

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

September 2025

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President's Message



Dear WIFV Members and Friends,

For many of us, the end of summer's oppressive heat is good news, encouraging us to go outside and seek out new

adventures. Unfortunately, this positive mood easily dissolves as we watch the news of more layoffs, erasure of diversity programs, unraveling of our collective safety net, and the erosion of DC's independence. The spate of bad news is hitting the media industry especially hard with the defunding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supported PBS, NPR and hundreds of local public TV and radio stations.

In times like these, WIFV provides a collegiate, vibrant and stable community that supports local media-makers, allowing us to build our support network, broaden our skill base, develop new messaging, and even restage our lives. By being part of this community, you are not only investing in yourself, but also making a personal statement supporting diversity and independent media.

On September 10, WIFV is wrapping up our 45th anniversary year with an awesome in-person panel – “Protecting the Gains Women Have Made”, moderated by **Connie St John** and featuring panelists **Sheila Brooks, Joan Darling, Abby Greensfelder, Megan Holley and Judy Woodruff**. The topic is highly relevant and the video will be posted on our YouTube channel afterward.

Roundtable Roundup

And taking Roundup literally...

Weds One: *Roundtable Roundup*

Weds, Sept 3, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Doc: *Picture Lock-Check! What's Next?*

Mon, Sept 8, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

In-person at Henninger Media Services
2000 14th St N, Arlington

Screenwriters: *What Did You Write this Summer?*

Mon, Sept 22, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Makeup/Hair: *Trending Hairstyles in DMV & Hair Routine*

Tues, Sept 23, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

In-person at Interface Media Group
1233 20th St NW, DC

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members /
\$15 for public
Confirmation email includes login info

Beyond this Panel, our programming is resuming full out with Monday through Thursday programs every week for the next several months. They include ScriptDC, Wednesday Ones, Roundtables, Filmmaker Conversations, Film Club, media-related educational sessions, online and in-person networking gatherings; and competitions.

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-26 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (July 24 - Aug 26, 2025)

Zahra Ahmed
Julie Allen
Gabrielle Allen
John Ayala
Pierre Bagley
Carey Bibb
Madeline Caldis
Brian Canavan
April Carty-Sipp
Heidi Cox
Martin C. Dale
Beth Davison
Inna Dmitrieva
Laura Gamse
Susan Grandis Goldstein

Janelle Harris
Jill N. Jackson
Abby Johnson
Phelps Kelley
Christina Ksoll
Alissa McKay
Rachel Meyer
Patti North
Natalie Peoples
Susan Perz
Jill Ray
Cathie Saadeh
May Santiago
Adele Schmidt
Debbie Seagle

Nina Gilden Seavey
Liza Slutskaya
Sharon Sobel
David Stern
Susan Taylor
Gwen Tolbart
Mere Walton
Ayana Ware
Imani Washington-Bivans
Wynette Yao
Karen Zill

Corporate Supporters:
Alexandria Film Festival

News You Can Use

Protecting the Gains Women Have Made

A WIFV 45th Anniversary Panel

Hear from industry trailblazers who will share their journey – inspiring and reminding the audience of what we must fight to keep.



Sheila Brooks, Ph.D.
Panelist, Emmy-Winning Journalist & Entrepreneur



Joan Darling
Panelist, Emmy-winning TV Director



Abby Greensfelder
Panelist, Executive Producer of Everywoman Studios



Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30–8:00 pm



DCTV 901 Newton St NE, Washington, DC



Megan Holley
Panelist, Screenwriter, *Sunshine Cleaning*



Connie St. John
Moderator, President of No Weapon Productions



Judy Woodruff
Panelist, PBS NewsHour Broadcaster

September 10, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

DCTV, 901 Newton Street NE, DC (across lot from Brookland/CUA Metro)
FREE for WIFV Members / \$10 Students / \$25 Public



DX Fest Passes on Sale

Step behind the camera and into the pursuit of truth.

Registration is now open for the 11th edition of Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival and Symposium, October 30 – November 2, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This season's theme is The New Fault Lines. The nation's only festival dedicated to investigative storytelling on screen will look at the cracks and ruptures redefining our world—through powerful investigative films, urgent conversations, and the chance to see what lies beneath. Double Exposure pairs the finest new investigative films with a unique symposium designed to advance projects and foster collaboration between journalists, filmmakers, and supporters.

Expect premieres, panels, master classes, and initiatives

such as:

- One-on-one meetings and pitch sessions through DX Access
- The return of the DX Pro Bono Legal Clinic
- Small group lunches with featured directors for students attending through DX Academy.

Use code **EARLYBIRD15** for 15% off your pass. Learn more and register at dxfest.com.

Coming Up This Month...



Vincent Martella

#107
Sept 14

Bringing Phineas and Ferb to Life with Vincent Martella



Steve Cohen

#108
Sept 28

HBO's "Billy Joel: And So It Goes" Doc with EP, Steve Cohen

On September 14, *Episode #107 - Bringing Phineas and Ferb to Life with Vincent Martella*.

Host **Tara Jabbari** has an animated conversation with actor Vincent Martella, best known as the voice of Phineas Flynn in the Disney Channel animated series, *Phineas and Ferb*. After a long hiatus, the show returned earlier this summer with Disney premiering season five on June 5. Vincent discusses with Tara the cultural significance of the show, the trials of being a child actor then navigating the industry as an adult, and the impact of social media on his fan base. He also shares the challenges of being a voice actor in Hollywood and offers actionable advice to other aspiring voice actors. [Learn more about Vincent Martella here.](#)

Then on September 28, *Episode #108 - HBO's "Billy Joel: And So It Goes" Doc with EP, Steve Cohen*.

Host **Candice Bloch** interviews Steve Cohen, the Emmy Award-winning executive producer of HBO Max's two-part documentary '*Billy Joel: And So It Goes*.' Steve is a longtime lighting designer, creative director, trusted collaborator, and close friend to the iconic singer, songwriter, and pianist, Billy Joel. Handpicked by Billy to build a team that would tell his story, Steve discusses the collaborative process of creating the documentary, assembling the team (including co-directors Susan Levy and Jessica Levin), the importance of including family and friends in the narrative, and the challenges of sourcing quality archival material, especially from the earlier years. He also reflects on the evolution of lighting design in music and his transition from lighting design to film production. Steve shares insights on the emotional journey of watching the documentary and the audience's connection to Billy Joel's music, while hinting at future projects. Watch "[Billy Joel: And So It Goes](#)" now on HBO Max.

And have you listened to our August episodes yet?

Ep. 104 - [Chaz Ebert: Moving Forward After Roger, a New Book & More](#)

Ep. 105 - [Filmmaker Chats Direct From EbertFest \(Part 1\)](#)

Ep. 106 - [Filmmaker Chats Direct From EbertFest \(Part 2\)](#)

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!

Diversity in Film Youth Workshop Materials Here!

Diversity in Film Youth Workshop is a free workshop guide aimed at grade schoolers to educate them on disparities in the film industry, why representation matters, and highlighting the feats of female filmmakers. Created as a Girl Scout Gold Award Service Project, recent DMV high school graduate **Coral De la Cruz-Novey** put together a workshop complete with a worksheet, teacher guide, documentary, sorting activity, and slideshow. The aim of this workshop is to aid students to gain a broader understanding of

what diversity in media looks like, investigate hurdles that minorities face (as highlighted by women), but most importantly to help every student find why diversity is important, and how they can find their own. [You can access workshop materials here](#)

The results of this workshop after a trial run, revealed a significant increase in the students' expansion of awareness. As an example, the class could only name an average of 0.36 female directors, but after the workshop were able to name an average of 3.5 (a 872% increase!). Some students could even name eight women directors at the end, despite knowing none at the start of the workshop. Most importantly, at the end of the workshop every student could identify at least one positive element they brought to a project which was different or unique. This workshop may be aimed at grade schoolers, but is a helpful resource for anyone wanting to learn more about representation, finding their own diversity, and educating themselves about the journey of women in the film industry. [A link can also be found in the Resources section of the WIFV website.](#)

Jazz in the Garden: A Tribute to Dick Morgan - Sept 13

Jazz lovers, mark your calendars!

The Project Create Garden will come alive with smooth sounds during Jazz in the Garden: A Tribute to Dick Morgan. Hosted by T.H.O.S, this special afternoon celebrates the legacy of jazz great Dick Morgan in a serene garden setting. Don't miss an unforgettable afternoon of music, community, and celebration. Shared by WIFV Member **Sharon Wise**

Saturday, September 13, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
2210 MLK Ave SE, Washington, DC.
Plenty of street parking AND PAID PARKING.
RSVP is required – Call 202.867.0956.



DiME Announces 24 Hour Programming Service!

The Disability Media Network has launched round-the-clock programming so you can tune in anytime. Disability News Report now airs at the top of every hour until 6 PM, keeping you informed throughout the day.

And don't forget — all shows are also available on-demand whenever it fits your schedule. [Start watching here.](#)

And Even More Good News!

Hallie Munsat, Emerson College student and the WIFV Summer Intern, has written a blog - *Accessibility in Film Festivals: What We're Seeing*. [You can read it here.](#)

Upcoming WIFV Events

Coffee in Annapolis - Sept 2

Tuesday, Sept 2, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
Organized by **Felicia Barlow-Clar** and **Alison Bauer**

Coffee in Frederick - Sept 3

Wednesday, September 3, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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



New Member Coffee - Sept 4

Thursday, Sept 4, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Executive Coffee - Sept 9

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

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Richmond Happy Hour - Sept 11

Thursday, Sept 11, 5:00-7:00 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**

Baltimore Coffee - Sept 16

Sept 16, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

The Bun Shop, 239 West Read Street, Baltimore
Organized by **Jacquie Greff**

Reel Moms Coffee - Sept 19

Sept 19, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Two-minute video challenge theme is HONOR
Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

DC Coffee - Sept 26

Sept 26, 9:00-10:30 am [RSVP here](#)

Location will be announced soon

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



DDF/NSDF: Legal & Contracting Issues - Sept 2

Cathie Saadeh, Esq. will walk through the key parts of a contract that every filmmaker should be know, and discuss the various types of agreements that a filmmaker may need and key issues for each:

- underlying rights agreements (book options, script acquisition agreements, etc.)
- producer, director, and cast and crew service agreements;
- appearance, location, and material releases;
- life rights agreements;
- composer and music agreements;
- post-production agreements; and
- sales and distribution agreements.

Tuesday, Sept 2, 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.

DDF/NSDF: Crowdfunding for Independence - Sept 4

Join Seed&Spark's **Sav Rodgers** to learn:

- Why audience building is essential for a film career (and crowdfunding)
- How to define, find, talk to and grow your audience
- How to prepare for a successful crowdfunding campaign (including goal, incentives, and communication plan)
- Why staged financing might be right for you

Thursday, Sept 4, 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.



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](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#)

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS - 9/15

Join us for our September 2025 selection which concludes our summer theme of "No More Mr./Ms. Nice Guy/Girl" – SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (1994), the debut film from writer/director George Huang.

Starring Kevin Spacey, Frank Whaley and Michelle Forbes, SWIMMING WITH SHARKS follows Guy (Whaley), a naive young writer who becomes the assistant to a big-time movie producer. Guy believes his new job is a golden opportunity but soon learns that Buddy (Spacey) is the worst boss imaginable.



Considered a satirical dark comedy, the film did not fare well at the box office. However, it quickly became required viewing for entertainment industry newcomers to emotionally prepare for what was coming.

Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. SWIMMING WITH SHARKS is available on Plex and Amazon (with a free trial of MovieSphere).

Monday, September 15, 2025, 7:30-8:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Film Club is organized by **Ericka Boston** and **Connie St. John**



DDF: How Does Distribution via Public Television Work? - Sept 16

Learn how an independent filmmaker or small production company can navigate the public broadcasting system (PBS) to distribute their film. National distribution and station-by-station distribution will be discussed. **Kate Pearson** (MPT) and **Robyn DeShields** (DeShields Associates) will share their insights into scheduling, funding, station relations, and identify the challenges to having a one-off program broadcast by the network available to 99% of American households at no cost or cable subscription. We will also discuss the commissioning and acquisition processes at public broadcasting system stations and PBS.

Tuesday, Sept 16, 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.

DDF: Film Festival Strategies - Sept 30

Navigating the festival circuit is critical for documentary success, but with hundreds of options, where do you start? In this session, festival strategist **Jon Gann** shares smart, effective strategies to help filmmakers target the right festivals, maximize exposure, and avoid common pitfalls. Designed specifically for documentary fellows, this talk will help you craft a focused, impactful festival plan that supports your film's unique goals.

Tuesday, Sept 4, 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.

PATRICE: THE MOVIE - 9/29

The creative team behind the film included a diverse group of disabled and non-disabled people. Director **Ted Passon** has known Patrice for more 20 years. They were introduced by Patrice's niece, singer/songwriter Kimya Dawson and became fast friends. In 2021 Patrice appeared in the Netflix series, *Worn Stories*, created by one of the film's producers, Emily Spivack, which Ted also worked on as a director. They all had a lot of fun working on that together. After that project it seemed like there was more to do together and much more of Patrice's story to tell. Shortly thereafter Patrice and Garry decided they wanted to get married and that was the start of *PATRICE: THE MOVIE*. Starring a cast of children, with Patrice playing herself at every age, we see the struggles Patrice endured to get the house, the job, and the life that she's now living. The film is streaming on Hulu. Watch the trailer below!



Monday, September 29, 2025, 6:30-7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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



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.

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.

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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