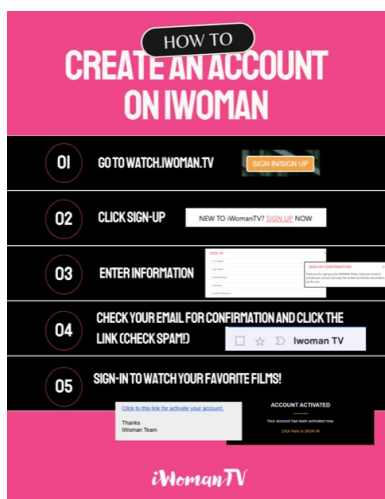


WIFV People in the News - August 2025

Mary Beth Warner, Bernhard Streitwieser, Jill Ray, Carly Crickenberger, Olha Onyshko, Tara Zabriskie, Rick Kain, Jean Rosolino, Jessica Mendel, Meredith Walton, Matthew McDonell, Nicole Halmos, Olga Kuznetsova, Ayana Ware, Mariam Ashraf, Vickie Warehime, Todd Gardner, Dawn Morgan Neary, Andrea Passafiume, Marie Gallo Dyak



PENNIES in iWoman NYWIFT Film Festival during August

Director: Lena Streitwieser
Screenplay: **Mary Beth Warner**
Producers: **Bernhard Streitwieser**, Lena Streitwieser, and Mary Beth Warner
Cinematographer: Robert Lodge
Editor: Randi Barros
Starring: Brent Stansell, Greg Oliver Bodine, Todd Scofield, and Elle Youngblood
Featuring the original song, "It's Alright," by Nicknames.

When a quiet bookstore owner from Washington, DC gets called back to his rural hometown after the death of his mother, he is faced with the bullies from his childhood who now run the town and conspire to deprive him of his inheritance. [Watch the film at the festival here](#). Don't forget to vote for Audience Favorite!

BREAKING NEWS: PENNIES won Best Drama Screenplay in the iWoman NYWIFT Film Festival - Congrats, Mary Beth and Bernhard!

Ray Chairs Alexandria Film Festival

The Alexandria Film Festival, now in its 19th year, has named **Jill Ray** as its chair. A documentary filmmaker and veteran communications strategist, Ray served the past three years as festival vice chair and had several of her own documentary films in past festivals. "I'm excited to continue building on the tremendous success of the Alexandria Film Festival, especially our commitment to showcasing the incredible regional talent here in the DMV," said Ray.



Back in March, the Alexandria Film Festival announced that MetroStage in Old Town North would become the permanent home of the festival beginning in 2026. Added Ray, "Our alliance with MetroStage is a wonderful model for future complementary programming collaborations. As chair, I look forward to forging more local partnerships that allow us to expand our offerings through workshops, for example, and discussion forums."



Crickenberger Writes and Performs

As the Head Writer working on the short film "Ovum Easy" for the 100 Hour Film Race, **Carly Crickenberger** is no stranger to the world of comedy. When she's not busy writing stand-up and screenplays, she's also a Sketch Writer, Editor, and Producer for the YouTube show [@warriorprincess10000](#). Her passion for comedy dates back to 2011 when she created the character Cletus T. Crickenberger, a redneck drag king known for his hilarious "tutorials," commentary, and live bingo

shows on YouTube.

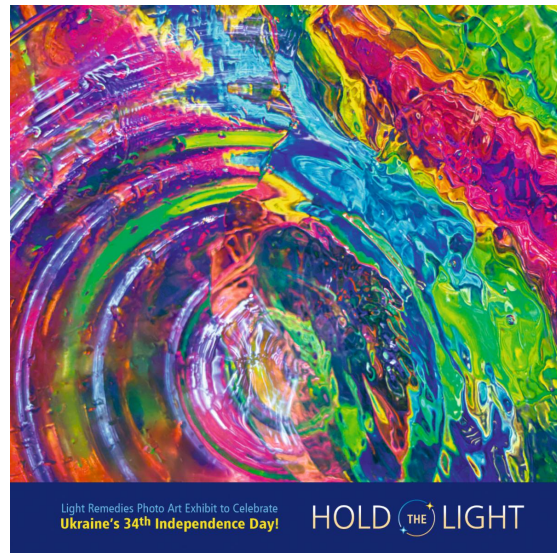
Residing in a cemetery in Orange, Virginia, Carly finds inspiration in dark humor and spooky situations, which is reflected in her scripts for a horror feature titled "Ama Gvnida" and a comedy pilot called "All My Friends Are Dead". Her screenwriting portfolio also contains many shorts that showcase her flexibility in genre. In 2019, she took a leap of faith by leaving her administrative position at the FloydFest Music and Arts festival, where she managed over 300 volunteers and staff. Her goal is to transition her 12-year festival career towards the world of film and television.

Joining WIFV in June 2025, Carly is eager to bring her unique perspective and talents to any project or company she works with. Whether you need help with writing, production, or administrative tasks, don't hesitate to reach out to Carly ccrickenberger86@gmail.com or connect with her on [LinkedIn](#).

Onyshko's Art Exhibition Aug 21-Sept 6

HOLD THE LIGHT is a Photo Art Exhibit created by **Olha Onyshko** to Celebrate Ukraine's 34th Independence Day!

Onyshko calls her photographs of collages, assembled while in nature, that mirror or reflect light "Light Remedies,." She uses crystals and water as her "lens filter" to build communication bridges between human consciousness and the elements – Fire/Light, Earth, Air, Gold/Metal, Wood, Water, as well as Sound to create harmony between the visible material world and the invisible realm of subtle energy. Onyshko blends her visual storytelling training with ancient wisdom from the healing arts to apply light and color as a powerful remedy and heal what needs to be healed in a human soul to bring Balance and Peace.



GALLERY 16TEN, 1610 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington DC

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 5-7 PM

Special Dates/Events:

August 21 - 6-9 PM

Opening celebrating 34th Independence Day of Ukraine (and a block gallery party)

August 24 - 1-3 PM

Independence Day Pop Up with Light Refreshments and Market

August 28 - 7-9 PM

Special screening of the documentary WOMEN OF MAIDAN dedicated to the power of women, followed by conversation with the film director Olha Onyshko

September 6 - 4-6 PM

Book presentation and signing: *Legend of Water*, *Song of Freedom*, followed by Exhibition Closing

Special thanks: Ukrainian Embassy (Washington DC), United Help Ukraine (US-



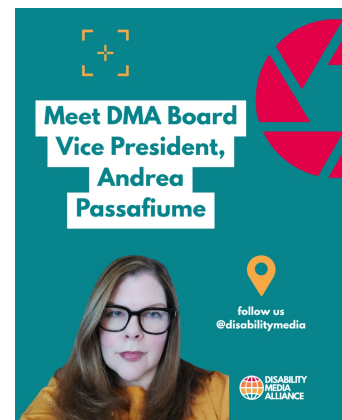
Frederick Coffee Group Enters 72

The WIFV Frederick Coffee has put together a team to create a film for the 72 Film Fest in Frederick! Talk about caffienated! The filming weekend will be September 25-28. Screenings will be October 10 & 11 at the Weinberg Center in Frederick.

WIFV Frederick Coffee Team consists of: **Tara Zabriskie, Rick Kain, Jean Rosolino, Jessica Mendel, Meredith Walton, Matthew McDonell, Nicole Halmos, Olga Kuznetsova, Ayana Ware, Mariam Ashraf, Vickie Warehime, Todd Gardner, and Dawn Morgan Neary.**

Passafiume on DMA Board

Andrea Passafiume has been named Board Vice Chair of the Disability Media Alliance (DMA), which was launched in July. The DMA is a global nonprofit dedicated to amplifying disabled voices and reshaping how the world engages with disabled creatives through authentic storytelling and representation. Passafiume currently leads the Programming for Gallaudet University's Deaf Way Film Festival and the Seattle Deaf Film Festival. She is also a longtime programmer of documentary features for Tribeca and Sundance. [Learn more about the Disability Media Alliance here.](#)



Hollywood, Health & Society and Entertainment Industries Council Join Forces to Focus on Shared Missions

USC Annenberg Norman Lear Center is pleased to announce an expansion in health and wellness resources for entertainment content creators and journalists through a partnership with the Entertainment Industries Council (EIC). The aligned vision of both organizations supports accurate depictions of health and social issues in film, television, and other media formats.

"The Entertainment Industries Council is honored to continue advancing our mission to provide accurate, evidence-based information on addiction, mental health, and suicide prevention to the creative community. By supporting storytellers with credible resources, we aim to foster narratives that inform, engage, and inspire audiences," said Gary Benz, CEO GRB Studios and Chairman, EIC Board of Directors. "We are pleased and sincerely grateful for the opportunity to partner with Hollywood, Health & Society at USC Annenberg's Norman Lear Center, in pursuit of our shared commitment to this vital work."

This expansion will add resources developed by the EIC to the existing HH&S menu of services which include downloadable materials, expert consultations, panel discussions and special events. The inclusion of EIC into the work of HH&S reinforces both organizations' longtime experience.

HH&S director Kate Folb said, "We are thrilled that this partnership will make the EIC's mission and materials available through us."

“On behalf of the EIC Board of Directors I extend our thanks to Hollywood, Health & Society at USC Annenberg’s Norman Lear Center for a strategic engagement with EIC,” said **Marie Gallo Dyak**, President, EIC CEO. “This is intended to broaden our media outreach with the entertainment industry and to encourage accurate health information in the stories we watch, through the characters with whom we connect.”

“When Brian Dyak, founder, designed the EIC mission and initiated the media outreach engagement, it was successful due to the mutual respect for media and for health-related research. What better way to inform the public about healthcare than in stories told through trusted sources—the characters with whom we already have an affinity” she added. “This approach is a tribute to the creative community who takes the time and pride to create accuracy in storytelling.”

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.



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

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