

WIFV NEWS

WIFV People in the News - October 2025

Yossera Bouchtia, Linda Harris, Lance Kramer, Brandon Kramer, Samantha Noland, Melissa Houghton, Lisa Mao, Connie St. John, Mark Ricche, Laura Hinson, Alexis Siegel, Cintia Cabib, Robin Farmer, Thaddeus Johnson, Mary Beth Warner, Bernhard Streitweiser, Julie Gold, Shoshana Rosenbaum, Robin Noonan-Price, Andrea Palombella, Maggie Burnette Stogner, Vonnya Pettigrew PhD, Carletta S. Hurt PhD, Monda Raquel Webb, GalsNGear

2025 Narrative Short Film Finishing Grant Awarded

The recipient of this year's grant for in-kind post-production services is **Yossera Bouchtia** for *LOVE IN TWO LANGUAGES*, a short film based on the memoir *Amour Bilingue* that follows a love affair between a Moroccan man and a Brazilian woman that opens up a spiritual dimension to life. 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**.

This grant program was initiated with proceeds from the 2001 DC screening of *WHAT MATTERS MOST*, written and directed by Jane Cusumano. The WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Grant has also supported *TELL ME ABOUT ORANGE*, *THE FAMILIAR*, *FLIGHT OF THE CROWS*, and *EXCUSE ME*.



DOODLING FOR DEMOCRACY Wins Film Impact Georgia Crowdfunding Rally!

Produced by WIFV member, **Linda Harris** and Must Be Heard Productions, LLC, *DOODLING FOR DEMOCRACY* is a work-in-progress. [Follow their progress here.](#)

It's about Derek Heard, a young black Georgian artist with autism who is making voting champions from young people who have felt left out of the process. In collaboration with the John Lewis High School in Springfield Virginia and disability advocates, they are developing a universal design voting education campaign for the 2026 midterm elections.

Film Impact Georgia's Rally supports short films that reflect the diverse voices, cultures and experiences of life in Georgia. [Learn more about DOODLING FOR DEMOCRACY and make a contribution here.](#)

HOLDING LIAT at JxJ Oct 18

Lance Kramer is a DC-based filmmaker who co-

founded Meridian Hill Pictures alongside his brother **Brandon Kramer**, the director of **HOLDING LIAT**. For Lance and his brother Brandon, this film is personal - Liat and her husband Aviv, who were kidnapped on October 7, are the Kramers' Israeli cousins. Lance will join discuss not only process of making the film but the urgency and familial sense of responsibility he felt to tell Liat's story after the screening. [Get tickets here](#)



PEOPLE PLEASER Screens November 3 in Rehoboth

Samantha Noland's short film **PEOPLE PLEASER** is screening on Monday November 3 at 1:30 pm in a student short film block at the Rehoboth Beach Int'l Film Festival! [Get your tickets here](#). The Festival runs November 3-9. [Variety article on the Festival here](#).

The film follows Sarah as she navigates coming out as bisexual during the course of a Shabbat dinner with her family as well as both her fiancé, the NJB* Lenny, and her secret girlfriend Laura. *Nice Jewish Boy

Local Filmmakers Support the Next Gen

AU MFA capstone students had the privilege of presenting their thesis pitches to several esteemed local media makers this October. In attendance were WIFV Executive Director **Melissa Houghton**, Creative Executive and Media Strategist **Lisa Mao**, **No Weapon Productions** President **Connie St. John**, and film producer **Mark Ricche** of [CrypticPictures.com](#). Special thanks to Professor **Laura Hinson** for connecting students with the local creative community and helping support the next generation of filmmakers.



Siegel and Hallmark

Alexis Siegel, a member of the second cohort of WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellows, has a recent script, **CHRISTMAS ON DUTY**, as part of the [Hallmark Countdown to Christmas](#). The premiere will be on November 1, with repeat showings across the season!

Blair and Josh have been bitter rivals ever since they trained together at The Basic School in Quantico, where they were both at the top of the class, competing to be number one. After graduation, Blair got Josh's dream job, and they haven't spoken since. Three years later, their paths cross unexpectedly at the base holiday party, where the two get into an argument and cause a scene. As punishment, Blair and Josh are both assigned to Christmas Duty, where they'll work through the Yuletide



together...for 24 hours straight. They plan to stay away from each other, but when a snowstorm prevents all the Christmas presents from being delivered to base, they are forced to team up for a special mission...to save Christmas. Starring Janel Parrish and Parker Young. Directed by Jake Van Wagoner.

BIRD WALK Screening Nov 1

From Hawaii to California to Canada, more than 3,500 people tuned in on September 10 to watch **Cintia Cabib**'s documentary **BIRD WALK** on AARP's Movies for Grownups. The virtual screening featured a live chat where viewers posted their comments and interacted with Cintia.

The Cleveland Park Library will host a free screening of **BIRD WALK** on Saturday, November 1 at 2:00 pm, followed by a discussion with Cintia and Christine Powell, bird surveyor and volunteer leader at Tregaron Conservancy. [Register here](#).



Farmer Returns from France!

WIFV Executive Vice President **Robin Farmer** recently returned from a two-week Chateau Orquevaux International Writers and Artists Residency in France. Farmer called the 27 other artists and the spectacular chateau, once occupied by the Nazis, "a bubble of bliss". She encourages WIFV members to apply. [You can do that here!](#)

Farmer also has a script that is in the Second Round at the Austin Film Festival!

WIFV Member Films Nov 7-8

SAVING GULLAH LAND written/directed
by **Thaddeus Johnson**

EXCUSE ME written by **Mary Beth Warner**,
produced by Warner and **Bernhard Streitwieser**

THE OTHER ONE written by **Julie Gold**,
directed by **Shoshana Rosenbaum**

BATS IN THE BELFRY written
by **Robin Noonan-Price**

PRETTY UGLY written/directed by **Andrea Palombella**

UPSTREAM DOWNRIVER: Uniting for Water Justice written/directed by **Maggie Burnette Stogner**



Lots of WIFV Members were involved with these films! [Schedule and Ticket info here](#)
The Alexandria Film Festival is a corporate supporter of WIFV

Thaddeus Johnson reports that SAVING GULLAH LAND has also been officially selected for the 4th Annual AfroSouth Film Festival in Charleston, SC. "As the director, it's been deeply meaningful to help tell the story of a Gullah Geechee family as three generations come together on their heirs' property—Taylor Island—to share stories, confront challenges, and preserve their land and legacy for the future. This film has been a labor of love, rooted in heritage, resilience, and community. I'm incredibly grateful to our producing team, especially Lauren Waring Douglas, and my family who opened their hearts and homes to share their story." [See more here](#).



Pettigrew in 25 Women to Watch

We're proud to celebrate **Dr. Vonnya Pettigrew**, CEO of Root Branch Media Group, for being named "25 Women to Watch 2025" by *The Baltimore Sun*! This honor recognizes her unwavering commitment to empowering communities through storytelling, film, and media education. Dr. Pettigrew's leadership continues to inspire emerging creators and drive opportunities that uplift urban voices.

Dr. Pettigrew is a WIFV Woman of Vision (2023). [Learn about Root Branch Media Group's work here](#).

Hurt and Webb Featured

In the October 8, 2025 issue of *The Washington Informer* WIFV Members **Carletta S. Hurt, PhD** and **Monda Raquel Webb** are profiled. From the article, "Across the country, Black women filmmakers are redefining what it means to use art as activism. They are telling stories while reshaping how audiences see race, gender, and justice on screen. Among those leading this creative revolution are producer-director Dr. Carletta S. Hurt and writer-director-producer Monda Raquel Webb, two women who understand that film can do more than entertain, it can educate, heal, and spark change." [Read the full article in *The Washington Informer* here](#).



Podcast Launch!

#GalsNGear has officially launched their new podcast: Tequity Talk! It supports upskilling and #tequity for women in media, tech and entertainment. Make sure to subscribe to our podcast as we drop a new episode each week! It is available on [Apple Podcasts](#) and [Spotify](#).

Season 1 Episodes Release Dates:

- Motion Design – September 30
- Cinematography Roundup – October 7
- Virtual & Hybrid Production – October 14
- Post Production Career Tune-Ups – October 21
- How to Network at Live Events – October 28
- Job-Seeking: How to Stand Out to Recruiters in Broadcast – November 4
- Public Speaking – November 11
- How to be a Beta Tester – November 18
- Carerrs in Sports Video/Esports – November 25
- Allyship – December 2

Thank you to our generous sponsors: Signiant, Netgear AV, and Game Creek Productions.

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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.



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