

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

August 2025

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Roundtable Roundup

Film Club: A FACE IN THE CROWD
Mon, August 18, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

And taking Roundup literally...

Weds One: Roundtable Roundup

Weds, Sept 3, 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

President's Message



Dear WIFV Members and Friends,

I joined the film production community in 2002 when I took early retirement from Procter & Gamble in R&D to work with my husband, Kraig

Greff, in our Baltimore production company, Tonal Vision. Although I aspired to be a visual artist and storyteller, my most-used skill is organization. I tend to focus on getting things done and making sure members of my team have what they need to do their jobs.

I've been a member of a number of professional organizations throughout my career, but I think WIFV has been the most supportive. That's partly why I joined the WIFV Board in 2023. I was Secretary in 2023/24, then Treasurer in 2024/25. I didn't seek out the job of President, but everyone has been encouraging and supportive, so I'm hopeful this will be a great experience.

During the first meeting of our new Board on July 16, we got to meet the new team. Our Board is highly skilled and very diverse — most are filmmakers, and many have won impressive awards for their work. Most are women, but we typically have at least one man, and this year is no exception. Skills range from business management and production to writing, training, marketing, acting, visual arts, camera, photography, podcasting and systems design. Several are lawyers. We even have a composer, a Women of Vision honoree, an MD, and a former spy!

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.



We are a working board, and we depend on members to serve, as well as providing leadership, strategy, oversight and advocacy. When a board member applies their expertise and energy, they can have a powerful impact. My personal priorities are to make sure our committees have effective chairs and resources, to support staff to provide a high-level of member service, to advocate as we serve more diverse audiences, and to help navigate the external funding and financial challenges we and our membership currently face.

Please let me know if you have ideas or want to help

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-26 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (June 24 - July 23, 2025)

Lise Afoy
Sydney Assefa
Alexis Barone
Ericka Boston
Leola Calzolari-Stewart
Brian Canavan
Lauren Cardillo
E. Samantha Cheng
Carlyn Davis
Angela Edwards
Andy Espinoza
Dana Flor
Mary L. Frost

James Gossard
Donna Gureckas
Julie Haberstick
Corran Hale
Jennifer E. Harris
Meagan Healy
Tina Hoffmann
Jasmine N. Huggins
Cece King
Olga Kuznetsova
Hannah Looney
Shannon Malone-
deBenedictis
Carolyn Marie

Matthew McDonell
Rachel Meyer
Natalie Peoples
Charlie Puritano
Carla Sandy
Colin Sandy
Monica Sanjur
Zach Toombs
Stephanie Vann
Genise R. White

Corporate Supporters:
Fusilli Films
Sandy Audio-Visual



They Won Prizes! You Save \$20!

We are celebrating Team WIFV's hot wins at the DC 48 Hour Film Project with a sizzling summer discount. **All new and renewing corporate, executive, and general members will receive \$20 off** when they

join, renew, upgrade, or give the gift of membership from now until August 31 using Code **Aug2548**. It's always a good time to invest in yourself and embrace the membership benefits of WIFV.

Pictured left to right: Zohar Rom, sheri ratick stroud, Katherine Schmoke, Andy Espinoza, Renata Phillippi, Geri Reinhart, Robin Noonan-Price, Cassidy Edwards, Anna Greisshammer at the Best of Screening for DC 48 Hour Film Project, spring 2025.

News You Can Use

WIFTUS National Networking Night - August 14

Join us to meet other crew across the U.S! Want to Network? Join us!
August 14, 7:00 PM (2nd Thursday of Every Month!)

[Register here](#)

Final Call for Applications: Short Narrative Finishing Grant

Administered by WIFV, this program exists to support WIFV Members with the post-production of a short film (no longer than 15 minutes including credits). It consists of limited in-kind services from [Henninger Media Services](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [Ott House Audio](#), and [ReelPlan](#). The application deadline for 2025 is

August 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm. There is a \$50 application fee. You will receive application submission instructions in your payment confirmation. [Read about the process here.](#)



This grant program was initiated with proceeds from the 2001 DC screening of WHAT MATTERS MOST, written and directed by Jane Cusumano. The first film to receive this grant was the award-winning TELL ME ABOUT ORANGE. It has been accepted into several film festivals and is now an award-winning short! It was one of six short films featured on The Wrap website during the Power Women's Summit on December 7 – 9, 2021. The WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Grant has also supported THE FAMILIAR, FLIGHT OF THE CROWS, and EXCUSE ME. These films are currently on the festival circuit!



Franceschi Gathering Stories and MPT Broadcast 7/26

WIFV member **Cheryle Franceschi** of Por Eco Productions, One Idea/Dos Languages has been sharing some of the watershed moments and first-of-its-kind initiatives of Fred W. Besley, Maryland's first State Forester in her indie doc MR. BESLEY'S FOREST. All of her films are available for streaming on the PBS app, with two being offered by NETA for national distribution to PBS stations.

Mr. Besley devised the mathematical formula for the study of measuring big trees. Today, the historic national program is administered by The University of Tennessee School of Natural Resources. The Director of the National Champion Tree Program is Jaq Payne. During the recent 9th American Forest Congress held in Washington, DC, both Payne and Franceschi (pictured above) thought the Congress was the ideal gathering to plant the seed for growing a new Concurrent Dialogue session entitled, "Impact Films for the Forests." The proposal was accepted! Conference participants gathered at the Omni Shoreham Hotel to explore the question of "who tells the stories" via long-form media.

Stories about communities, shared landscapes, food sheds, and forestry stewardship are part of Franceschi's environmental, and as she says, AGRI-cultural films. In 2024, she finished production that captured the work of a group of six extraordinary women from Maryland, preserving and sustaining food sources and applying best agricultural practices.

FOOD, FIBER & THE FEMALE FARMER is airing on Saturday, July 26th on Maryland Public Television at 7pm.

OLIVE Heads to Hollyshorts

Academy Award and 5x Golden Globe nominee Lesley Ann Warren stars in OLIVE, a 13-minute psychological drama written and directed by French filmmaker Tom Koch and produced by WIFV member **Astrid Lark**. The

film follows a man with dementia who believes his wife is his grandmother. Through dreamy visuals and shifting perspectives, OLIVE explores how cognitive distortions reshape love and identity.

The film was recently selected for the Oscar-qualifying Hollyshorts Film Festival, where it will screen at the TCL Chinese Theater on Sunday, August 10. Any WIFV members in Los Angeles are invited to attend!



OLIVE was awarded the Silver Screen award at the Young Director Award (YDA) in Cannes and is supported by the Alzheimer's Association and Oscar-winning executive producer Andrew Carlberg. The team is currently raising funds for festival submissions and travel. Follow our journey on Instagram (@olivethefilm) and [reach out to Astrid Lark here](#) if you're open to donating or sharing the campaign. Every bit of support helps us bring this impactful film to more audiences.

Coming Up This Month...



#104
Aug 03

"Chaz Ebert: Moving Forward After Roger, a New Book, & More"
with guest Chaz Ebert



#105
Aug 17

"Filmmaker Chats Direct From EbertFest (Part 1)"
with special guest host, Producer Brandon Ferry



#106
Aug 31

"Filmmaker Chats Direct From EbertFest (Part 2)"
with special guest host, Producer Brandon Ferry

ebertFEST
ROGER EBERT'S FILM FESTIVAL

MediaMaker Spotlight

Our MediaMaker Spotlight podcast in August has an Ebert theme

On August 3rd, *Episode #104 - Chaz Ebert: Moving Forward After Roger, a New Book, & More*

In this episode, host **Sandra Abrams** sits down with **Chaz Ebert**, for a lively discussion about her book, *IT'S TIME TO GIVE a FECK*. FECK stands for forgiveness, empathy, compassion and kindness. She also shares insights into the many projects she is working on including a documentary, *WELLNESS WARRIOR*, about the life of 102-year old Deborah Szekley, founder of the Rancho La Puerta spa. In addition to directing and writing, Ms. Ebert is the CEO of Ebert Digital LLC and is the legal adviser and TV and movie producer at Ebert Productions. For 24 years, she shared a life with Pulitzer-prize winner and film critic, Roger Ebert, who passed away in 2013. Together, they established the Ebertfest Film Festival and the Roger Ebert Center for Film Studies at the University of Illinois. [Learn more about the book *giveafeck.com*](#)

Then on August 17th and August 31st, *Episodes #105 and #106 - A Two Part Special About EbertFest from Producer Brandon Ferry*

In this two-part special, MediaMaker Spotlight producer, **Brandon Ferry**, shares interviews and conversations he had with select filmmakers at the annual Ebertfest Film Festival, which ran April 22-26, 2025, at the Virginia Theater in Champaign, IL and other programs on the campus of the University of Illinois, Roger Ebert's alma mater. Brandon moderated discussions and chatted with such notables as director, **Susan Seidelman** of the cult classic, *DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN*, the pilot of *SEX AND THE CITY*, and the early-90's Meryl Streep dark comedy, *SHE-DEVIL*, plus writer-director **Angus MacLachlan** of 2005's indie breakout *JUNEBUG* and the soon-to-be released **A LITTLE**

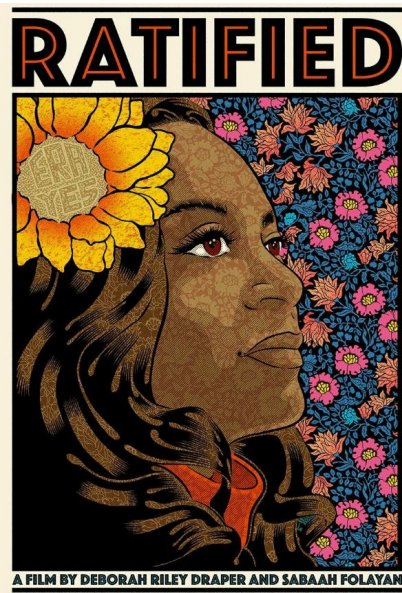
PRAYER (in theaters August 29th). Brandon also had the chance to speak with up & coming writer-director, **David Fortune**, whose film **COLOR BOOK** was financed after winning AT&T and Tribeca Film Festival's \$1 million Untold Stories prize, plus composer, concert organist, and specialist in silent film accompaniment, **Dr. Steven Ball**, an Artist-in-Residence at the Tampa Theatre. Check out these fun behind-the-scenes interviews, recorded on location, direct from the festival! [Learn more about Ebertfest Film Festival](#)

And have you listened to our July episodes yet?

Ep. 102 - [Woman of Vision Honoree Talks Latest Project with Co-Creators](#)

Ep. 103 - [The Power of Preserving Family Legacies with Heritage Films](#)

You can find MediaMaker Spotlight wherever you find your podcasts, including our video companion on [YouTube](#). Subscribe to the show so you don't miss any episodes!



How RATIFIED Raised \$115K+ From Fundraising Screenings and Built a Movement in the Process

In the summer of 2024, Emily Best launched a [Seed&Spark campaign](#), that included a surprisingly goofy pitch video with two very charming actors (her children). The campaign aimed to raise finishing and distribution funds for Ratified, a documentary Emily produced about the 101-year struggle to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. She and the Ratified team, after eight years of working on this story, were tracking toward an August festival premiere but the moment was calling for more.

“We were at a really interesting point with this documentary, which is that we were not finished editing it, and the history was happening under our feet,” Emily recalls. “Our activists were like, ‘We need this film right now. How quickly can we start the process of actually getting it into the world?’” [Read the full article here!](#)

Filmmaker Happy Hour - July 28

Monday, July 28, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Please join WIFV, The Wheaton Film Festival, the DC Filmmakers Group, and others

- **Happy Hour from 5-7pm.**

Join us for the monthly Happy Hour at the Silver Branch Brewing Co. We upgraded to the private room at Silver Branch Brewing Co. So, after you check in at the front table, head toward the back left corner behind the curtains, past the restrooms.

- **Production Meeting from 7-9pm.**

After Happy Hour, join us for a production meeting to kick off a short film project in the next 30 days. If you have a 1-minute script or less, be prepared to pitch it. The script must be a short narrative film or parody commercial. The meeting will focus on developing a project(s) and networking, so bring your creativity and a willingness to collaborate.

For questions, comments, or additional support, contact info@wheatonfilmfestival.com.



Upcoming WIFV Events



Coffee in Frederick

Wednesday, August 6, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro & Cafe
1305 West 7th Street, Unit #19, Frederick, MD
Organized by **Jean Rosolino**

Filmmaker Happy Hour - Annapolis

August 19, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Leo Annapolis, 212 West Street. Annapolis, MD 21401
Organized by **Alison Bauer, Felicia Barlow-Clar, and Hilarey Kirsner Leonard**

DDF/NSDF: Distribution and Acquisitions - Aug 7

Understanding where your script figures into the acquisition and distribution landscape is critical whether you want to sell your script or produce it yourself. **Mark Maxey** (Rolling Pictures) and **Mark Ricche** (Cryptic Pictures) will share their expertise about getting films into the marketplace. This workshop is a public part of the Narrative Script Development Fellowship for August. [Presenter bios here](#).

Thursday, August 7, 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 Documentary Development Fellowship and Narrative Script Development Fellowship are 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.

A FACE IN THE CROWD - 8/18

WIFV Film Club invites you to join us for the August 2025 selection which continues our summer theme of "No More Mr./Ms. Nice Guy/Girl" – A FACE IN THE CROWD (1957). The film is an American satirical drama film directed by Elia Kazan and starring Andy Griffith, Patricia Neal and Walter Matthau. The screenplay by Budd Schulberg is based on his short story "Your Arkansas Traveler" from the 1953 collection *Some Faces in the Crowd*. The story centers on Larry "Lonesome" Rhodes, a drifter who is discovered by the producer of a small-market radio program in rural northeast Arkansas, and who rises to great fame and influence on national television. (Wikipedia)



Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. A FACE IN THE CROWD is available to stream on Tubi and Amazon.

Monday, August 18, 7:30-8:30 pm Free event [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.



WIFV Roundtable groups are a great way to meet like-minded members for a creative energy boost. They also give non-members a risk-free chance to dip their toes in. This program is your chance to learn about the Roundtables from the leaders of the Screenwriters, Documentary, Editors, Hair/Makeup, Talent, and Narrative Directors groups.

Roundtables are organized and managed by WIFV Members so bring your ideas for what types of focus-area roundtables you would like to see on the WIFV calendar and learn how you can make them a reality!

Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Special Roundtable Pricing! Free for WIFV Members / \$15 for public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

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

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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