

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

October 2025

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Roundtable Roundup

Talent: *Lunch & Learn*

Mon, Oct 6, 1:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Directors: *Create a Proof of Concept*

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

Docs: *Trailer Night*

Mon, Oct 13, 7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: DON'T LOOK NOW

President's Message



Dear WIFV Members and Friends,

On September 6, we held an all-day Board Retreat so new members could meet each other and we could, collectively, develop plans to move WIFV

forward. One of the ideas that came up was the importance of our social media assets and how we can effectively use them to deliver mission-critical messages like program information and member recruitment. This provoked a lively brainstorming session of ideas for best-practices such as digitally inviting others, encouraging consistent engagement from followers, and proactively requesting member content. If you have any thoughts, I would love to hear them!

Engaging social media content enhances our online community experience, boosts awareness and can greatly expand our reach. To be successful, these organic online campaigns must encourage supporter response. So if you are already following us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram or X, thank you for your support. If you aren't, please do! Every interaction you make with our digital content, whether sharing our posts or simply giving us the occasional like, helps us grow our audience and strengthens our mission.

Our events offer a valuable opportunity to capture perfect social media content, so if you attend, please take photos or video and send them to membership@wifv.org Or just take a moment while you're there to share them, check-in or tag us! These are

Mon, Oct 20, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: *First 5-pages Reading*
Mon, Oct 27, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

a few easy ways you can help us heighten
our digital presence while augmenting your
personal online experience with us.

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-26 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (Aug 27 - Sept 25, 2025)

Ellen Alderton
Peggy Aw
Brenda Bastian
Yossera Bouchtia
Emily Brady
Shannon Braine
Nancy Breslin
Susanne Coates
Emily Cohen
Amy DeLouise
Carolyn Dodd
T Dumas
Alan Field
Fortune Fields
Maria Elena Firippis

Suzie Galler
Erica Ginsburg
Jeffrey Hall
Andrew Houghton
Carletta Hurt
Keisha Jackson
Amy Johanson
Shannon Livingston
Caroline Marney
Rebecca Mlinek
Claudia Myers
Diana Owens
AnnMarie Parker
Andrea Passafiume
Chelsie Pennello
Roberta Pieczenik

Lisa Scott
Abigail Sharon
Brenda Spevak
Kevin Steele
Jonathan Stein
Maggie Stogner
Jessica Stuart
Julia Vickers
Diedre Von
Steven Watkins
Marilyn Weiner
Joanna Zelman
Amel Ziad

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News You Can Use



PROTECTING THE GAINS WOMEN HAVE MADE

On September 10, WIFV hosted its fourth Anniversary Panel - Protecting the Gains Women Have Made featuring **Sheila Brooks PhD, Joan Darling, Abby Greensfelder, and Megan Holley**. The panel, introduced by WIFV Board Member **Tara Jabbari** and moderated by WIFV Past President **Connie St. John** focused on the current negative trend to erase the accomplishments of women and how we will ensure that underrepresented voices continue to be heard. [The conversation can be viewed on the WIFV YouTube Channel](#). WIFV President **Jacquie Greff** recorded the panel.



Join us for an intimate evening of films, community, and conversation in support of DOUEN—the first feature-length Caribbean horror folklore film by award-winning Trinidadian-American filmmaker **Alyscia Cunningham**.

Thursday, October 9, 2025 | 6:30–8:30 PM | [RSVP here](#)
Port City Brewing Company, Lighthouse Lounge, Alexandria, VA

Event Highlights:

- Screening of DOUEN II + bonus films (SENSES + NEGRO MOUNTAIN)
- Exclusive first look at the DOUEN crowdfunding campaign
- Director Q&A with Alyscia + cast
- Raffle giveaway: 2 signed books (I Am More Than My Hair)
- Craft beer & bites available for purchase

Your support helps bring DOUEN from short to feature film. Contributions are tax-deductible thanks to Women in Film & Video (WIFV).



The team behind THE OTHER YOU is thrilled to announce their Maryland Premiere at the Chesapeake Film Festival in Easton, MD on October 11! [You can buy tickets here](#) (scroll down to the “Narrative Films” section.)

After the film, stick around for a Q & A with writer/producer **Julie Gold**, casting director/producer **Kimberly Skyrme**, and actor Vivienne Sievers.

Our film will be preceded by another project from Kimberly and Vivienne: NOW WHAT?, a comedy pilot created by actor Maralyn Facey, who will also be part of the Q&A.

Coming Up This Month...

#109
Oct 12

Pati Jinich

PBS's Chef Pati Jinich Explores PanAmericana

#110
Oct 26

Michael Kennedy

Killing at the Box Office with Heart Eyes Writer Michael Kennedy

On October 12, *Episode #109 - PBS's Chef Pati Jinich Explores PanAmericana*

Host **Sandra Abrams** has a lively conversation with James Beard Award winning chef, author, and TV show host, Pati Jinich. Pati shares funny and colorful stories, as well as insights on how she blends food, culture, and history into the making of her PBS docuseries, "Pati Jinich Explores PanAmericana" - **now streaming on the PBS app**. In the series, Pati loosely tracks the "Pan-American Highway" where she travels from Alaska to Canada visiting the food scene in remote towns. In each episode, Pati weaves together culture, the history of migration, and food to help the audience understand what brings us together.

In addition to this three-part series, Pati has an Emmy-nominated public television series, Pati's Mexican Table, which premiered its 14th season in September, and a James Beard Award-winning PBS primetime docuseries, La Frontera with Pati Jinich. Pati is also featured on the cover of Bethesda Magazine's September/October issue, "Women Who Inspire: Meet local leaders who are making an impact now." **Visit Pati's website here**.

Then on October 26, *Episode #110 - Slashing Rom-Com and Horror Tropes with Heart Eyes Writer*

Host **Tara Jabbari** talks with Michael Kennedy, one of the screenwriters and executive producers of the rom-com slasher horror film, Heart Eyes. Released a week before Valentine's Day in February 2025, Heart Eyes - directed by Josh Ruben and starring Olivia Holt and Mason Gooding - was met with positive reviews and grossed nearly \$30 million in its first month. In their conversation, Tara and Michael discuss the collaborative process of crafting the genre-bending film, and various tropes, homages, and cameos within it. In time for the Halloween season, Heart Eyes is now available to stream on Netflix. **Watch the trailer here**.

And have you listened to our September episodes yet?

Ep. 107 - **Bringing Phineas and Ferb to Life with Vincent Martella**

Ep. 108 - **HBO's "Billy Joel: And So It Goes" Doc with EP, Steve Cohen** Releases 9/29

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!



October 3, 2025, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Interface Media Group, 1233 20th St NW
[More Info and RSVP HERE](#)

Become a Member at Open House and Save \$25!

Upcoming WIFV Events

PATRICE: THE MOVIE - Sept 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.



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 strategists **Jon Gann** and **Bart Weiss** share 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 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.

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.

Writing/Producing Horror - October 1

Join film producers **Mark Ricche** and **Alyscia Cunningham** in this session on launching your own horror franchise. Discussion topics will include: building your team from scratch, the tricks of film production and mastering post from festivals to distribution. An "Ask the Filmmakers Anything" block will conclude the session.



Wednesday, Oct 1, 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.

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



Pitch Decks - October 2

The **Deck** is your number one marketing material/door opener for your film. Nailing it is key to getting the meeting or getting your script read. In this session, we are going to look at several different decks that have been used with great success and explore what to include and the secrets to Decks that convert. The info will be presented by **Sara Elizabeth Timmins** of Life Out Loud Films.

Thursday, October 2, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

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Script DC - November 14-16

We know you have a story that needs to be told. You want to make a movie, but where do you start... and how do you make it happen? **This year we are**

featuring a two-day masterclasses, four one-day

masterclasses, as well as several individual workshops. Class size is limited to allow for engagement and project attention. ScriptDC is the premier conference for Mid-Atlantic filmmakers where writers, directors, producers, editors, and talent connect with accomplished industry professionals. [Course descriptions here.](#)



Early Bird Pricing in effect to October 10 - [Register here.](#)

Coffee in Annapolis - Oct 7

Tuesday, Oct 7, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

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



Richmond Happy Hour - Oct 9

Thursday, Oct 9, 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**

Coffee in Arlington - Oct 10

Friday, Oct 10, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Kaldi's Social House, 3100 10th Street North, Arlington, VA 22201
Organized by **Sandra Brennan** and **sheri ratick stroud**

Executive Coffee - Oct 14

Tuesday, Oct 14, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Evening Coffee in Frederick - Oct 15

Wednesday, Oct 15, 7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)
Starbucks, 104 North Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701
Organized by **Jean Rosolino**

Reel Moms Coffee - Oct 17

Friday, Oct 17, 10:00-11:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Two-minute video challenge theme TBA
Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Baltimore Coffee - Oct 21

Tuesday, Oct 21, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
The Bun Shop, 239 West Read Street, Baltimore
Organized by **Jacquie Greff**

DC Coffee - Oct 24

Friday, Oct 24, 9:00-10:30 am [RSVP here](#)
Emissary Coffee, 2032 P St NW, Washington, DC 20036
Organized by **Anna Greishhammer**, **Melissa Houghton**, and **Paul Mowry**

DON'T LOOK NOW - Oct 20

When John's wife Laura accompanies him on a business trip, they aim to put a family tragedy behind them. But strange occurrences and eerie visions further tip their precarious balance.

Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie star in this exploration of grief and the supernatural directed by Nicolas Roeg ("Walkabout" and "The Man Who Fell to Earth"). View DON'T LOOK NOW (1973) on Kanopy (free with a local library card) or your favorite streaming rental site. Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting.



Monday, October 20, 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**

DEADLINES

Narrative Short Screenplay Competition - Deadline October 13

We take to heart the amount of work writers put into their stories. By submitting your work

to ScriptDC Narrative Short Screenplay Competition, you're entering into a welcoming and diverse community where new visions and untapped talent can flourish. We value the power of a well-told story.

After review by a panel of industry professionals who all carry a deep passion for the craft of storytelling and the desire to support rising storytellers, 3-5 scripts will be chosen as finalists for table reads. The review panel is made up of seasoned screenwriters and industry professionals. The finalist scripts will have a table read by professional actors during the ScriptDC Conference on November 14, 2025. Writers will receive 7-10 days notice that their scripts are finalists in the competition.

The audience will vote on their favorites. These votes, along with the scores of the industry professional judges at the table read, will determine the competition winner. Last year's winning script is in pre-production.

More info and REGISTER HERE \$25 WIFV Members / \$50 Public

Fiscal Sponsorship Application - Deadline October 20

The WIFV Board of Directors is pleased to offer a fiscal sponsorship program to support the film and media projects of its members. WIFV believes this initiative to be a tremendous member benefit and that this program furthers our mission to provide resources for women in the media industry. The WIFV Fiscal Sponsorship Program is a financial and legal system where our 501(c)(3) public charity provides limited financial and legal oversight for a project initiated independently by a filmmaker. That project must be non-commercial in nature, i.e. not produced solely for financial gain. Sponsored Projects are eligible to solicit and receive grants and tax-deductible contributions. **More info and submit here** \$50 Application Fee. Only available to WIFV Members

Silent Short Film Challenge - Deadline November 3

The "Show Don't Tell" challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to create a short film (5 minutes or less) that relies entirely on visual storytelling and non-verbal communication. Silent films provide constant visual information and require an engaged audience to succeed. Focus is on cinematography, mood, and visual actions while telling a great story. Score, sound effects and intertitles are welcome. Whether it's surreal visuals, haunting sound design or just a vibe that lingers... create a story that stands out visually.

Filmmakers are encouraged to attend ScriptDC Filmmakers Conference and attend a screening of the submitted films. The audience will vote on their favorites.

More info and REGISTER HERE

- Fee is \$25 for WIFV Members / \$35 for Members of other Women in Film groups / \$50 for Public
- Submission fee is waived with registration for ScriptDC Filmmakers Conference, November 14-16. Contact the WIFV office after you register for ScriptDC to receive discount code.

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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