are trying to make a difference.

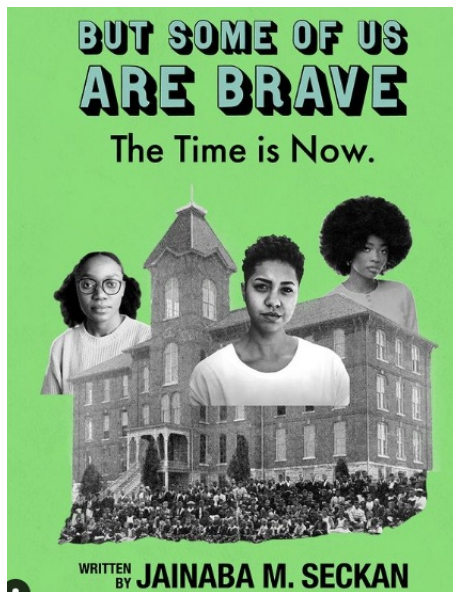
Amid resurging domestic & global threats the film starkly reminds us that radiation doesn't respect national borders, bringing home the idea that we are all downwinders.

**Lois Lipman** produced the documentary under her 47th State Films banner. [Learn more on the film's website](#). You can watch the trailer above and see the film during the DC Environmental Film Festival at 7:00 pm on March 26 at American University, School of Communications, Center for Environmental Filmmaking. [Get your tickets here](#). [Check out the recent review by BBC Film Critic Tom Brooks here](#).

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## NASA! Satellite Launch!

Filed by AU grad student **Emme Watkins!** Over the past two years, Emme has been on a paid fellowship with NASA working on a video project about their newest satellite called PACE. This satellite, the first of its kind, is designed to monitor toxic algal blooms on a global scale. The satellite launch took place in early February and is the culmination of her completing a compelling thesis film. Congratulations, Emme, on this remarkable achievement!



## Seckan's Script Featured

**Jainaba Seckan's** screenplay, **BUT SOME OF US ARE BRAVE** is being highlighted by the Black List in March for Women's History Month.

Inspired by true events in 1976, daring students and a spirited professor at a Black women's college take the school's Board of Trustees hostage and demand a Black woman president for the first time in its nearly 100-year history.

Jainaba Seckan, a 2023 Black List Lab alum, is a screenwriter specializing in historical dramas that center the experiences of women. She is also a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practitioner with experience in higher education, tech, and entertainment.

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## Screening Successes!

**Wonder Pictures** is excited to share great news. The Ocean City Film Festival, which ran from March 7-10, screened 3 of their films: **IMAGINARY FRIENDS**, **STAR TIME** and the documentary **ENCORE LEARNING, 20**

**YEARS AND GROWING**. All 3 films were well received with **ENCORE LEARNING** winning a Best of Festival Award. Coming up next is The Indie Short Film Festival, March 22 to 24, in Charlottesville, VA where **STAR TIME** is being screened. So far **STAR TIME** has been selected for 12 festivals, **IMAGINARY FRIENDS** for 25 festivals and **ENCORE LEARNING** for 7 festivals, with more notices pending.



## PGAHC Grants for Ginsberg & Grimes :)

**Erica Ginsberg** has been awarded a grant to support the *Creative Resilience* project. The Artist Fellowship funding from the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council will support creating an audiobook of her book *Creative Resilience: Reclaiming Your Power as an Artist* which explores how artists across disciplines can navigate the ups and downs of the creative process. It will also support some creativity workshops later this year that will be free for Prince George's County residents. Erica will also be giving a virtual talk on

dealing with creative blocks in collaboration with DOC NYC PRO on Wednesday, March 27. [Learn more about Creative Resilience here.](#)

**Talaya Grimes** is a recipient of The Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council (PGAHC) FY24 Community Grant: Artist Fellowship for her upcoming documentary RECONSTRUCTING EDUCATION: The Freedmen's Bureau Schools. If you will be attending the Queens World Festival at the Museum of The Moving Image and Kaufman Astoria Studios in April in NYC, you can screen STUDIO WITH A VIEW, an experimental short doc directed by Mara Wollong NYWIFT and produced by Talaya on April 18. [Get tickets here.](#)

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## Farmer Directing and Winning

Screenwriter, director, producer **Robin Farmer** filmed her third short last month. **YOU'VE BEEN SERVED**, is a drama about two backstabbing colleagues getting their just desserts. Robin also serves as the Director of the Virginia Screenwriters Forum (VSF).

Robin's comedy short, **DISCONNECTED**, won Audience Choice and Best Actor awards at VSF's 2023 Short Film Showcase. **YOU'VE BEEN SERVED** will be screened at the free VSF showcase at the Ashland Theatre, Saturday, Aug. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. VSF

welcomes you to come check out films written by some of the best writers in Virginia!  
(Pictured above L-R are Patty Smith and Robin Farmer)

## 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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