

April 2025

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## Roundtable Roundup

**Narrative Directors:** *Meet Alyscia Cunningham*  
**Mon, Apr 7, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Documentary:** *Trailer Night*  
**Mon, Apr 14, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club:** THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR  
**Mon, Apr 21, 7:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members / \$15 for public  
 You will receive your login link with your confirmation email

## President's Message



Dear WIFV Members & Friends,

We are preparing to celebrate three media trailblazers – our 2025 Women of Vision – Rachel Morrison, Felicia Pride, and Robin

Noonan-Price - this week. As expected, they inspire me.

Working in this industry, being a member of such an exceptional organization, and having the honor to serve on the Board, means more to me than you can imagine. I am consciously aware every single day that I am surrounded by people who use their voices and their superpowers to make a positive difference in the world.

One of the things I love most about WIFV is how we serve and support our media-making members, both women and men.

Here are just a few examples:

**Mentorship** – The WIFV Mentorship program pairs WIFV members with seasoned industry experts. Although the mentees must be members, the mentors do not need to be. If you missed your opportunity to serve as a mentor, we have a waiting list of mentees who we may be able to pair with you.

**Fiscal Sponsorship** – Our Fiscal Sponsorship program allows qualifying independent film productions to receive tax-deductible contributions and to solicit and receive grants available only to organizations with a 501(c)3 IRS designation, like WIFV. The deadline to [apply for fiscal sponsorship](#) is April 21, 2025. [Read more about how to apply.](#)

## Send Your News & Photos

The 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](#). The 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.



**Financial Support** – The WIFV Board of Directors is pleased to offer a **Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers** to support the work of its members. Grants may be used in the research and development phase of any documentary project and must be spent within 12 months of notice of the award. **The application deadline for the 2025 grant is Wednesday, April 16.**

There are so many ways you can support the wonderful work of WIFV. You can volunteer, **make a donation**, or encourage a friend or colleague to **become a member**.

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” – Coretta Scott King

I'm grateful to be a member of the WIFV community.

**Connie**

Connie St. John

## New/Renewing Members (Feb 24 - March 31, 2025)

Leslie Allen  
Vanessa Anthony  
Mariam Ashraf  
Jax Baires-Diener  
Deborah K. Benner  
Teresa Bono  
Sandra Brennan  
Katherine Brewster  
Alexandra Carrera  
Richard Chisolm  
Jamie Coughlin  
Estrellita Fitzhugh  
Tim Flaherty  
Alan Gaffere  
Suzie Galler  
MacKenzie Galloway  
Amy Garelick  
David Geraci  
Paige Gold  
Sulay Gonzalez  
Maureen Gosling  
Grace Guggenheim  
Jessica Haley  
Nicole Halmos  
Bernice Harleston  
Jack Harris

Keesya Hill-Jones  
Melissa "Mel" Howerton  
Megan Jaffer  
Jeannie Johnson  
George Kassouf  
Susan Kehoe  
Michelle Kim  
Annette King  
Adam Krell  
Shannon Kring  
Raquel Lake  
Astrid Lark  
Ellen Lent  
Lisa Mao  
Shannon Maroney-Garrett  
Brian Matusz  
Bjorn Munson  
Sarah Olscamp  
Dara Padwo-Audick  
Shaunda Patterson-Strachan  
Kristian Perry  
Robyn Peterson

Douglas Ray  
Rosemary Reed  
Geri Reinhart  
Ana Maria Rosato  
Michael Rose  
Gina Rozier  
Christina Ruppert  
Sofia Sandoval-Ferris  
May Santiago  
Gary Schonman  
Laura Seltzer-Duny  
Vinnie Simonette  
Kimberly Skyrme  
Sheila Smith  
Judith Snyderman  
Anna Stephens  
Daria Strachan  
E. Stuelke  
Robin Sundaramoorthy  
Kamilah Thurmon  
Erika Timmons  
Vicki Warren  
Emily Wathen

**Corporate Members:**  
Double R Productions



## Cheng & Michaels Shorts at Bethesda Film Fest, April 4-5

The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District announces the 2025 Bethesda Film Fest. Six short documentary films were selected by an esteemed panel of judges. The screenings will be held at 7pm on Friday, April 4th; and 7pm on Saturday, April 5th at the Bethesda Landmark Theater on Woodmont Ave. All films are shown at both screenings, and are followed by a discussion with the filmmakers. Tickets are \$15.

DORA FUGH LEE: A Life in Art by **E. Samantha Cheng** and MOON CRAB by **Leigh Claire Michaels** will be screened at both times! [Get tickets here](#) or at the door.

## WIFV APPLICATION DEADLINES Documentary Seed Fund Grant - April 16



Few Seed Funds exist for documentary filmmakers. WIFV understands the importance of first-in support and is grateful for the many contributions it has received from its members to support this program. In addition to a grant of \$2,500, WIFV will offer a mentoring component with accomplished WIFV members, provide access to the Executive Director and her knowledge of resources, and bring the power of our programming events and workshops to address key education needs. Student projects are not eligible for this grant. Only current WIFV members may apply. You will receive the link to the application form in your registration confirmation. [More info and apply here](#).

## Fiscal Sponsorship - April 21

### Program Eligibility Requirements

Applications will be accepted from current WIFV members only. WIFV supports fiscally sponsored projects that are consistent with our IRS-approved mission. Eligible projects for fiscal sponsorship must meet one or both of the following criteria:

- Film and media projects that feature women in key, above-the-line roles (specifically: producer, director, writer, editor or director of photography); or
- Film and media projects whose subject matter informs and features women's experiences or points of view.

If a member's project is selected for fiscal sponsorship, they must remain a WIFV member in good standing for the duration of the project. Three letters of recommendation are required. [Click here to learn more about the application requirements!](#) There is a \$50 application fee. [Apply here](#).



## Announcing 2025 Documentary Development and Narrative Script Development Fellows

In its second year, the Documentary Development Fellowship welcomes the following filmmakers and projects to the program:

**Samantha Aben**, PINBOY (wt)  
**Mia Boccella**, BLIND EQUESTRIANS  
**Valeria Massarelli**, DISTRICT OF PUPUSAS  
**Erin Powell**, STRANDS OF RESISTANCE  
**Amelia Ross**, THE AMERICAN DREAM INTERRUPTED

Moving into its fourth year, the Narrative Script Development Fellowship welcomes the following writers and projects to the program:

**Jillian Cardillo**, RUNNING START (episodic)  
**Mike Frank**, AMATEURS (episodic)  
**Kendra Louka**, STILL LIFE  
**Geoff O'Gara**, RUNNING (episodic)  
**Joanna Zelman**, BUNKER STREET

Both Fellowships will run from April into December. Typically, the first meeting each month with the mentors is open to the public. See info about upcoming programs below!

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## WIFV Board Candidate Orientation Meeting - April 23

One way to serve WIFV is with your time and talent! The Board of Directors is looking for members ready to work and engage in guiding WIFV into the future.

We will hold an online meeting at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 23 to provide info to potential WIFV Board of Director candidates outlining the requirements and process for joining the WIFV Board. [RSVP here](#). You will receive the link to the Zoom meeting with your registration.



General and Executive Members (including those representing WIFV Corporate Supporters) are eligible to serve on the WIFV Board and will vote for the candidates. The WIFV Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing programs, governing the organization, ensuring financial stability, and forming partnerships to benefit the membership. Have an expertise? The board is seeking members with diverse skill sets.

**Candidates must submit a candidate statement/biography (maximum of 400 words) and jpg photo to [director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org) by May 6 at 6:00 PM.** Guidelines for providing a candidate statement and biography will be provided.



DC/DOX returns to Washington, DC, for its highly anticipated third edition, June 12–15, 2025. Get ready for four days of powerful cinema from across the globe, thought-provoking discussions with filmmakers, and an expanded “Reality Check” industry forum! A festival pass is your key to unlocking the full DC/DOX experience, including priority access to all programs and exclusive networking events and parties. [Get your pass here](#).

WIFV Members can save an additional 10% off Early Bird Passes. That special discount code will be shared on the Members' listserv later today.

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## New Address for WIFV

WIFV is delighted to announce that it has moved to the Hill Center at the Old Naval Hospital. Phone number remains the same and our new address is:  
921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20003  
Barely two blocks from the Eastern Market metro station!

## Upcoming WIFV Events

### Meet Alyscia Cunningham - 4/7

Film maker **Alyscia Cunningham** will talk about her successful film event held at AFI theatre in Silver Spring, MD on February 16, 2025. She will discuss her projects and her fundraising journey to turn her short film into a feature.

#### Narrative Directors Roundtable

Brought to you by:



**Monday, April 7, 6:30-8:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$15 for public  
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.



### Executive Member Coffee

**Tuesday, April 8, 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login info for the zoom with your registration confirmation

### Coffee in Baltimore

**Tuesday, April 15, 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

The Bun Shop, 239 West Read Street, Baltimore  
Organized by **Jacque Greff** and **May Santiago**

### Happy Hour in Richmond

**Thursday, April 17, 5:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

Best Café at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts  
200 N Arthur Ashe Blvd, 1st Floor, Richmond, VA 23220  
Organized by **Virginia Bertholet** and **Robin Farmer**

### Reel Moms Coffee

**Friday, April 18, 10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

The two-minute film challenge theme is ROSE  
You will receive the login info for the zoom with your registration confirmation  
Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

### Coffee in DC

**Friday, April 25, 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

Le Pain Quotidian, 660 Pennsylvania Avenue SE (Eastern Market Metro)  
Organized by **Anna Greisshammer**, **Melissa Houghton**, and **Paul Mowry**

### Trailer Night - April 14

The Documentary Roundtable/Trailer Night is a regular program co-hosted by Docs In Progress and Women in Film and Video of Washington DC that alternates most months. You will receive the Zoom link one day before the event. We are looking forward to meeting you there!

#### Documentary Roundtable

Brought to you by:



Featured Trailers:

**The Luthier** by Jon Adelman - The Luthier: The Ballad of Amnon Weinstein lyrically explores a master craftsman's lifelong dedication to restoring violins, including the world famous collection of Holocaust violins known as the Violins of Hope, which would become his passion, his obsession, and ultimately his legacy.

**The Art of Scars** by Jess Walters follows artist Jess Walters through kidney failure, dialysis, and transplant, highlighting the interdependence of human health. After being diagnosed with End-Stage Renal Disease, Walters brought their disabled and recovering body into arts spaces, challenging stigmas that deem chronically ill and disabled lives unfulfilling, unpretty, or unworthy. Featuring Walters and their living donor, Charles Nichols, the film reveals the hidden realities of surgery and recovery. Sharing the stories of their scars, Walters invites viewers to confront taboos and recognize the universality of their experience.

**Monday, April 14, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

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

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## **Documentary Development Fellowship Public Programs in April** **How to Think Like a Producer - April 15**

Simple approaches and exercises to open your mind to the producer way. For both development and execution of small and big projects, and long and short formats. Join Producer **Virginia Bertholet** who pulls parts of her Business of Filmmaking college class to help those who want to think more like a producer for their or someone else's film & video projects.

**Tuesday, April 15, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

\$20 WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$35 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation

## **Identify Your Audience - April 22**

Every grantmaker is going to ask you who your audience is before they decide to support your work. "Everyone" is an answer that won't convince anyone. This workshop with **Virginia Bertholet** will help you identify partnerships, audiences, and even film festivals, that can be cultivated to support your film. If you don't start these partnerships early in your process, you are too late!

**Tuesday, April 22, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

\$20 WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$35 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation

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## **Narrative Script Development Program in April** **Pitching Master Class - April 17**

Join **Marilyn Atlas** and **Laurie Scheer** to learn how to make a masterful pitch of your film or series. The presenters bring years of experience from both sides of the desk that will be shared in this program. Our goal is to give you the confidence and information you need to sell your ideas to producers, investors, and your family members.

**Thursday, April 17, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

\$20 WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$35 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

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## **Screenplay Formatting - April 28**

Let **Dr. Format** (Dave Trottier) share the latest trends in formatting and simplify spec screenplay formatting techniques in the process. Dave will cover all the fundamentals (including common blunders) in this brief presentation and make it easy for you to apply this "screenwriting language" and the latest

trends to your current script. Dave will answer your questions afterward, so get the answers you've been seeking!

**Monday, April 28, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

\$20 WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$35 for public

## 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 telehealth.

Email [CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu](mailto:CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu) and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors



[director@wifv.org](mailto:director@wifv.org)



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.



Women in Film & Video | 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, DC 20003 US

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