

May 2026

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## Roundtable Roundup

### Writers Helping Writers

Friday, May 8, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

**Documentary:** Archival Research and Producing

Mon, May 11, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club:** CRASH

Mon, May 18, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for All. Watch film in advance

**Art of Animation**

Fri, May 22, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

## President's Message



Dear WIFV  
Members and  
Friends,

We've just  
completed another  
successful Women  
of Vision –  
congratulations to  
honorees Kate

Beyda, Phylcia Rashad and Cheryl  
Ottenritter!

Next on our agenda is the 2026 Board of Director elections. We have an online Candidate Orientation Meeting April 29. Candidates must submit their statement/bio/photo by May 11. The slate of candidates is approved by the WIFV Board in our May meeting, then General and Executive WIFV members vote in early June. The new Board takes office in July.

WIFV's Bylaws ensure continual Board turn-over. Board members run for 2-year terms, with 3 consecutive terms max. Officers serve 1-year terms, with 2 consecutive terms max.

Serving on a Board like WIFV's provides a number of benefits. Members help shape the future, bring new ideas and fresh energy, and give back to our community in a meaningful way. Members from a marginalized background are also supporting their peers and helping make WIFV more inclusive. Board members make new friends and grow their network, learn more about the field, improve their leadership and teamwork skills, and enhance their resume. WIFV does not require previous Board experience, so this is a good place for younger people to learn. Large financial donations are not

**Writers Helping Writers**  
Friday, May 22, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

**Editors:** Topic TBA  
**Wed, May 27, 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.

required, although everyone tries to give something to show their support. WIFV pays for Directors & Officer's insurance.

Board membership is a commitment. WIFV's Board is responsible for overseeing programs, governing the organization, ensuring financial stability, and forming partnerships to benefit the membership. Board meetings (on Zoom) are the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Members are encouraged to join a committee and contribute there, as well as to attend major functions, like Women of Vision, ScriptDC and the Holiday Party.

Interested in learning more? Attend the April 29 orientation or reach out to me or another Board member.

## Jacquie

Jacquie Greff  
2025-26 WIFV President

## New/Renewing Members (March 25 - April 28, 2026)

Day Al-Mohamed  
Gina Anderson  
Patricia Aufderheide  
Lucy Baick  
Jane Barbara  
Virginia Bertholet  
Lorraine Blackwell  
Caroline Bock  
Ulysses Campbell  
Marjuan Canady  
Ellie Christiansen  
Jennifer Cuciti  
Cassandra Dowty  
Tom Feliu  
Karen Fensterstock  
Gia Foretia  
Amy Garelick  
Katy Jones Garrity  
Terry Menefee Gau  
Umit Gulsen  
Dave Haft  
Kristen Reiber Harris  
LaNese Harris

Megan Healy  
Jaime Horrigan  
Melissa Howerton  
Mira Kelly  
Aviva Kempner  
Adam Krell  
Astrid Lark  
Ward LeHardy  
Brigid Maher  
Jessica Mendel  
Cathryn Moe  
Catherine Murphy  
David Nelson  
Paula Ospina  
Erin Renee Powell  
TG Powell  
Helene Prince  
Kathryn Raaker  
Leslie Ralston  
Geri Reinhart  
Michael Rose  
Karen Ruckman

Amita Sarin  
Paula Simpson  
Gene Smith  
Mike Sobola  
Dan Sonnett  
Hanna Stawicki  
Kendal Stewart  
Myah Stokes  
Jan Sutcliffe  
Yume Tanaka  
Kamilah Thurmon  
Adrienne Toghraie  
Skye Trimble  
Susan Verbeeck  
Rangeley Wallace  
Monda Raquel Webb  
Elizabeth Wessels  
Wendy Wilkins  
Diane Carper Williams  
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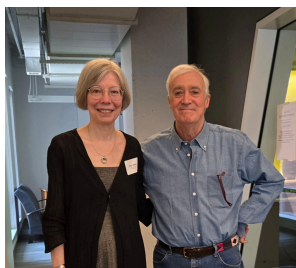
## News You Can Use



It was such an honor, and a lot of fun, to recognize the work of **Kate Beyda**, **Phylicia Rashad**, and **Cheryl Ottenritter** at the 2026 Women of Vision Awards on April 23 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Welcome remarks were made by WIFV President **Jacqueline Greff** and OCTFME Director **LaToya Foster**. The honoree panel was moderated by **Connie St. John**, Founder No Weapon Productions/WIFV Past President.

The Women of Vision Committee was led by **Robin Farmer** and **Lisa Scott** and supported by numerous volunteers. We are grateful for the support of the Women of Vision Award Sponsors: New Line Cinema, Warner Brothers, Netflix, the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment, Maryland Film Office, Virginia Film Office, Interface Media Group, and Blackmagic Design. Thanks to all who attended and made the evening a success!

Photo credits: Lauren Fletcher. Estella Banks, Carla Sandy



## Breslin and Pinhole Photography Day!

**Nancy Breslin** was interviewed by Scott Simon on Weekend Edition on April 25. They talked about pinhole photography because the next day was Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day. Despite it being radio, Breslin took two cameras and some images to share with Scott and thus, indirectly, with the audience. [You can listen to the 3-minute interview here.](#)

## WORDS OF WAR Screens May 4

The monthly documentary and conversation series, "Democracy on Screen," created by French in Motion in partnership with NYU's John Brademas Center returns with a special screening of WORDS OF WAR. The film is a biographical drama directed by James Strong, starring Maxine Peake as Anna Politkovskaya, the fearless Russian journalist who exposed atrocities during the Chechen Wars. Released in May 2025, the film dramatizes

her fight for an independent press against the Russian government, highlighting her life and death. The film's producer, **Mark Maxey**, will lead the conversation that follows with the senior editor at *The Atlantic*, **Paul Beckett**.



In recognition of World Press Freedom Day, this special screening reflects on the vital role of journalists in safeguarding truth, accountability, and democratic values. Observed globally each year on May 3, the day underscores the importance of a free and independent press—and the risks faced by those who report in the public interest.

NYU Brademas Center, 1307 L Street, NW

Open to all - \$15 Tickets (plus fee) | Free for students and French in Motion members

[Get tickets here](#) Please note: registration closes 24 hours before the event.

## Congratulations to Seed Grant Recipients

Few Seed Funds exist for documentary filmmakers. WIFV understands the importance of first-in support and is grateful for the many contributions it has received from its members to support this program. We are honored to announce the recipients and projects for the 2026 Seed Grant for Documentary Filmmakers:



**Felicia Barlow Clar** for *OUT OF THE SHADOWS: Rev. Dr. James Myles Hinton*  
**Renee Fischer** for *PRAY TELL*



## You Will Want to Listen!

On May 10 - **Greenlight Projects Through the Power of Your Community** (Ep. 124)

Host Tara Jabbari interviews actress and filmmaker Anna Campbell, who shares her journey from acting to directing and producing her first feature film, *NORA*. They discuss the importance of community in filmmaking, the creative process, and the unique voice each artist brings to their work. Anna emphasizes the need for collaboration, defining one's uniqueness, and the challenges of distribution in the film industry. The conversation highlights the role of music in storytelling and the significance of art in exploring personal and communal questions.

May 24 - **Host Special: Scores, Soundtracks, & Their Emotional Resonance** (Ep. 125)

All of our hosts - Candice, Sandra, and Tara - come together again for another host special. This time they explore the fascinating world of film scores and soundtracks, highlighting the differences between the two, chatting about iconic composers and film scores, and how music shapes our emotional experience of stories on screen. Are there songs that always bring to mind certain movies when you hear them? Tune in to hear more about the music that brings movies to life!

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 Programs and Networking

## Greening Your Production - May 6

Join Jasmine Huggins and Olivia Dance as they share how they incorporated environmentally sustainable practices into every phase of their filming process. They will also share a toolkit outlining their practices to improve your next project's environmental impact. [Panelist bios here.](#)



**Wednesday, May 6, 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](#).

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## Directors & Scripts with Joan Darling - May 7

Joan Darling will discuss how a director interacts with a script when they join a project and what they look for when approached to join a project. The info shared is also valuable for writers who expect to direct their own projects to ensure they are wearing the "right hat" for this stage of production. [Panelist bio here.](#) This is part of the Narrative Script Development Fellowship and is open to the public.

**Thursday, May 7 - 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

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## Writers Helping Writers - May 8 and 22

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, May 8 - 6:30 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

**Friday, May 22- 6:30 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

Roundtables are FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.



## Archival Research and Producing - May 11

If you've ever wondered about the secrets behind great research and some of the pitfalls of rights and clearances, join this Doc Roundtable discussion with local archival pros **Katy Jones Garrity**, **Judith**

**Snyderman**, and **Doretha K. Williams PhD** and learn some basics of budgeting for archival images, where to begin your research plan, and when involving a professional may be helpful. [Panelist bios here.](#)

**Monday, May 11, 6:30 pm** [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Randi Cohen Coblentz**

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## National Networking Night - May 14

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, May 14, 7:00-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)**

Login info with your registration confirmation



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## CRASH - May 18

CRASH is a 2004 American crime drama film directed by Paul Haggis, who co-wrote the screenplay and produced the film with Robert Moresco. A self-described "passion piece" for Haggis, the film features racial and social tensions in Los Angeles and was inspired by a real-life incident in which Haggis's Porsche was carjacked in 1991 outside a video store on Wilshire Boulevard. **Watch the film in advance of Film Club!** It is available on Kanopy, Prime, AppleTV and others. Some sites list it as a 2005 film.

**Monday, May 18, 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**



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## Art of Animation - May 22

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, May 22, 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 - May 5

**Tuesday, May 5, 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 - May 6

**Wednesday, May 6, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**

**Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro & Cafe**, 1305 West 7th

Street Unit #19 Frederick, MD

Organized by **Jean Rosolino**



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## New Member Coffee - May 8

**Wednesday, May 8, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)**

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

## Executive Coffee - May 12

Tuesday, May 12, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

## Richmond Happy Hour - May 12

Tuesday, May 12, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

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

## Reel Moms Coffee - May 15

Friday, May 15, 10:00-11:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

## Baltimore Coffee - May 19

Tuesday, May 19, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Organized by **Jacque Greff**

## DC Coffee - May 28

Thursday, May 28, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP Here](#)

**Eastern Market**, Picnic Tables, 225 7th Street SE Washington, DC

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

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## WIFV Office Closed May 25 for Memorial Day

### 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



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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