

# WIFV NEWS



February 2026

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## President's Message



Dear WIFV Members and Friends,

We are in a New Year and just celebrated with our Holiday Party (see photos below).

Thank you for your hard work and involvement. It was great seeing everyone in person and learning about your current projects!

February is the shortest month of the year and often the coldest with the most snow. But February is also a month of transition. Groundhog Day (Feb. 2) predicts how long the cold will last. Valentine's Day (Feb. 14) helps warm our hearts. Presidents' Day (Feb. 16) celebrated the birthday of our first President, George Washington. It now marks the transition to more international events. The Lunar New Year (Feb. 17) is also known as the Chinese New Year, Islamic New Year, and the Spring Festival. For Western Christians, February 18 is Ash Wednesday, a holy day of prayer and fasting. For Muslims, it is the first night of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. All of February is Black History Month, which grew from the US Negro History Week in 1926 to a month-long celebration of black people in many countries worldwide.

## Roundtable Roundup

**Talent Lunch & Learn:** The Business of the Business in the DMV with **Joy Jones, Judy Go Wong, Katie Culligan, Ken Stancil**  
**Mon, Feb 2, 1:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Narrative Directors:** Meet The Wrong Neighborhood Productions "team"  
**Mon, Feb 2, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

In this month of transition, WIFV helps members with filmmaking

**Documentary:** Trailer Night  
**Mon, Feb 9, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club:** SINNERS  
**Mon, Feb 9, 7:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)  
FREE for All. Watch film in advance

**Screenwriters:** TBA  
**Mon, Feb 23, 6:30 pm**

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:director@wifv.org). Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

transitions. Have an idea for a narrative script? WIFV's Narrative Script Development Fellowship (application deadline February 9), will allow you to work with accomplished film professionals to take your script from page to production. Do you work in non-fiction? WIFV's Documentary Development Fellowship (application deadline February 16) provides a safe space to learn about the ecosystem for indie docs. If you are more focused and/or specialized, you may be interested in our many roundtables focusing on screenwriters, documentary, editors, talent, and animators; Wednesday One topics; or one of our many networking opportunities. No matter what your media interests, WIFV can help transition February's cold, slow start into a personal celebration of new approaches, capabilities and achievements.

## Jacquie

Jacquie Greff  
2025-26 WIFV President

## New/Renewing Members (Jan 5 - Jan 31, 2026)

Mia Boccella	Alyss Grear	David Page
Cintia Cabib	Anna Greisshammer	Kara Panowitz
Claire Callahan	Ashley Hawkes	Kathleen Pearce
Debbie Camper	Laura Waters Hinson	Lauren Peters
Sam Casscells	Rebekah Wingert Jabi	Renata Phillippi
Frank Cervarich	Yari Jamali	Francis Ramirez-O'Shea
Adrienne Cleary	Anna Jhirad	Moriel Randolph
Elyse Cosgrove	Eden Raskin Jenkins	Sam Reetz
Jamie Coughlin	Joy Jones	Melanie Switzer Reilly
Ray Davis	Nanci Kaiser	Linda Robbins
Serge Delpierre	George Kassouf	Liane Rozzell
Benjamin Duchek	Clara Kelly	Noelle Cwiklinski Serper
Leslie Duryea	Kelly Kimbis	Sarana Shrestha
Marianne Elbertson	Steve Lack	Isabella Silva
Lynda Erkiletian	Kelli Lightfoot	Daria Strachan
Lourdes Escobar	Kendra Long	Leon Swerdel-Rich
Renee Fischer	Kendra Louka	Brian Terrill
Estrellita Fitzhugh	Susan Lutz	Taylor Thomas
Tim Flaherty	James Mae	Dianela Urdaneta
Eneshal Galloway	Gabrielle Mitchell	Jimmy Watts
David Geraci	Juan Morales	Olivia Williams
Scott Gordon	Maggie Mulloy	
Maureen Gosling	Geoffrey O'Gara	<b>Corporate Supporters</b>
	Sarah Olscamp	Steve Lack Audio
		Word Wizards Inc.

## WIFV Telethon Returns March 7

### Call for Submissions DEADLINE Feb 7

In celebration of International Women's Day, on **Saturday, March 7**, WIFV is hosting its **2nd annual live fundraising telethon**, and we want YOU—our talented independent filmmakers—to be part of this exciting event!

This **4-hour live broadcast on YouTube** will showcase the incredible work being done by filmmakers in our community. From **short films to trailers for your features or excerpts from your documentaries**, we want to highlight the diverse and powerful stories you're creating. And the best part? This isn't just a one-time opportunity. We are also offering to feature selected projects on our **WIFV YouTube channel** for continued exposure to a wider audience!



WIFV members are invited to submit **short films, trailers, and documentary excerpts**. If you have something you're proud of, we want to see it! Here's how you can get involved:

- **Submit a link to your video via the submission form [HERE](#)**
- Make sure to **include passwords**, if necessary.
- Include a **brief description** of your project (a few sentences about the film, its themes, or what makes it unique).
- **Preferred length** is 3-10 minutes but no longer than 15 minutes.
- **Deadline for submission:** February 7, 2026, by 5:00pm (ET)

**CAPITOL HILL**

Screening, Panel, and Refreshments

**The Price of Milk**  
DOCUMENTARY SERIES

**Speakers Announced**



AUSTIN FRERICK  
Author



CHLOE WATERMAN  
Friends of the Earth



SARAH LLOYD  
Former Dairy Farmer



SARA FLETCHER  
Oatly



Tuesday, February 3  
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center  
Washington, DC 20510

**Free with RSVP**  
[tinyurl.com/PriceOfMilk](http://tinyurl.com/PriceOfMilk)



WATCH • THINK • DISCUSS

DC Independent Film Festival 2026 Annual Forum  
offers more than film screenings. It's reigniting  
the Art of Conversation.

GET  
EARLY BIRD  
PASSES BY  
JANUARY  
28TH

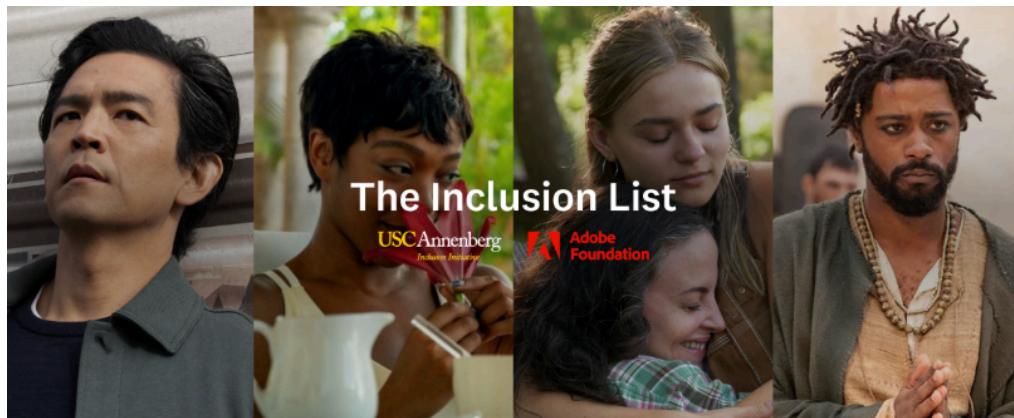
FEB. 11-16  
DCIFF-INDIE.ORG

The DC Independent Film Festival Annual Forum has announced its 2026 film lineup and program, which will run Wednesday, February 11, through Monday, February 16, at theaters throughout the nation's capital. "This year's festival will celebrate inspiring stories and the many sights and sounds that can meaningfully move us," said Deirdre Evans-Pritchard, DCIFF executive director.

A storied history of presenting extraordinary films, seminars, and workshops, this year's program interweaves over 60 films, including multiple section blocks of animation, web series, documentary shorts, and 12 feature films. The Opening Night film on February 11 is EASY DIGGING (Marissa Macy), a mockumentary where a "documentary" crew follows Ed Brown, a middle-aged building inspector, returning to his childhood dream of digging a hole to China. ARIA: Opera On the Edge by Emmy-winning filmmaker, Karen Day, screens on Thursday, February 12. On Friday, February 13, DCIFF moves to the Regal Gallery Place theater for a packed weekend of screenings.

The slate also features 10 seminars and masterclasses, including ones on immersive sound with Digital and Experimental Art company Artehouse, a workshop at the Apple Carnegie Library on shooting vertical video, and a full day of seminars devoted to film financing and grants, among others. Explore the experiences, challenges, and triumphs of women working in key creative roles in documentary and narrative filmmaking with Women Behind the Lens: Directing, Cinematography, and Craft on Saturday, February 14th (Valentine's Day) 12 noon-1:15 pm at the German American Heritage Museum. Topics include breaking into directing and cinematography, building a sustainable career, navigating industry dynamics, and supporting the next generation of women filmmakers.

**Festival film program, seminar schedule, and tickets at [dciff-indie.org](http://dciff-indie.org)** . An assortment of passes, including All-Access, 1- or 2-day, Seminar Only, Young Adult (21-30), and more are available for \$30 to \$120. **Tickets for individual screenings- \$14 to \$18 via Eventbrite**.



As Hollywood moves through awards season, one group is recognizing films and artists whose impact may not earn a statue. **Dr. Stacy L. Smith** and the **Annenberg Inclusion Initiative** have released the third iteration of The Inclusion List, honoring films and filmmakers whose work spotlights inclusive storytelling.

**The Inclusion List, available here**, uses data regarding on-screen and behind-the-camera personnel to determine the most inclusive movies from 2024 across gender, race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+, disability, and age. The website also highlights 5 individuals as the top directors and 8 top editors for inclusion across the time frame evaluated and recognizes 6 top distributors. Additionally, across 5 years, the 150 most inclusive films are recognized.

## Coming Up This Month...



Eden Raskin

#117  
Feb 1

**From Juilliard to Pentagon Papers:  
Marcus Raskin's Legacy**



Shellée Haynesworth



MediaMaker  
Spotlight

#118  
Feb 15

**Amplifying Marginalized Voices  
with Shellée Haynesworth**

On February 1, host **Sandra Abrams** chats with **Eden Raskin Jenkins** about her documentary, NOTES OF A CITIZEN: THE MARCUS RASKIN STORY. The doc is the story of her father's career before she was born. Through family and notable figures, she learns about his work in the Kennedy White House, his role with the Pentagon Papers, when the FBI raided his office, and why he was on Nixon's Enemies List. The episode also highlights the role of music based on her father's studies at Juilliard and the support she received from WIFV. [Learn more here](#).

On February 15, host **Tara Jabari** interviews **Shellée M. Haynesworth**, an award-winning director and producer known for her work in amplifying marginalized voices through storytelling. They discuss Shellée's journey in the film industry, and her recent project, CAMILLE A. BROWN: GIANT STEPS, available on PBS. [Watch it here](#). The conversation also touches on the challenges of funding in filmmaking, the importance of collaboration, and the need for support networks for women in film. [You can learn more about Ms. Haynesworth and her work here](#).

And have you listened to our January episodes yet?

Ep. 115 - [Exploring Identity Through Film with Sierra Urich](#)

Ep. 116 - [Diving Into the Patience & the Art of Underwater Cinematography](#)

You can find MediaMaker Spotlight wherever you find your podcasts, including our video companion on [YouTube](#). Don't forget to subscribe to the show so you don't miss any episodes!

## Upcoming WIFV Events

### **Talent Lunch & Learn: The Business of the Business in the DMV - February 2**

What does an actor need to know to grow their business?

Join **Joy Jones** as she leads a conversation with **Judy Go Wong, Katie Culligan, and Ken Stancil** as they discuss the Business of the Business in the DMV. Program starts at 1:00 PM on Zoom. Log in as early as 12:30 to join other participants in break out rooms to NETWORK.

**Monday, February 2, 1:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

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

Organized by **Alison Bauer and Kimberly Skyrme**

## Narrative Directors Roundtable

Brought to you by:



## Narrative Directors: Meet The Wrong Neighborhood Productions director, editor, and writer - February 2

Over the past six years, **Juan Morales** has built a body of work that has screened at film festivals across Baltimore, New Jersey, Las Vegas, and California. He is currently preparing to shoot his first impact feature, *Abhaile*, on the immigration crisis this September. You can screen a proof of concept for *Abhaile*, titled *Homecoming* [here](#). Juan's most recent short film, *The Last Shift*, can be screened [here](#).

**Monday, February 2, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)**

FREE for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$15 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Robin Noonan-Price** and **Brian Pascale**

## Love in Focus: The Untapped Market for Black Romance - Feb 4

With the success of HEATED RIVALRY, BRIDGERTON, and PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION, romance is dominating our screens. But have you started to notice that there just aren't that many films or series that center on Black Romance? In some year-end retrospective "Top Black-Centered Films to Watch" only two films were "romance" films and both were made in the 20th century!



**Leola Calzolai-Stewart** of FLOWSTATE FILMS is in the early stages of a documentary on Black Romance Writers and will be joined on the panel by **Beverly Jenkins**, **Taj McCoy**, and **Nikki Payne**. This is your chance to explore the genre, be introduced to authors creating IP, and even hear about some projects that have been optioned. Let's build a vocal audience looking for these stories that will help clear the way for support of new productions! [Presenter bios here](#).

**Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)**

FREE for WIFV Executive Members (must be logged in and use discount code)

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

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Event sponsored by **Interface Media Group**, **Maryland Film Office**, **OCTFME**, and **Virginia Film Office**

## Documentary Roundtable

Brought to you by:



## Trailer Night - February 9

Trailer Night is an opportunity to meet others in the documentary community and to provide feedback to several filmmakers on their trailers. The Documentary Roundtable/Trailer Night is a regular program co-hosted by Docs In Progress and Women in Film & Video. We look forward to meeting you there!

Featured Trailers in February:

NO HANDICAP by Derek Dabkoski

Set in the world of accessible video games, No Handicap explores the untold stories of disabled gamers and the allies designing the technology that allows them to play the

games they love, proving that when access is engineered, there's no need for a "handicap setting".

**OPEN MIC OR: HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB** by Matt McNevin

A documentary about the Washington, DC open-mic stand-up comedy scene, following three aspiring comedians at different stages of their careers as they pursue the same dream.

**Monday, February 9, 7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

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## SINNERS - February 9

Trying to leave their troubled lives behind, twin brothers return to their hometown to start again, only to discover that an even greater evil is waiting to welcome them back. Written/directed by Ryan Coogler. Starring Michael B. Jordan as the twins. Nominated for 397 awards, it has already won 213!



**Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting.** SINNERS (2025) is available on Netflix. Come prepared to share your likes, dislikes, and insights. It is like a book club, except instead of discussing a book, you get to discuss a film!

**Monday, February 9, 7:30-8:30 pm [RSVP here](#)**

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

**Watch the film in advance of the meeting.**

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

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## Fellowship Deadlines - February 9 and 16

### Narrative Script Development Fellowship - Feb 9

Through the 9-month WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship, **open only to WIFV members**, accomplished film professionals will work with 4-6 Fellows to take scripts from page to production. The scripts become the basis of collaboration between the mentors and Fellows around how to move your script to screen. There are typically four meetings per month, one open to the public to introduce the month's focus. Two meetings per month with mentors will workshop the scripts through all aspects of pre-production and development with direct feedback on your script. The Fellows will also meet monthly, forming a cohort to support each other as they move out of the Fellowship. By program's end, the Fellows will have a shooting script, budget, a plan to make their films and access funds OR a project they can successfully pitch to producers outside of their teams. This Fellowship will enhance the local narrative film infrastructure and strengthen the Mid-Atlantic as an independent film production hub.

Deadline for applications: **February 9, 2026.** [More info and application here.](#)

### Documentary Development Fellowship - Feb 16

The WIFV Documentary Development Fellowship program, **exclusively available to members of WIFV** is entering its third year. This program will give documentary filmmakers a safe space to learn about the ecosystem for indie docs during a nine-month program of 3-4 workshops/month to support fellows in taking a documentary idea from early stages to closer to production. Among the topics presented will be Producing, Budgeting, Building Crews, Raising Funds, Securing Licenses, Distribution. This program embeds accessibility as part of the framework for the filmmaking process, while also providing access to top-notch programming, networking, and mentorship support.

Deadline for applications: **February 16, 2026** [More info and application here.](#)



## National Networking Night - February 12

Join us to meet other crew across the U.S!  
2nd Thursday Every Month!  
7:00 PM EST  
Must be a Paid and Active Member of your Local WIFT!

**Thursday, February 12, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**  
You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.



### Annapolis Coffee - February 3

**Tuesday, February 3, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West Street, Annapolis, MD  
Organized by Felicia Barlow Clar and Alison Bauer

### Frederick Coffee - February 4

**Wednesday, February 4, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
Mon Bon Croissant Bakery Cafe, 162 W Patrick St, Frederick, MD  
Organized by Jean Rosolino

### Executive Coffee - February 10

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

### Baltimore Coffee - February 17

**Tuesday, February 17, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
The Bun Shop, 238 West Read St, Baltimore, MD  
Organized by Jacquie Greff

### Reel Moms Coffee - February 20

**Friday, February 20, 10:00-11:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
Login info will be sent with your registration confirmation.  
Organized by Alyscia Cunningham

### DC Coffee - February 27

**Friday, February 27, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**  
Emissary Coffee, 2032 P St NW, Washington, DC  
Organized by Anna Griesshammer and Melissa Houghton

## Photos from the WIFV Holiday Party!

Yes, we had a good time! Thanks to **Candice Bloch** recording the event.  
Thanks to Interface Media Group for being the venue host.



## 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](mailto:CCSCFoggyBottom@gwu.edu) and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

## Thanks to Our Sponsors



MEDIA CENTRAL



Send Stories to:  
[director@wifv.org](mailto: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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