

WIFV NEWS

WIFV People in the News - November 2025

Abby Cannon, Kathy Nguyen Li, Frederick Coffee Group, Wonder Pictures, Sheri Ratick Stroud, Natalie Caroline, Michael Moser, Pat Aufderheide, James Gossard, Anne Saul, Shoshana Rosenbaum, Julie Gold, Geri Reinhart, Kimberly Skyrme, Robin Noonan-Price, Sam Reetz, Andrea Kalin, Andrea Palombella, Geoff O'Gara



IN HER COURT on WETA Nov 29

IN HER COURT, directed by **Abby Cannon**, follows 14-year-old rising basketball star Jaylah King, who began drawing Division I attention before entering high school. As she chases her dream of playing at the highest level, Jaylah navigates immense pressure, balancing personal sacrifice, family expectations, and the pursuit of greatness. The film captures the dedication and resilience required of young women athletes in this rapidly changing field, where they increasingly hold their own fates in their hands.

The 13 minute version of IN HER COURT will be broadcast on WETA on November 29th at 7:30pm and again on November 30th at 1:30pm. Starting on December 1st, the 16 minute version will be available for streaming on the WETA+ website and app.

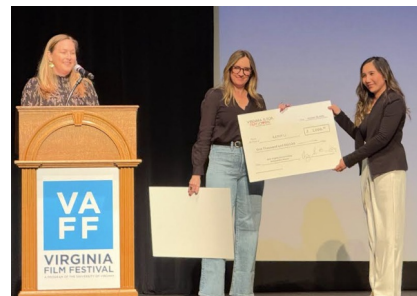
NGUYEN OR LOSE Wins!!!!

Kathy Nguyen Li's dramedy **NGUYEN OR LOSE** wins Best Screenplay at the 2025 Virginia Screenwriting Competition, which also placed Semi-Finalist in the 2025 Cinestory Feature Competition.

After a naive kid crosses the wrong gang boss, he must deliver \$250k to clear his debt and seeks the help of his comically absurd Vietnamese refugee family. Can the family overcome their differences and dysfunction to work together, or will they lose their home and family for the second time in their lives?

Kathy was a 2023 WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellow, where she workshopped REFUGE, which placed Semi-Finalist in the 2023 Nicholl Fellowship Competition.

Photo Credit: Wei Li. Pictured L-R: Lori Russell, Dawn Schick, Kathy Nguyen Li.



CINNAMON & SPICE Made in 72 Hours

Created by the WIFV Frederick Coffee Group for the 72 Film Fest in Frederick, Maryland,

this short film follows Marie and her scheming brother on a search for a valuable heirloom. This quick witted comedy takes you on a chaotic journey of family, deceit, and some whacky surprises. Watch it below!

DIRECTOR: **Leah Clare Michaels**
WRITERS: Leah Clare Michaels, **Mere Walton**, **Olga Kuznetsova**
PRODUCER: **Jessica Mendel**
LEAD CAST: **Rick Kain***- Donny, **Jean Rosolino**- Marie, **Dan Franko***- Josh,
Olga Kuznetsova- Poppy, **Nicole Halmos***- Uma
SUPPORTING CAST: **Vickie Warehime***- Customer
EXTRAS: Mere Walton, **Ramsey Telhami**, **Nathan Akula**, Demi the dog
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: **Matthew McDonell**
1ST ASSISTANT CAMERA: **Caitlin Wallace**
EDITOR: **Tara Zabriskie**
SOUND RECORDIST: **Ayana Ware**, Tara Zabriskie
GRIP & ELECTRIC: Ramsey Telhami
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Nathan Akula
TEAM LOGO DESIGN: **Todd Gardner**
*SAG/AFTRA

Watch it again to catch all the jokes and subtle plot twists.



BAKING SODA Wraps Production

WONDER PICTURES and Producer **sheri ratlick stroud** completed production in late October of **BAKING SODA** written by **Natalie Caroline**, the winner of the 2024 WIFV Narrative Short Screenplay Competition. The film stars Kathy Sanders and Will Wheat (pictured at right), and included **Mike Moser**, **Anne Saul**, and Rich West among the production team.

There's still time to register to hear finalist scripts read by local actors at this year's Narrative Short Screenplay Competition on November 14. [Register here](#).



Aufderheide Book Awarded!

The Theater Library Association just gave **Patricia Aufderheide**'s recent book *Kartemquin Films: Documentaries on the Frontlines of Democracy* its top award!! [More info here](#).

Aufderheide documents how filmmaker-philosophers brought the dream of making documentaries and strengthening democracy to

KARTEMQUIN FILMS DOCUMENTARIES ON THE FRONTLINES OF DEMOCRACY

PATRICIA AUFDERHEIDE

award-winning reality—with help from nuns, gang members, skateboarders, artists, disability activists, and more.

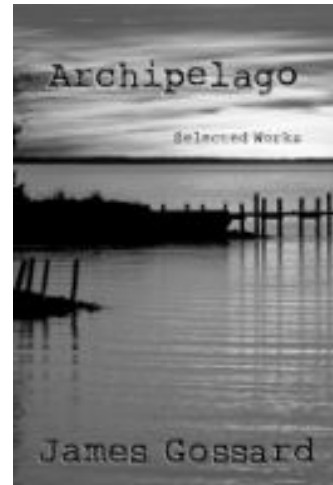
The evolution of Kartemquin Films—Peabody, Emmy, and Sundance-awarded and Oscar-nominated makers of such hits as *Hoop Dreams* and *Minding the Gap*—is also the story of U.S. independent documentary film over the last seventy years. Patricia Aufderheide reveals the untold story of how Kartemquin developed as an institution that confronts the brutal realities of the industry and society while empowering people to claim their right to democracy. You know you want to add this book to your bookshelf and you can do that [You know you want to add this book to your bookshelf and you can do that here.](#)

Gossard on Substack

James Gossard is sharing his creative writing on Substack. "I've chased stories all my life—lived, dreamed, wrestled from silence. They've carried me from smoky coffeehouses to city streets, communes and redwoods, to mountains where grizzlies breathed against thin tent walls." [You can follow his work here.](#)

In October, he made a presentation at the Maryland Writers Conference on Copyright Issues and shared his PowerPoint in his October 12 Substack post (see above).

He's even published selected works in *Archipelago*. [Contact him here for ordering information.](#)



THE OTHER YOU Wins Twice

"We had a great screening at the Chesapeake Film Festival and took home the prize for Best Narrative Feature!" The festival and Q&A was attended by casting director/producer **Kimberly Skyrme** and writer/producer **Julie Gold**.

THE OTHER YOU also won Best of the Region at the Alexandria Film Festival! Pictured are **Kimberly Skyrme**, **Shoshana Rosenbaum** (director), **Jill Ray** (AAF Chair), **Robin Noonan-Price** (Producer), and Chris Colligan (AFF Vice Chair). Shoshana, Julie, and Robin were interviewed for MediaMaler Spotlight earlier this year. [Listen here.](#)

Photo Credit: Randy McCracken

#StoriesDefineUs Wants Your Story

Sam Reetz, Founder of Millennial Ethics, just launched [#StoriesDefineUs](#), a digital campaign about the importance of storytelling for the public good. The campaign shares people-powered stories that benefit everyone. See their info video below.

They have shared perspectives across cultures and generations [on Instagram](#) that reflect the communities that helped to shape our personal values. We welcome you to share your stories, too! Check out [this messaging toolkit](#) to encourage your community to take collective action.



The People's Recorder WINS at the 2025 Signal Awards

Andrea Kalin and the team at Spark Media are thrilled to announce that The People's Recorder podcast has been awarded a Silver Signal Award in the History Category! It is an honor to be listed among such a luminous and creative group of audio storytellers. [Listen to it here!](#)



"The People's Recorder made an impression on the Judging Academy," said Jemma Brown, General Manager of the Signal Awards. "This award is a testament to the skill, ingenuity, and vision of its creators."



Bicoastal Screenings & Big Win!

PRETTY UGLY, directed by **Andrea Palombella** and discusses ingredient safety and regulation of cosmetics, is officially released! We had fantastic screenings the past three weeks in San Diego, Chicago and Alexandria, VA. And to top it off, we're incredibly honored to win the Independent Spirit Award at the **19th Alexandria Film Festival** this past weekend! We had an excellent turnout, with many donors and supporters, and Andrea's parents,

attending the screening on Saturday. Thank you all for your continued support! For more snaps, check out [@prettyuglythefilm](#) on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

O'Gara's Cheney Doc Streaming on PBS

Geoff O'Gara's documentary, *A HEARTBEAT AWAY - Dick Cheney* is streaming on PBS. The film received a Heartland Emmy when initially released! Hear Cheney's story recounted in his own words, from his modest upbringing in Casper, to his lifelong high-risk heart problems, his assessment of the world leaders he dealt with, the attack on Sept. 11, 2001. [Watch it here](#)

You can also see *HOME FROM SCHOOL: The Children of Carlisle* on Kanopy!

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.





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