

WIFV NEWS

WOMEN
IN
FILM & VIDEO
WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV People in the News - May 2026

Patricia Aufderheide, Sasha Carrera, Una Harrington, Matthew Hua, Dani Ellsworth, Frederick Coffee Group, 48 Hour Team WIFV, Andrew Houghton, Zoe Poindexter, Eileen Dougherty, DC/DOX, Alexandra Korba, 48 Hour AI Update



Aufderheide Inducted Into NATAS Silver Circle

The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) has announced the Gold & Silver Circle Honor Society inductees and NATAS Foundation scholarship recipients who will be celebrated at the 47th Annual Sports Emmy® Awards and the 47th Annual News & Documentary Emmy® Awards taking place May 26-28 in New York City.

The Gold & Silver Circle Honor Society recognizes exceptional individuals who have made significant and impactful contributions to the television industry and their respective fields. Inductees to the Gold & Silver Circle have performed distinguished service and exhibited inspirational careers for 50 and 25 years respectively.

2026 Documentary Inductees, Gold & Silver Circle

Gold

- Susan Lacy (Documentary Film Director and Producer; Creator and Executive Producer of PBS American Masters; WIFV Woman of Vision 2008)

Silver

- **Patricia Aufderheide** (University Professor, School of Communication, American University, WIFV Woman of Vision 2010)
- R.J. Cutler (Filmmaker / President and Founder of This Machine Filmworks)
- Sally Jo Fifer (Former President and CEO at Independent Television Service/ITVS)
- Vicente Franco Izquierdo (Cinematographer / Director, Franco Productions)
- Renee Tajima-Peña (Documentary filmmaker and professor at the UCLA)



SPINSTERS Multiple Wins

SPINSTERS, written and produced by **Sasha Carrera**, took home five awards from the Baltimore Next Media Webfest in April, for writing, directing, both duo and ensemble acting and best comedy feature! Cast and crew came out to see the film on the big screen for the very first time and the screening was followed by a panel discussion. We can't wait to bring it to Frederick's SilverVox Festival in June and share it with the city that made it happen!

Left to right back row: Sasha Carrera, Melissa Wintringham, Kayla Sesko, Reagan Brown

Harrington - Houston - Success

Una Harrington is back from Houston Worldfest with a prize! Her short film, MAXI MEN, won a Silver Remi award! "I met some really talented female directors and have come away super inspired." All the prize recipients are pictured to left.



Hua Selected for Disability Belongs Entertainment Lab

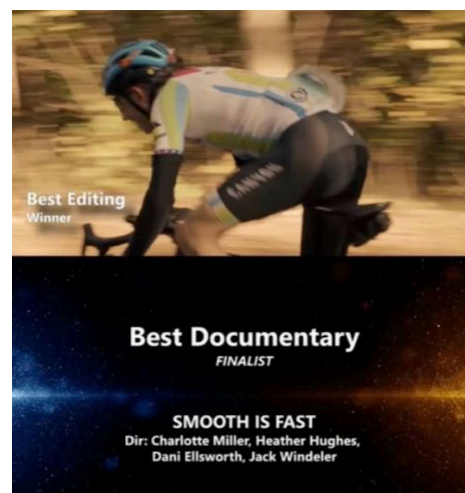
Matt Hua has been selected as one of 25 Fellows for the 2026 **Disability Belongs Entertainment Lab**! *Deadline* writes that "Disability Belongs [is] a national disability-led nonprofit known for creating systemic change in how society views and values people with disabilities. . . . In its eighth year, the Lab has become a growing pipeline for disabled talent. The cohort -- which includes writers, directors, producers, and those working in physical production -- will engage in interactive presentations, roundtables, and skill-building workshops with top executives and talent from major studios, networks, and production companies." [Read the full article here.](#)

"I'm especially proud to be the FIRST composer selected in the program's 8-year history. I hope this helps open the door for more composers with disabilities in the future. Special thanks to Melissa Houghton for recommending the Lab to me and encouraging me to apply!"

Ellsworth Film Awarded

The image at right says it all! Congratulations to **Dani Ellsworth** for winning the Best Editing Award and being a finalist for the Best Documentary with the film *SMOOTH IS FAST* at the Virginia Emerging Filmmakers Festival. Ellsworth was the Co-Director and Co-Cinematographer on the film.

Logline - Mountain biking legend Jeremiah Bishop spent decades racing to a top 15 world ranking. Now he must learn to slow down - just enough to build the life waiting off the bike.





Frederick Coffee Group Keeps Percolating!

Ramsey Telhami, Emily Holland, Jean Rosolino, Tod Hopkins, Mere Walton, Todd Gardner (blocked), Rhonda McLaughlin, Noah Anderson, Rick Kain, Malyn Pilard (standing), Michelle Kim, Barry Bradburd (center), absent from photo: Sasha Carrera



Still Smiling after 48 Hours!

Once again WIFV participated in the 48 Hour Film Project, DC. The team consisted of 32 amazing participants, including crew and cast. This year we tried using 2 cameras. It was a learning experience but certainly helped with time management. Our genre was Comedy/Moral Dilemma. Our writing team got right to work Friday night and came up with a fun concept which was filmed on Saturday. Even though the actors were notified very late Friday night, they still showed up at 8 am Saturday morning ready to rock and roll. Believe it or not, we were done filming by 5:30 pm. The editor had the files by 9 and he was off and running. Editing was completed by Sunday at 7 pm. WOW, music, sound effects and all was ready to roll.

Log Line - *"When bickering twin sisters' scheme to con donors into funding their fake "Twin-ectomy," they get a taste of their own medicine...courtesy of a slicker con man!"*

Join us for the screening on Sunday, May 17, 6:45 pm at the AFI Theater in Silver Spring. Tickets are now on sale. [AFI TICKETS](#)

Congratulations to TEAM WIFV for another great weekend!!

CAST

Alex - Alexandra Salter; Sydney - Sydney Salter; Patrick - **Samyak Gadepalli**;
Donor Woman 1 - **Marsha Rehns**; Donor Man - **George Kassouf**; Donor Woman 2 - **Mira Kelly**;
Donor Woman 3 - Katherine Schmoke; Donor Woman 4 - **Jane Barbara**

CREW

Director - **sheri ratick stroud**; Assistant Director - **Robin Noonan-Price**
Head Writer - **Lisa Scott**; Writers - **Cassidy Edwards**, Marsha Rehns, Jane Barbara
Co-producers - sheri ratick stroud, **Geri Reinhart**
Directors of Photography - Regan Coombs, **James Mae**
Set Decorator & Props - **Marianne Elbertson**
Sound Technician - Ed Saltzman
Lead Editor - Aaron Hernandez; Assistant Editor - Ines I. Perez
Gaffer / Lighting - Connor Thrasher
Script Supervisor / Continuity - Cassidy Edwards
Set Photography - Michelle D.N.
Grip and Set Videography - Doug Koztoski
Poster Design - **Andy Espinoza**
Production Associates - **Harper Carter**, Elyse Miller, **Helene Prince**
Special Thanks - Melissa Houghton, Jane Barbara, and Eric Seidman



DESERT HORSE: The JR Camel Story

STATE CHAMPION. COLLEGE STAR. STREETBALL ICON.

Andrew Houghton and the team at Skyline Sports are pleased to announce a grant award from the Montana Department of Commerce to support the production and post-production of DESERT HORSE. [Press Release here](#)

To Native Americans in Montana, basketball is more than a game – it is a source of pride and a connection to a past way of life. Reservations travel across Montana to watch their high school teams play, and high-scoring superstars like Elvis Old Bull, Jonathan Takes Enemy and Don Wetzel Sr. become some of the most famous names in the state before they turn 18. DESERT HORSE traces JR Camel's basketball life from childhood through the present day, connecting him to a long line of Native American basketball heroes and reliving the memories that made him a streetball legend. [Watch the trailer and read more here.](#)

HumanitiesDC Announces Cycle I Grants for 2026



supported in part by

DC COMMISSION ON ARTS & HUMANITIES

41 grants were awarded under the categories of Community Culture & Heritage, DC Oral History Collaborative - Oral History Interviewing, and Visions - Projects + Events, to recipients across all eight wards. That is a total of over \$583,000 directly invested back into our community. [See full list of grantees here.](#) WIFV Members receiving grants are:

Community Culture & Heritage Grantees

- **Zoe Poindexter** - Defining Love: Voices of Black D.C.
- **Eileen Dougherty** - Voices of Resilience

Visions - Projects + Events Grantees

- **DC/DOX** (fiscally sponsored by WIFV) - DC/DOX Film Festival 2026



FREEFALL: A Reckoning for Boeing at DC/DOX and Streams August 19

With the latest conflict between America and Iran jacking up fuel prices and airfares around the globe, Netflix and Imagine

Documentaries have a flight plan for Rory Kennedy's follow-up to DOWNFALL: The Case Against Boeing. Exclusively reported by *Deadline* back in July 2024, FREEFALL: A

Reckoning for Boeing will debut August 19 all over the planet on Netflix. **You can see it in person at DC/DOX on June 14!** [Get tickets here.](#)

The latest doc from the UTA-repped Kennedy, FREEFALL is produced by Moxie Films and Imagine Documentaries with Brian Grazer and Ron Howard as EPs. Kennedy, Bailey, Viva Van Loock, Sara Bernstein, Justin Wilkes and **Alexandra Korba** are producers. [Read full article in Deadline here](#)

AI RULE UPDATED!

**Generative AI is
now prohibited.**



The 48 Hour Film Project

For the full Rule, check the website!

Thanks to the WIFV Sponsors



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Thank You!

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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. We welcome all genres, genders, and experience levels.





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