

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

June 2025

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Roundtable Roundup

Editors: *Look Mom, No Hands*
Weds, May 28, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Narrative Directors: *Meet Landi Maduro*
Mon, June 2, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Documentary: *Trailer Night*
Mon, June 9, 7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: *THELMA & LOUISE*
Mon, June 16, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

President's Message



Dear Wonderful
WIFV Members &
Friends,

It has been my
honor to serve as
your Board
President for the
past two years.

My term has officially come to an end,
but I'm thankful for so many
collaborative accomplishments and
even more cherished memories.

Here are just a few highlights:

- The 45th Anniversary Party at metrobar (September 2024)
- Orchestrating the partnership with Mattel to get 200 Barbies and a special Women in Film Barbie package
- Two amazing Women of Vision celebrations at the National Museum of Women in the Arts (2024 and 2025)
- WIFV's 1st ever Telethon (March 2025)
- Three 45th Anniversary Panels – "WIFV Filmmakers Present..." (One more to go in September)
- Participating in my first-ever ScriptDC Event (October 2024)
- Hosting the WIFV Shorts Screening (my very first assignment as Board President) (July 2023)
- And so many more...

Screenwriters: First 5-page Readings
Mon, June 23, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

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. **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. Please provide a project name and a photo credit.



Of course, there were also all the behind-the-scenes projects and organizing. Since so many WIFV members are producers, you know the work required BTS to make the magic happen. That work, for me, was a labor of love.

What also made my time extra special were the Board members I got to work with and befriend. The volunteer WIFV Board is a committed group of amazing individuals who give constantly of their time and talent to help support the very small staff, led by the indomitable Melissa Houghton.

Thank you to everyone who walked with me during this journey, and a special thanks to those who shared an encouraging word along the way. Your support meant the world to me.

WIFV members are the lifeblood of the organization. Keep using your voices, your talent, and your stories to capture and create history.

It has been an honor.

Connie

Connie St. John

New/Renewing Members (April 30 - May 27, 2025)

Samantha Aben
Stephen Ames
Christina Arellano
Victoria Barrett
Randall Blair
Christine Brown
Kerry Cadden
Sandy Cannon-Brown
Elizabeth Centenari
Anne Chapman
Carly Crickenberger
Elizabeth Crowl
Jennifer Cuciti
Ann Marie Cushing
Siamak Dehghanpour
Julianne Donofrio
Cassandra Dowty
Peggy Fleming
Marcus Ford

Charles Germain
Dave Haft
Pam Hervey
Kris Higgins
Ja'Von Hill
Dorlisa Hommel
Bridget Hunnicutt
Heather Hutt
David Joyner
Nanci Kaiser
Haley Klezmer
Greg Kramer
Lia Kvatum
Nadine Licostie
Emily Lin
Mikhail Maertens
Dan Manatt
Jennifer Marcano
Melanie McGhee

Michael D. Nephew
Beryl Neurman
Kathy Nguyen Li
Samantha Noland
Emily O'Connor
Amy Oden
Celine Okome
Maria Patente
Bryan Reichhardt
William Reid
Malikkah Rollins
Erica Rowe
Sky Sitney
Kelly Tate
Juliana Vaccarro
Keri Williams
Laurisha Yniguez

Corporate Supporters:

News You Can Use



Nominations for WIFV Members!

FEAST YOUR EARS: The Story of WHFS 102.3 from **Jay Schlossberg** and Feast Your Ears LLC, received a nomination for Documentary: Historical. It is a feature length documentary film that will take you on a trip back to the '60s, '70s and '80s when "free form" progressive FM radio was in its heyday in America. Broadcasting

from "high atop the Triangle Towers" near Washington, DC the legendary & beloved WHFS was more than just a local radio station - it was a keystone, and center point, for the music and culture of the era. [Read more here.](#)

E. Samantha Cheng and Heritage Series, LLC also received a nomination for Documentary: Historical for **DORA FUGH LEE: A Life in Art**. Fine artist Dora Fugh Lee grew up during the most tumultuous times in China's history: Emperor PuYi's abdication; two invasions by Japan; World War II, and the Mao-led Chinese civil war. Dora is considered one of the last Chinese Literati Painters. For more information about this film, [please visit the film's website.](#)

TEILHARD: Visionary Scientist garnered a nomination for Documentary: Historical for **Mary Frost** and Frank Frost of Frost Productions. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin – the paleontologist and visionary French Jesuit priest, whose relentless effort to reframe his beliefs in the light of evolution led to a paradigm shift in the relationship of science and religion. His legacy includes a strong environmental movement and fresh explorations in cosmic spirituality. [More info here.](#)

Long-time WIFV member filmmaker **Renee Fischer** received a Capital Emmy nomination in the Documentary Category for her film, **FORAGER**, about the life path of culinary artist and chef, Chris Amendola. The film premiered on Maryland Public Television and is now available on PBS digital online. This is the second Emmy nomination for Fischer, who is the founder and executive director of Spring and Fall Productions, LLC. [More info here.](#)

WETA Arts, led by Senior Producer **Judy Meschel** received seven nominations! In the Arts/Entertainment - Short Form Content category, nominations were received for *Rebooting the Museum* and *The Bells of Freedom* and included recognition for Associate Producer **Jordan Hoffman**. In the Crime/Justice - Short Form Content category, *Restoring a Nation's Stolen Heritage*, received a nomination. For Diversity/Equity/Inclusion - Short Form Content *A Circus By and For All* is nominated. In the Military - Short Form Content category *U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team Trailblazers* is nominated. WETA Arts Editors Paige Smith Lee and Julie Naff have also been nominated for their work as program editors!

DCTV's series, **CAPITAL ARTS**, that spotlights local artists and the passion that shapes their work, has also been nominated for a 2025 Emmy. [You can watch the series here.](#) DCTV is also excited to announce that **KENILWORTH GARDENS**, produced in collaboration with Friends of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens through DCTV's **Nonprofit Media Fellowship**, received two 2025 Telly® Awards! This original short highlights the beauty and community of a natural landmark nestled in one of DC's national parks.

WIFV Seed Grant for Documentary Filmmakers Announced

The 2025 Seed Grants for Documentary Filmmakers has been awarded to **Lorraine Blackwell** for **HEMP LADIES ON THE GROW** and **Cece King** for the **UK Surfer/Environmental Project**.

The WIFV Board of Directors is pleased to offer a Seed Fund for Documentary Filmmakers to support the work of its members. Grants, totaling \$2,500 per project, 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. 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. [You can make your contribution here.](#)



"'Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round' feels particularly necessary right now. Ilana Trachtman excavates a powerful shard of D.C. social history...an illuminating chronicle of a germinal moment in civil rights history."

— Ann Hornaday, *The Washington Post*



WAMU Interviews Trachtman

Sixty-five summers ago, the children of union organizers in Bannockburn and Holocaust survivors in Montgomery County spent their day alongside Black students from Howard University, sweating in the summer heat and humidity **to protest the "white's only" policy** at Glen Echo Amusement Park.

It was one of the first integrated protests of the Civil Rights Movement.

"In the summer of 1960, it was basically unheard of for an organized white community ... to join a Black student protest," Emmy-winning filmmaker **Ilana Trachtman** tells WAMU's Natalie Yuravlivker. "It was so unusual that The Washington Post had a headline that said 'Whites join Negroes to protest segregation'." [Hear the full interview here.](#)

The film has an extended run at The Avalon through June 5. [Get tickets here.](#) WIFV is proud to be the fiscal sponsor of AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND

Coming up in June on our [MediaMaker Spotlight](#) podcast

We're proud to hit an exciting milestone: our 100th episode! On June 8th, we'll release a special episode in honor of this achievement...



Episode #100 - Host Special: Celebrating 100 Episodes!

In this celebratory 100th episode of MediaMaker Spotlight, our three hosts - **Candice Bloch**, **Sandra Abrams**, and **Tara Jabbari** - reflect on their journey, the evolution of the podcast, and the impact of Women in Film & Video. They discuss the transition to video content, the diverse range of topics covered, and the importance of networking within the industry. The conversation highlights notable guests, achievements, and the learning experiences gained through podcasting, while looking ahead to future milestones. They share memorable episodes, personal connections with guests, and the podcast's role as a resource for aspiring media professionals.

Then on June 22: Episode #101 - "Editing Your Career: A Conversation with Dustin Elkin"

Host Tara Jabbari interviews editor Dustin Elkin who has worked in Los Angeles and Chicago for clients such as CBS, Mattel, Hallmark, and Bally's. During their conversation, Dustin shares the importance of networking, his work ethic, and why he is a fan of incorporating AI for his work - including for his own podcast, The Video Editing Guru Podcast.

And have you listened to our latest episode yet?

Ep. 099 - "**Producing Decades of Hollywood Blockbusters**"

In this episode, host Candice Bloch interviews William Fay, a seasoned producer and motion picture executive, discussing his extensive career in the film industry. Bill is known for producing and executive producing many notable projects through the years such as INDEPENDENCE DAY, THE PATRIOT, 300, THE HANGOVER, THE TOWN, and more. He shares about his journey into filmmaking, key milestones, and the founding of Legendary Entertainment, as well as gives advice about balancing creativity with business, the importance of audience engagement, and the evolution of the producer's role over the decades.

You can find MediaMaker Spotlight wherever you find your podcasts, including our video companion on **YouTube**. Don't forget to subscribe to the show so you don't miss any episodes!

DocuMentality Releases Filmmaker Support Directory

Malikkah Rollins is excited to share that DocuMentality is launching its new **Filmmaker Support Directory** — a dynamic resource now available on the DocuMentality website. This directory is the result of thoughtful research that made it indisputably clear: industry-wide mental health and well-being support is not just helpful but essential to building a healthy, respectful, and dignified ecosystem for everyone in the documentary field.

Inside, you'll find a growing list of practitioners offering support across all roles: film teams, participants, production companies, and staff from arts organizations. Each listing includes

details about the practitioner's background and experience, allowing you to reach out directly for the kind of help you or your team may need. This work is ongoing, so DocuMentality is committed to regularly updating the directory as they connect with more professionals who understand the unique challenges of working in documentary. This is one step toward ensuring that care, ethics, and well-being are centered across the industry we all help shape.



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.](#) [See Festival Schedule here.](#)

Upcoming WIFV Events

Meet Landi Maduro - June 2

Landi Maduro, founder of Women of Color Filmmakers, is an award-winning writer, director, and producer. Since launching her production company, Bluechild Entertainment, in 2012, she has directed and produced short films, feature films, music videos, commercials, business tutorials, and documentaries.

Narrative Directors Roundtable

Brought to you by:




Monday, June 2, 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.



The Skinny on Rom Coms - June 4

Rom coms aren't what is making it to theaters these days but it doesn't mean we don't want to see them and aren't eager to learn how to bring our story ideas to audiences. Join the June Weds One and meet **Alys Murray** who began as a novelist and has five rom coms under her belt. She's done the research on trends, trendsetters, and is willing to share her experience about breaking into the genre! [Presenter bio here.](#)

Wednesday, June 4, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Free for WIFV Executive Members

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

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Sponsored by [Interface Media Group](#), [202Creates](#), [OCTFME](#) and [Maryland Film Office](#)

NSDF: Script Breakdown - June 5

This workshop, led by **Alison Rosa**, will discuss how a line producer interacts with the script and director via the script breakdown to get a project started. A line producer usually manages the budget and the film production at a particular location. [Presenter bio here](#). This workshop is a public part of the Narrative Script Development Fellowship for June.

Thursday, June 5, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

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. Additional support was received from [OCTFME/202 Creates](#) and the Gem Star Foundation.



Coffee in Annapolis

Tuesday, June 3, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West Street, Annapolis

Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar** and **Alison Bauer**

Coffee in Frederick

Wednesday, June 4, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Coffee in a private home

Address provided with your registration confirmation

Organized by **Jean Rosolino** and **Rick Kain**

New Members Coffee

Friday, June 6, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Executive Member Coffee

Tuesday, June 10, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Coffee in Baltimore

Tuesday, June 17, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

The Bun Shop, 239 West Read Street, Baltimore

Organized by **Jacquie Greff** and **May Santiago**

Happy Hour in Richmond

Thursday, June 19, 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, June 20, 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

Coffee in DC

Friday, June 27, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Busboys & Poets, 625 Monroe Street NE (Brookland/CUA metro)

Organized by **Anna Greisshammer**, **Melissa Houghton**, and **Paul Mowry**

Trailer Night - June 9

Trailer Night, a regular program of WIFV and Docs in Progress is an opportunity to meet others in the documentary

community and to provide feedback to filmmakers on their trailers. Trailer Night is being moderated by Angela Pinaglia, Docs Board member/Docs Fellow alumna. alumna.



Featured Trailers in June:

MIND AND MUSCLE by Ethan Baker

Manshaan Hundal, 22, a senior at American University, faced amphetamine-induced psychosis after misusing Adderall and other substances. After a major breakdown and partial recovery, a relapse tests him again. Defying advice to take a break, he pushes forward—will treatment, self-care, and support be enough to get him to graduation?

UNFINISHED WORK by Stephanie Lucas and Josh Kasselmann

Eric Chavez has a heart of gold, a magnetic personality, and a knack for telling stories—but the young artist and his vibrant family are haunted by the shadow of a past tragedy in this dreamlike, mostly vérité documentary, spanning over ten years.

Monday, June 9, 6:30-8:00 pm Free event [RSVP here](#)

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



THELMA & LOUISE - June 16

We are starting the Summer Series (June-Sept) for Film Club. This year's theme is "No more Mr. Nice Guy!"

The first film in the series is **THELMA & LOUISE** (1991). Synopsis: Two best friends set out on an adventure, but it soon turns around to a terrifying

escape from being hunted by the police, as these two women escape for the crimes they committed. Written by Callie Khouri and directed by Ridley Scott. Starring Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis, and Harvey Keitel.

Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. It is available on Amazon.

Monday, June 16, 7:30-8:30 pm Free event [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

First 5-Pages Readings - June 23

This meeting will be a first five pages meeting. We put out a call for submissions of the first five pages of your script the week before the meeting, and the first 4-5 submissions get chosen for a table read by actors and to receive constructive criticism from the other attendees.



Scripts are not distributed during the table read to the audience. We find that when scripts are shared, the audience reads, rather than listens.

Monday, June 23, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Free for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$15 for all general public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.



VELO LOVE - June 25

With a focus on stop-motion, Nancy Breslin and Mayrení Senior Seda, will talk about the phases of creating the short animated film VELO LOVE (trailer above), including:

- Pulling together a team including producer(s), writer(s), director(s), designers, set and puppet builders, animators, editor, digital artists, color correction, sound design, and music, plus creating and signing the necessary agreements and contracts between parties.

- Designing and building the set(s), puppets, and other props

after deciding on issues such as materials and scale.

- Creating an animatic to guide the animation.
- Animating the puppets.
- Post production, including special effects (both adding and subtracting), opening and closing credits, music, sound, and color correction.

Wednesday, June 25, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

PROJECTING PROTEST - June 30

PROJECTING PROTEST follows activists across the political spectrum who wield light as a tool for dissent, projecting bold messages onto buildings and monuments in real-time to challenge authority. Their actions push the boundaries of traditional protest and raise age-old questions about free speech in a digital era. Watch the trailer below. You will receive a link to watch the full documentary with your registration confirmation.

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

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

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.



Be An Influencer! WIFV Program Survey

WIFV is the premier professional resource for people who want successful media careers

in the DC-metro region. All genres, genders, and experience levels are welcome. Its resources, connections and advocacy support a vibrant, creative media community.

To that end, as we build our programming for next year, kindly share your involvement with WIFV professional development. We will use your answers to guide us in what, how, and when we offer programming to best support our community. [Take the survey here](#). THANK YOU!

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 and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

Thanks to Our Sponsors



Send Stories to:
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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