

WOMEN  
IN  
FILM & VIDEO  
WASHINGTON, DC

# WIFV NEWS

June 2026

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## President's Message



Dear WIFV  
Members and  
Friends,

How did we get to  
June already? It  
seems like  
snowcrete just  
melted. Actually lots  
has happened since

the last snowfall and not all of it has been the public programming WIFV delivers every week. I am grateful to my fellow WIFV Board Members who have been planning for the future of WIFV even as the present of the media landscape seems to change daily.

WIFV's commitment to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in mediamaking has resulted in the loss of some federal program funding, the Board and staff have worked together to make sure we continue to provide the high-quality programming requested by our members to enhance their projects and networks. We are grateful to our regional supporters - OCTFME, Maryland Film Office, Gem Star Foundation, Interface Media Group, Virginia Film Office, Netflix, and our many corporate members - for their support.

The Board is also working to make sure our systems and speakers support and reflect our community, the stories our members want to tell and audiences need to see. **We need your assistance.** WIFV has a fair amount of anecdotal information about the demographics of our membership but in order to best serve you, **we need actual statistics!** To that end, we have developed and tested a short demographic survey that will be sent to all

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## Roundtable Roundup

**Talent:** What Does Success Mean To You?  
**Monday, June 1, 1:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Narrative Directors:** Making ATTACHED  
**Monday, June 1, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Documentary:** Trailer Night  
**Mon, June 8, 7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Writers Helping Writers**  
**Friday, June 12, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club:** THE MENU  
**Monday, June 15, 7:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)  
FREE for All. Watch film in advance

**Screenwriters:** Short Made! Now What?  
**Monday, June 22, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Art of Animation**  
**Fri, June 26, 9:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

**Writers Helping Writers**  
**Friday, June 26, 6:30 pm** [RSVP here](#)

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.

current WIFV members in early June. Your response is needed and welcome!

The Board understands that the website is an important portal to all things WIFV and in the next few months you will see updates to improve user interface and information accessibility. Thanks to those of you who have already provided feedback! We look forward to receiving more.

Board Members are integral to all that WIFV is able to do. General and Executive Members will be receiving the 2026 Ballot on June 1 and we would love to see our voter participation statistics put the national averages to shame. Your vote counts!

## Jacquie

Jacquie Greff  
2025-26 WIFV President

## New/Renewing Members (April 29 - May 26, 2026)

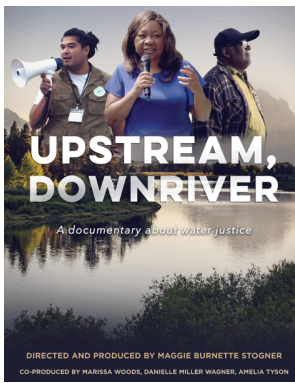
Gina Anderson  
Barbara Ballow  
Luis Blandon  
Debbie Brodsky  
Harper Carter  
Carly Crickenberger  
Ann Marie Cushing  
Julianne Donofrio  
Jeana Choi Fermi  
Peggy Fleming  
Lauren Fletcher  
Charles Germain  
Naomi Gertz  
Scott Gordon  
Anna Griesshammer  
Grace Guggenheim  
Frances Hardin  
Una Harrington  
Miriam Harris  
Traci Harris

Walter Jacob  
Jonathan Jarrett  
David Joyner  
Kimberly Kelsey  
Ari Knauer  
Zoey Kuma  
Karen Lanning  
Irene Lasky  
Emily Lenzner  
Kathy Nguyen Li  
Susan Malone  
Paul Marengo  
Isabel McLane  
Mary Alice McMillan  
Amelia Milstein  
Nicole Morris  
Beryl Neurman  
Gabrielle Denize Newsam  
Amy Oden

Susan Perz  
Malyn Pilard  
Mark Ricche  
Dawna Sirard  
Stephanie Smith  
William Stalze  
Eugene Sun  
Robin Sundaramoorthy  
Ramona Taylor  
Ramsey Telhami  
James Tierney  
Erika Timmons  
Ellie Torrez  
Kristen Vanderzant  
Marie Wilda  
Laurisha Yniguez  
David Zonka

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## News You Can Use



## Telly Wins / Capital Emmy Nomination

UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER: Uniting for Water Justice, directed and produced by **Maggie Burnette Stogner**, won two 2026 Telly Bronze Awards, one in the Environmental/Climate category and the other in the Long Form documentary category. Nice to see our film recognized alongside those of Ken Burns, Will Smith, Jimmy Kimmel, and Lady Gaga. [More info here.](#)

The film is also nominated for a Capital Emmy. The Capital Emmy Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences is a particularly competitive region, with more than a thousand submissions. It "recognizes outstanding individual

achievement in the region by conferring annual awards of merit." Awards will be announced at the gala on June 20th.

But wait, there's more! Maggie just launched her UPSTREAM, DOWNRIVER YouTube series "**Women Water Warriors**" about women rallying communities around issues from lack of water/sanitation access to data centers. [Please subscribe and share!](#)

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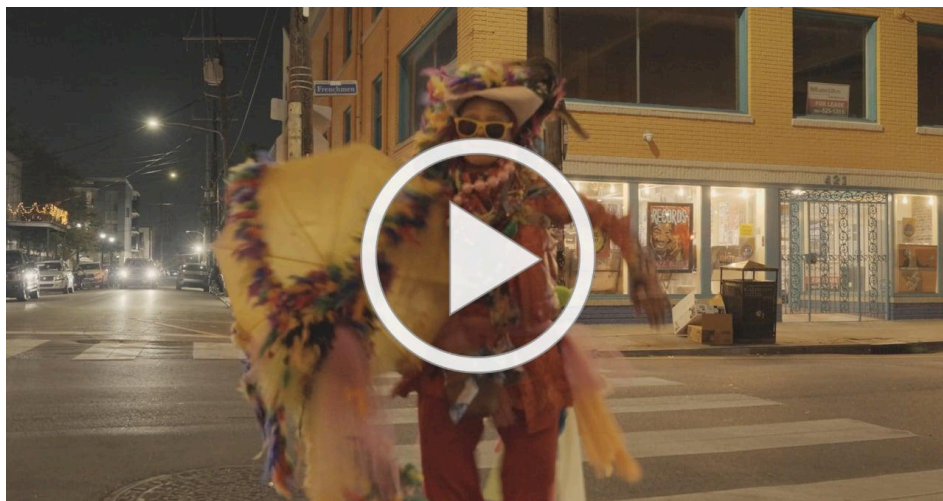
## Vatican Screening for Frost Films!

**Mary and Frank Frost** had three exciting screenings of TEILHARD: Visionary Scientist in Rome last month. The screenings at the Vatican, the Jesuit Generalate (world headquarters), and the Gregorian University capped the Frost's

15-year journey to complete the film (with grateful thanks to fiscal sponsor, Women in Film & Video). Those three institutions supported exiling Pierre Teilhard de Chardin to China in April 1926, for his views on evolution and Original Sin. And 100 years later, to the month, they welcomed screenings of his documentary biography.



[This article from Vatican News](#) discusses the "applause and appreciation" the three screenings drew, along with the background on the documentary's creation, and the lasting legacy of Teilhard de Chardin. TEILHARD: Visionary Scientist first aired on Maryland Public Television, and now [streams nationally on the free PBS app](#), or use PBS Passport, or [this direct link](#), available to international viewers as well. [Visit the film's website for more resources.](#)



## Just Who is Liza Jane?

In November 2025, **Emily Cohen** and **Dan Gutstein**, directors/producers of L'I'L LIZA JANE: The History of America Through a Song, captured an extraordinary set of performances, interviews, and collaborations that illuminate the deep cultural roots of the folk song "Liza Jane" in the New Orleans area and establish the song's enduring influence in American music.

"The American Songster" **Dom Flemons** serves as the film's main participant, grounding the film in artistry and scholarship. Footage depicts Dom collaborating with New Orleans culture bearers on musical arrangements inspired by some of the earliest reported "Liza Jane" lyrics, dating back to the folk traditions of enslaved people before the Civil War. In addition to performances, Dom leads conversations with the city's top musicians, prompting vibrant exchanges that provide the film's emotional and narrative foundation. [More info here.](#) [Dance on over and make a donation here!](#)

**Coming Up This Month...**

**#126 June 7**  
Kids Search for Their Donor Sperm Father in **Dad Genes Doc**  
Sara Barger & Craig Downing  
Editor & Director

**#127 June 21**  
Back at Final Ebertfest for More Filmmaker Chats  
Tracie Laymon & French Stewart  
Director & Actor  
Betty Gabriel  
Actor  
eBERT FEST  
ROGER EBERT FILM FESTIVAL  
MediaMaker Spotlight

On June 7th, "Kids Search for Their Donor Sperm Father in DAD GENES Doc" (Ep. 126)

Would you search for your sperm donor dad? In this episode, host **Sandra Abrams** interviews the people behind the award winning documentary, DAD GENES. The doc follows Aaron Long, a single guy who was a sperm donor for the money 20 years ago. Fast forward to a few years ago, when several of his "kids" decided to go looking for their biological father. Sandra talks to the film's director Craig Downing, and its editor, **Sara Barger** (a past president of WIFV). Sara shares what it was like to make sense of hours of footage sourced from the dad and his new kids, following the story that takes many twists and turns. Dad Genes is the winner of the Best Feature Documentary - Jury Award at the 2026 Atlanta Documentary Film Festival and Best Documentary at the Allentown Film Festival. [Watch the trailer here.](#) [Listen to the podcast here.](#)

On June 21st, "Back at Final Ebertfest for More Filmmaker Chats" (Ep. 127)

Pack your bags and head to small town Champaign, Illinois with Producer **Brandon Ferry** for one last year of the *Roger Ebert Overlooked Film Festival*, affectionately known to movie-lovers as *Ebertfest*. Brought back for a final year, festival organizers Chaz Ebert and Nate Kohn programmed a lineup of modern classics and under-the-radar films audiences may have missed.

First, Brandon sits down with actress Betty Gabriel following a screening of her film, GET OUT (now coming up on its 10-year anniversary). Critically acclaimed for her role as housekeeper-with-a-disturbing-secret Georgina, Betty reflects on being a part of Jordan Peele's beloved horror-social satire's legacy. The conversation then pivots to Betty's current and upcoming projects in television and film. GET OUT is currently available to stream on HBO Max.

Next, Brandon is joined by writer-director Tracie Laymon & actor French Stewart of the Barbie Ferreira & John Leguizamo dramedy, BOB TREVINO LIKES IT. The film follows a lonely young woman (Ferreira) who strikes up a relationship online with a stranger

(Leguizamo) who shares the name of her own narcissistic father (Stewart). After premiering at the South by Southwest Film Festival, the crowd-pleasing film received both the Narrative Feature Grand Jury Award and the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature. BOB TREVINO LIKES IT is now streaming on Hulu and Disney+ [Watch the trailer here](#).

To read more about Ebertfest 'The Last Dance,' visit: '[The Last Dance' Ends a Beautiful, Impactful Run for the Long-time Roger Ebert Film Festival](#)

In the famous words of Ebertfest founder, Roger Ebert: "the balcony is closed"

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

## Upcoming WIFV Programs and Networking

### Talent Lunch & Learn: What Does Success Mean to You? - June 1

Bring your lunch and be prepared to share what worked for you this year. How do you define success?

Let's celebrate our year of community building and pat each other on the back for what we accomplished as actors in the DMV. Don't worry if you aren't feeling the success vibe. Come and learn what others are doing to build their careers. The best thing about the acting community in DC is the support of the community.

**Monday, June 1, 1:00-2:00 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

FREE WIFV members / \$15 public

In-person at the Hill Center Amphitheater (or conference room), 921 Pennsylvania Ave SE  
Organized by **Alison Bauer** and **Kimberly Skyrme**



### Making ATTACHED - June 1

**Demetrius Sadler** is a DC native, founder of Chimaera Pictures, and the award-winning creator of the short film ATTACHED. The film is a psychological thriller that follows an aspiring actress who attempts to heal from a haunting relationship with the help of her brash but sympathetic best friend.

ATTACHED will screen at the LightReel Film Festival on June 6 and continue its festival run in New Jersey, New York, Florida, and Boston, alongside planned DC community screenings focused on mental health and healing resources for creatives. His films not only seek to scare and entertain, but reflect on the importance of myth, community and social freedom.

**Monday, June 1, 6:30-7:30 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

FREE WIFV members / \$15 public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.  
Organized by **Robin Noonan-Price** and Brian Pascale

### Filming in Difficult Situations - June 3

Join us and learn how others have filmed in difficult and dangerous places and got the film and themselves out to take on another gig! From drones, to caves, to rain forests, to international documentary journalism, you will get tips you can use even in a studio. It is all about being prepared to react to the situation. Perfect for producers, cinematographers, directors, and PAs. Writers are also encouraged to attend to see if what you have in mind is actually doable!

Presenters: **David Dillon, Paulette Moore, Sheila Smith,** and **Mike Sobola.** [Bios here.](#)

**Wednesday, June 3, 6:30-8:00 pm** [REGISTER here](#)  
FREE WIFV Executive members / \$20 WIFV members / \$35 public

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.  
Event sponsored by [Interface Media Group](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), Netflix, [OCTFME](#), and [Virginia Film Office](#).



## Script Breakdown for Budgeting - June 4

This workshop, presented by **Alison C. Rosa**, will discuss how a line producer interacts with the script and director via the script breakdown to get a project started. A line producer usually manages the budget and the film production at a particular location. This workshop is a public part of the Narrative Script Development Fellowship and Documentary Development Fellowship for June. [Presenter bio here.](#)

**Thursday, June 4 - 6:30 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.  
Event sponsored by Netflix, [OCTFME](#) and Gem Star Foundation



## Trailer Night - June 8

Trailer Night is an opportunity to meet others in the documentary community and to provide feedback to several filmmakers on their trailers. Trailer Night is being moderated by Dawne Langford.

### Featured Trailers:

#### **District of Resistance** by Nick Lindner

The documentary documents over a year of federal assault on the autonomy of the capital and its people. It is shared through the perspectives of a dozen organizers, community leaders, immigration rights advocates, education officials, and local politicians representing a variety of backgrounds but a shared solidarity. It is a story of resilience, patriotism, and faith in democracy.

#### **Storming: Seasons of Care** by Tiffany Fisher-Love

The documentary explores the depths of love, where hopelessness isn't an option for one family who provides 24-hour care for their son nearing 10 years in a coma after a traumatic brain injury.

**Monday, June 8, 7:00 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive the login information one day before the event.

Organized by [Docs in Progress](#)

## National Networking Night - June 11

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, June 11, 7:00-8:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

You will receive ILogin info with your registration confirmation



# Writers Helping Writers - June 12 and 26

We read:

- 1) 1—24 pages from a short script
- 2) The first Act or to the Inciting Incident from a feature length script, up to page 24
- 3) Full half hour sitcom or Half of full TV show

The purpose is to give deep dive, constructive feedback on story structure, format, character, dialogue, and what works about the script. If you don't have a script to read feel free to join us and support your fellow members. It is a great way to expand your knowledge on script writing and giving feedback also helps you to look at your own scripts objectively. Feedback will be given in a controlled fashion. We will break the discussions down by category: concept, theme, story structure, format, character, and dialogue.

**Friday, June 12 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)**

**Friday, June 26 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)**

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.



## THE MENU - June 15

And the summer series, 24-hour span films, starts with THE MENU (2020). Hawthorne is the epitome of high-class fine dining and exclusivity. It sits on an isolated coastal island and produces food that is also conceptual art. Margot and Tyler are a young couple who travel to the Hawthorne in order to experience something out of the ordinary. For Tyler, Hawthorne is a moving meditation on culinary culture but Margot is less enthused. As the evening unfolds, the experience becomes increasingly sinister and what starts as experimental cuisine takes on terrifying consequences for the dinner guests. [Watch the trailer here](#)

**Watch THE MENU in advance of Film Club!** It is available on Prime and Fubo among other sites.

**Monday, June 15, 7:30-8:30 pm [REGISTER 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**

## Short Made! Now What? - June 22

You wrote it! You got it made! It has been to festivals!!  
Now what?

Join **Mark Ricche** and learn about the platforms that are hubs where your short is a hot commodity that will get even more recognition. Mark will share info about multiple sites, each pushing a different bend, genre, or community for filmmakers. Youtube may be the most recognized platform, but it all depends on what your angle is...eyes, worldwide reach, networking, broadening your career options, fundraising, etc.

If shorts are a commodity on those sites, you also need to change your mindset and start using them as commodities to show "you are capable," especially when it comes to beating other filmmakers to that crowdfunding punch.

This is a workshop on how short films are no longer simply calling cards, but monetizable content integral to the indie filmmaking ecosystem.

**Monday, June 22, 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)**

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.





## Art of Animation - June 26

Whether you are a character animator, FX animator, graphic designer, storyboard artist, motion graphic artist, or just someone who loves animation please, join us for an animation specific meeting up! Chat with fellow animation enthusiasts to promote projects, problem solve potential pain points in your work, or discuss exciting upcoming movies.

**Friday, June 26, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Jessica Mendel**

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## Annapolis Coffee - June 2

**Tuesday, June 2, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

**Double T Diner**, 12 Defense St., Annapolis, MD 21401

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

## Frederick Coffee - June 3

**Wednesday, June 3, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

**Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro & Cafe**

1305 West 7th Street Unit #19 Frederick, MD

Organized by **Jean Rosolino**



## Executive Coffee - June 9

**Tuesday, June 9, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

## Richmond Happy Hour - June 9

**Tuesday, June 9, 5:00-7:00 pm** [RSVP here](#)

**Brambly Park**, 1708 Belleville St. Richmond, VA 23230

Organized by **Carly Crickenberger**

## Baltimore Coffee - June 16

**Tuesday, June 16, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

**The Bun Shop**, 238 West Read St, Baltimore, MD

Organized by **Jacque Greff**

## Reel Moms Coffee - June 19

**Friday, June 19, 10:00-11:00 am** [RSVP here](#)

Theme for the 2-minute short challenge is "Juneteenth"

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

## DC Coffee - June 25

**Thursday, June 25, 9:00-10:00 am** [RSVP Here](#)

**Busboys & Poets**, 235 Carroll Street NW, Takoma Park, DC

Organized by **Melissa Houghton** and **Anna Griesshammer**

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**WIFV Office Closed June 19**

# 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



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[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.



Volunteer. Donate. Review.



Women in Film & Video | 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, DC 20003 US

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