



WIFV People in the News - May 2024

Mary Frost, Frank Frost, Sylvia Bugg, Samantha Cheng, SWAY, Jennifer Burton, Dave Haft, Mary Awosika, Lance Kramer, Brandon Kramer, Dana Flor, Ariel Baska, Miles Sedgewick, Phil Shapiro, HKM, Cheryle Franceschi, Mandy Steen, Walter Ware, Cedric Hill, Joy Mosley, John Aaron, sheri ratick stroud, Deryl Davis, e Stuelke, Catherine Bobalek, Mark Ricche



Frost Film on MPT - May 19 TEILHARD VISIONARY SCIENTIST

An early 20th Century French Jesuit priest and scientist, in relentless pursuit of the everlasting on earth, encounters fame, love, and implacable opposition from his church. Despite exile and lifelong censorship, his transformational insights into science and faith leave a prophetic legacy for our technological age. [More info here](#). The film is produced by **Frank and Mary Frost**. WIFV served as the fiscal sponsor!

The premiere on MPT is Sunday, May 19 at 4:00 pm. Beginning May 20, you can stream the film via the free [PBS app downloadable here](#).



May 23, 2024

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Join us for a very special evening honoring trailblazing women of vision: Documentary Filmmaker **E. Samantha Cheng** (*Asian Pacific American Members of Congress History Project: Norman Mineta; Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese*), **Sylvia Bugg**, Chief Programming Executive and General Manager of General Audience Programming for PBS. and **Marielle Heller**, Director/Writer/Actor & Founder, Defiant By Nature. The panel discussion will be moderated by **Ann Hornaday**, *The Washington Post's* Chief Film Critic and author of *Talking Pictures: How to Watch Movies*.

SWAY Snags Pollies

SWAY, led by **Jennifer Burton**, took home Pollies for both of its entries: Digital Advertising for a State Legislative Campaign & Digital for State Legislative Independent Expenditure. We're proud that the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) Pollie Awards has recognized our work creating winning digital ads for some of our clients last year.



GOLD: Partnership with Planned Parenthood Wins Top Prize

Our ad "Generations" was awarded top prize for State Legislative IE Digital. The ad, done for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia, features three generations of women in a family who all have strong reasons for wanting to protect abortion rights: A grandmother who fought for the protections of Roe in the early days of the reproductive justice movement, a daughter who has lived through an era where women were guaranteed these protections, and a granddaughter considering raising a family in a post-Roe world.

SILVER: Re-Electing Nadarius Clark, VA House of Delegates

And our Silver medal ad "Bowties" helped voters see Virginia Delegate Nadarius Clark (VA-84) as a likeable, young, hardworking Delegate, with a great record on education... who likes bow ties. Nadarius had garnered a reputation in his district and in Richmond for his bow ties and we wanted to amplify that reputation, but also disarm the attacks that attempted to paint him as a militant woke extremist.

ROOM TO BREATHE Wins

MetroShorts Award at **the 38th Annual Washington, DC International Film Festival!**

FilmFest DC Jury statement - "Our awards to short films aim to shine a light on work by emerging filmmakers which provides a rich, emotionally resonant experience that lingers and expands. The MetroShorts Award goes to **Dave Haft** and **Mary Awosika** for their insightful diary of daily life in their own young family during COVID in Room to Breathe."

Our story lands with audiences thanks to the dedicated work of many. In attendance at our world premiere were (from left below): **Lance Kramer** (Consulting Producer), Ellie Walton (Editor), Dave Haft (Director), Mary Awosika (Producer), **Brandon Kramer** (Story Consultant) and Raul Del Moral (Music Composer). Thanks also to Jordann Smith and Josee Molavi (Assistant Editors) and Youstine Faltas (Story Consultant). [More info here](#).



1-800-ON-HER-OWN at Festivals

Ani DiFranco is an unmistakable talent who shook the '90s folk music scene. Her voice, unique in its tone and power, and her songwriting, full of activism and assertiveness, became a beacon, particularly to young

women who saw themselves in her lyrics and style. In 1990, she started Righteous Babe Records, creating a path to independently release her own music and proving herself as an artist who would do things her way despite the traditional routes.

In 1-800-ON-HER-OWN, Tribeca alum **Dana Flor** explores the life of DiFranco today, still touring and making new music, but now with a partner and two children who understandably lure her home. Beautifully vulnerable in her willingness to bring the audience into the ups-and-downs of a very famous yet still struggling to be heard artist, the film is a testament to DiFranco's rock-solid stature as an iconic musician, unwavering in her artistry.—Liza Domnitz, Tribeca World Premiere Announcement 1-800-ON-HER-OWN will screen at Tribeca starting June 10.

[Get Tickets here](#)



DC Audiences are in luck as the DC Premiere of 1-800-ON-HER-OWN will be June 16 at DC/DOX. [Get your tickets here.](#) Melissa H has hers!

WIFV Members & Easter Seals Disability Challenge

This year's theme: buddy comedies! Each short film is only 5 minutes long. They are all amazing and unique! [Watch them all here.](#)

Ariel Baska was a writer and producer on the short DISABLED AF. Watch it below left.

Miles Sedgewick and Rana Labs filmed and edited the ABLEIST WATCHING entry, directed by Kristin Kinsey and written by Emily Kranking. Watch it below! right.



Shapiro Kudos in *Library Journal*

Phil Shapiro was included in *Library Journal's* 50 Movers & Shakers list this year! He was recognized "as an enthusiastic champion of digital inclusion and outside-of-school learning, assisting youth and adults with public Linux computers at the Takoma Park Maryland Library (TPML) and singing the praises of open-source software through his YouTube channel. Special mention was made of his free paper-based math game, **Pairs**, which uses the LibreOffice Calc platform. [Read the full story here.](#)



WIFV Welcomes HKM

HKM is a national employment law firm that represents individuals and workers in all aspects of employment law and a new WIFV Corporate Supporter! Employment law is a complex area of law, requiring the expertise of an attorney who is highly trained in the field. Our employment law firm at HKM Employment Attorneys offers a wide array of talent to fully represent your employment interests. When you need legal assistance for any employment issue, our firm stands ready to provide you with the necessary representation and advice to address your specific needs. We can review your situation and determine

your legal rights and what legal options are available to you. We are committed to honest and dedicated legal representation for each of our clients. [Reach out to us here.](#)

Morning Ag Clips Features Franceschi Film

FOOD, FIBER, & THE FEMALE FARMER is conservation filmmaker **Cheryle Franceschi**'s fourth original documentary and slated for release in 2024 was recently featured in an article by [Morning Ag Clips](#). A tapestry of authentic stories connecting history, food systems, and the planet—herself. In the film, one story shows how restoration efforts from Horn Point Laboratory, which is part of the University of Maryland System, are improving the waters and oyster populations in the State of Maryland. According to Horn Point Hatchery Manager Stephanie Tobash Alexander, "Last year, we produced over 6.7 billion eyed larvae to produce the 1.76 billion spat. Broken out as 75% of larvae went to restoration and 25% went to industry plantings."



As of Earth Month 2024, Franceschi' sister documentary; FOREST HER: The Next Wave of Conservation has received festival laurels from the Utopia Film Festival, the Community Stories Film Festival (Environmental Voices Track) and the Maryland International Film Festival. It is being offered by NETA Program Services to PBS stations. Efforts are being made to have Por Eco Productions, One Idea/Dos Languages present FOOD, FIBER, & THE FEMALE FARMER to public television for station carriage. [More info here.](#) WIFV is the fiscal sponsor for this film. [You can make your donation here.](#)



Steen Screens LET'S GO in Fairfax, June 6

Mandy Steen is hosting a free screening of her latest short film, LET'S GO!, at the Cinema Arts Theatre in Fairfax, Virginia, on June 6 at 7 p.m. This film explores the unintended consequences of education legislation

on marginalized groups of students through the lens of a tween romance. Through her company, Seen & Heard Productions, Mandy develops films championing misfit heroes and promoting causes needing a voice. [Reserve your free tickets here!](#) Optional donations will go toward future film festival fees.



Ware Serenades

Walter Ware is filling dance cards for seniors as he presents several music events across Maryland in May. **Motown Music Event, May 21, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm** at the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center located at 1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901

[More info here.](#) Ware will inspire dancing while singing some Motown Classics.

Celebrate Older Americans Month, May 30, 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the Holiday Park Senior Center 3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906 [More info here.](#) Join us as Walter Ware plays his usual wonderful melodies and celebrate Older Americans Month. Pre-registration required.



Hill and Mosley Complete **SERVE WITH PRIDE**

SERVE WITH PRIDE is a deeply moving documentary that uncovers the hidden stories of LGBTQIA veterans who served their country in silence under the shadow of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Through heart-wrenching personal narratives, the film pays tribute to these courageous individuals who selflessly gave their all to a country that didn't always embrace them in return. From high-ranking military leaders to dedicated service members, The film illuminates the resilience and bravery of those who served with dignity and honor. Produced by members of the LGBTQIA veterans community in Washington DC and helmed by Cannes Award-winning filmmaker **Cedric Hill** and **Joy Mosley**, this award-winning film has captured hearts and accolades at international film festivals. SERVE WITH PRIDE stands as a powerful testament to the unwavering strength, valor, and love for the country of LGBTQIA veterans, ensuring that their stories are not just heard but cherished and celebrated for generations to come. Contact Ms. Mosley at servewithpridefilm@gmail.com



GALDOT Nominations at VaFF

John Aaron (pictured at right in photo) attended the Northern Virginia Film Festival Awards Ceremony on April 26, 2024 where he and the cast of the award winning short film WAITING FOR GALDOT were nominated for *Best Acting Ensemble*. The film, directed by WIFV members **sheri ratick stroud**, **Deryl Davis**, **"e" Stuelke**, **Catherine Bobalek**, and **Mark Ricche**, was also nominated for *Best Comedy*, *Best Adapted Screenplay*, and *Best Direction!*

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.



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