



WIFV People in the News - September 2025

Annapolis Happy Hour Folks, Debbi Mack, Wonder Pictures, Robin Noonan-Price, sheri ratick stroud, Alyscia Cunningham, Susan Taylor, Sharon Burtner, Lisa Monaise Hodsoll, Tara Jabbari, Allie Rood, Shaunda Patterson-Strachan, Lacey Young, Evident Media, WIFV Board of Directors



WIFV Happy Hour at Leo's Annapolis

As you can see, local filmmakers had a great time at [Leo's Annapolis](#) on August 19. The happy hour was organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar** and **Alison Bauer** and **Hilarey Kirsner Leonard** and her staff at Leo's were incredibly welcoming! Attending the event (and many pictured above) were David Butler, Paul Clar, Donna Deter, **Inna Dmitrieva**, Caitlyn Dorrer, **Nicole Haddock**, **Tod Hopkins**, **Melissa Houghton**, **Phelps Kelley**, **Mira Kelly**, **Tristan Loayza**, Lena Moreno, **Jackie Perez**, Auran Shereef, Jeffrey Stanley, **sheri ratick stroud**, and Mary Suib. And, of course, Felicia, Alison, and Hilarey! They will be back to coffee at 49 West Coffeehouse on October 7. [You can register for the coffee here](#)

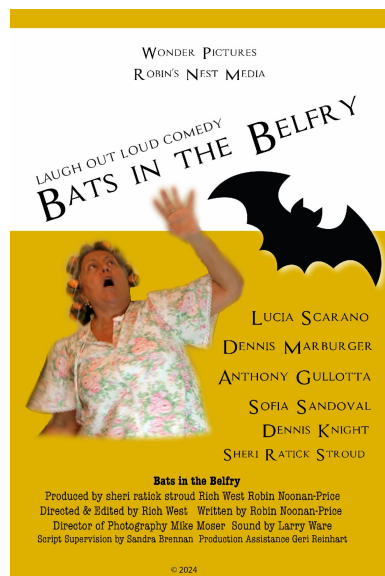
Mack at Creatures, Crimes & Creativity - September 19-21

Debbi Mack will be appearing on a Screenwriting Basics panel and signing her mystery and thriller novels at [Creatures, Crimes & Creativity](#) at the Doubletree Hilton Hotel in Columbia, Maryland, September 19-21.

C3 gathers readers and writers of genre fiction—mystery, suspense, thriller, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, and paranormal – to meet in an informal atmosphere so that everyone can have fun connecting, and learning about writing, the authors and their books. The conference offers panels on the craft and business of writing as well as panels tailored to engage and



entertain fans. **Here's the schedule.** The Screenwriting Basics panel is on Friday, Sept. 19. The book signing is so massive, it takes two days to accomplish!



BATS Heading to All That Laughs

WONDER PICTURES and **ROBIN'S NEST MEDIA** are excited to share that their latest film – **BATS IN THE BELFRY** has been accepted into the 6th Annual All The Laughs (ATL) Comedy Festival in Atlanta, GA. Screenwriter **Robin Noonan-Price**, past president of WIFV and 2024 Woman of Vision Honoree, will be attending the September event along with Board member, producer, actress **sheri ratick stroud** and leading lady, Lucia Scarano.

This film is making the rounds in the festival circuit having appeared at Columbia MD Film Festival, Richmond Film Festival, Fence Sitter Film Festival, Indie Short FF, Bedford International FF, South Italy International FF, and WON AWARDS at Global Shorts, NY International Women's Festival, Hollywood Gold Awards, Best Shorts Competition, East Village New York Film Festival, The

New York International Film Festival, and Madonie Film Festival in Palermo Sicily where it won BEST COMEDY.

Women of the Lens Festival Screens SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT, Nov 22

WIFV Board Member **Alyscia Cunningham's** documentary **SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT** continues its festival run! The film features interviews with women with vision impairment and challenges audiences to reimagine beauty beyond sight. Following screenings at the Hip Hop Film Festival and Mom Film Festival, it has been officially selected for the Women of the Lens Film Festival, marking its UK premiere. If you're in London, you can catch the screening on Saturday, November 22, from 2:30–3:30 PM at The Garden Cinema. [More info and tickets here.](#)

SEEING
WITHOUT
SIGHT
a film by
Alyscia Cunningham



Taylor Recovers Forgotten Histories

Susan Taylor is a documentary filmmaker who founded the Office of Special Collections to focus on archival research and forgotten histories. After working in institutional roles at the Library of Congress and National Defense University, she started her company to pursue projects that dig into stories often overlooked by official records.

UNCLE HENRY tells the forgotten story of the Battle of Gommecourt on July 1, 1916, when Major Cedric Charles Dickens sent one of the British Army's most desperate communications: "I have, as far as I can find, only thirteen left besides myself... I am the only officer left. Please send instructions." No instructions ever came.

Using a structure inspired by Dante's *Inferno*, this 30-minute documentary follows the precise timeline of a "diversionary attack" where two British divisions assaulted what the Germans had spent eighteen months making the most

heavily defended point on the Western Front. Through authentic Imperial War Museum oral histories, Major Dickens' actual field communications, and archival footage, the film reveals how young London shop clerks and Yorkshire farm boys walked into what they believed would be an easy victory, only to discover they were expendable pawns in a larger strategy. The film is currently in post-production.

Pictured above: Major Dickens (Charles Dickens' grandson) from the Imperial War Museum collections

FLIGHT OF THE CROWS at RIFF - Sept 25

FLIGHT OF THE CROWS, written by **Sharon Burtner** and directed by **Lisa Monaise Hodsoll**, is a short film about a young woman who after the birth of her first child struggles with the baby's seemingly relentless cries, difficulties breastfeeding and lack of sleep, intermingling maternal love with desperation. Her fears, imagination and nightmares become indistinguishable in her exhausted, hormonal state. FLIGHT OF THE CROWS is wordless. The sound consists primarily of a baby's cries and crows cawing, with instrumental accompaniment, allowing the actions and emotions to speak for themselves.



FLIGHT OF THE CROWS screens in Shorts Block G at Movieland Theatre, Richmond, on Thursday, September 25th at 4:30 p.m. [Get tickets here.](#) [Full RIFF schedule is here.](#)

The film received a WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Grant with post-production services provided by [Henninger Media Services](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [Ott House Audio](#), and [Reel Plan](#).



4th Season for *Who Was She?*

The podcast, *Who Was She?*, produced by **Tara Jabbari**, focuses on the stories of Baha'i women. This season concentrates on the life of actress and activist Carole Lombard. Find out about her growing up as Hollywood became established, her avoiding the infamous "casting couch," the way she treated everyone equally on set during a time of extreme racism and classism and why her life was cut tragically short. [Available on your favorite podcasting platform.](#)

And follow on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#):

@whowasshepodcast

Tara Jabbari is a seasoned producer and coordinator, creating meaningful professional connections that turn ideas into reality. She works with creatives, businesses, & organizations to become recognized experts and excels at creating content that educates and entertains, from documentaries to podcasting to social media.

PRICKLY MOUNTAIN Premiere at Architecture & Design Film Festival Oct 17 - NYC

PRICKLY MOUNTAIN AND MY DESIGN BUILD LIFE, directed by **Allie Rood**, takes us to Warren, Vermont—a remarkable small town with more architects and designers per capita than



anywhere else in the USA. Warren became an architect's haven in the 1960s, when a group of Yale-trained architects settled there, embracing collaboration and hands-on craftsmanship over the corporate world of their contemporaries.

Rood grew up in this vibrant environment and offers an insider's perspective on a place where design is not just a profession, but a way of life. The film celebrates the freedom, spontaneity, and deep sense of connection that come from choosing to live in a place that privileges creativity. This is a story about community, values, and the radical act of designing the way we live, work, and grow together. [Ticket info here](#).

PRICKLY MOUNTAIN AND MY DESIGN BUILD LIFE is fiscally-sponsored by WIFV.



Patterson-Strachan Sharing WIFV Resources

New WIFV Board Member, **Shaunda Patterson-Strachan**, volunteered and repented WIFV at the 22nd Annual DC Shorts International Film Festival at Crescendo Studios (Falls Church, VA) and Alamo Drafthouse Cinema (DC), September 4-6. Her attendance on the final evening of the festival followed WIFV's board retreat earlier in the day, which facilitated her ability to share WIFV materials with local filmmakers and other festival attendees.

Young and Producing Emmy!

Earlier this summer, WIFV member **Lacey Young** received her first Emmy win as a producer for NASA's live broadcast coverage of the 2024 total solar eclipse titled "2024 Total Solar Eclipse: Through the Eyes of NASA." The broadcast, which won in the Outstanding Live News Special category, spanned three hours and featured 11 hosts and correspondents, live feeds from astronauts aboard the International Space Station, and more to provide a rare and unique perspective of the solar event. In addition to producing, Lacey directed the Dallas location of the live broadcast and created pre-produced video packages that were featured in the show.



Evident Media's Latest Visual Investigation



WIFV Board Retreat - September 6



The 2025-26 WIFV Board of Directors (pictured above left) spent the day re-visioning the organization's strategic plan with **Amy DeLouise** (pictured at right) and engaging in Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion education with Melanie Hood-Wilson and Associates. The organization's continuing commitment to serving underserved voices and gathering community are reflected in the plans and programs moving forward. **You can read the Board of Director bios [here](#).** Pictured above are **Alyscia Cunningham, Michelle Kim, Shaunda Patterson-Strachan, Sandra Brennan, sheri ratick stroud, Virginia Bertholet, Robin Farmer, Susan Lutz, Lisa Scott, Sharon Derby, Jacquie Greff, Alan Field, Candice Bloch, Amy DeLouise, Alison Bauer, and Cadie Hopkins.**

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.





Try email marketing for free today!