

# WIFV NEWS

## WIFV People in the News - March 2025

Mark Maxey, Robin Farmer, Jamie Coughlin Silverman, Laura Kroeger, Shira Gordon, Adrienne Cleary



### Maxey and WORDS OF WAR

WORDS OF WAR is based on a true story and follows world-renowned journalist and human rights activist Anna Politkovskaya on her brave crusade, fighting to be an independent voice of truth for the Russian people, putting her own life in jeopardy despite numerous acts of intimidation and violence. While Politkovskaya was ultimately silenced, her legacy lives on and her story serves as a reminder of the dangers that journalists face and the importance of protecting their right to report the news, without fear of death or reprisal.

Producer **Mark Maxey** added, “Every journalist should have the right to report what is happening in the world without fear of death or reprisal. In this era where truth is under siege daily, journalists stand as the last line of defense. Protecting them is not just a duty — it’s a fight for freedom itself.” The film’s release date is pegged to the United Nations’ World Press Freedom

Day. [Read the full article in Variety here.](#)

### Farmer is a Finalist!

Board member **Robin Farmer** recently attended the 15th Annual Athena Film Festival at Barnard College where she was a finalist for the Chinonye Chukwu Emerging Writer Award. Robin is a member of the 2024-25 Athena Film Festival's Writers Lab.



### THE SPIES AMONG US World Premiere and Award Nomination at SXSW 2025

SideXSide Studios returns to SXSW for the world premiere of their new feature length documentary! THE SPIES AMONG US is a rare look into the inner

workings of a data-driven surveillance state run by one of the most feared secret police forces the world has ever known - East Germany’s Stasi.

A personal investigation into family secrets by Peter Keup, a Stasi victim-turned-historian, takes a turn when he contacts the men who ran the system. These are the first conversations of their kind between Stasi officers and a victim. Through these meetings a terrifying mosaic is built of the lengths people go to maintain power in a dictatorship, as well as the indomitable human spirit that seeks truth and self-determination.

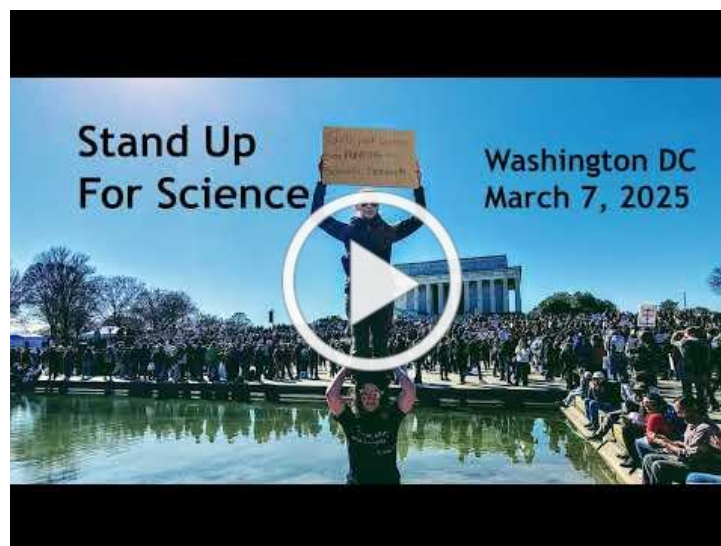
After six years in production, **Jamie Coughlin Silverman**, Gabe Silverman, and the whole team at SideXSide Studios are thrilled to have been invited to premiere at SXSW. "Our nomination for the Best Documentary Feature Award is an honor that we couldn't be more excited about."

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## Kroeger Celebrates in California



**Laura Kroeger** is the Feature Grand Prize Winner of the Final Draft Big Break Contest for her script *BIGGER IN TEXAS!* Part of the prize was a trip west for the Writers Guild of America Awards program and industry meetings. Laura visited the WGA Library (and found the script for *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* episode *Chuckles Bites the Dust* directed by Joan Darling), had lunch with colleagues, and did the red carpet at the WGA Awards Program with Vince Gilligan (creator of *Breaking Bad*, *Better Call Saul*) and Maia Mulcahy (the Final Draft Big Break Grand Prize Winner for TV).



## Stand Up for Science 2025

**Shira Gordon** is sharing a video she created from the Stand Up For Science Protest in March. It was filmed largely with a 360 camera, where I chose the shot after filming. The video shares some highlights from the Washington DC protest. Speakers include the former NIH Director Francis Collins and renowned science communicator Bill Nye.

"I proudly stood with fellow scientists, supporters, and survivors--attributing federally funded science in aiding them. About 2,000 people protested in DC outside the Lincoln Memorial, along with 30 locations across the United States and support from other cities

around the world."

I welcome feedback and any conversations and interest in working together. My schedule is now a lot more open than it used to be. [You can reach Ms. Gordon here.](#)

## Some Nite Music!

From **Adrienne Cleary** - "Last nite, under the full moon, I began improvising this 5 minute piece titled \*nite star\*. I compose by my inner feelings freely and my fingers seem to find and create the sounds to describe my thoughts in that moment of time.

I was feeling grateful, blessed, appreciative, and rejoicing that I was able to imagine sound to convey these feelings at that time.. I was enjoying creating music that flowed instinctively... from the inside out. I added sentiments to the improv in an iMovie which I posted on facebook. [You can watch it here.](#) Thank you for listening to \*nite star\*. I hope you enjoy the piece!!"

## 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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