

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

July 2026

In this Issue

1. President's Message
2. Roundtable Roundup
3. New and Renewing Members
4. 2026 WIFV Board Election Results
5. Film Club Celebrates 5 Years!
6. WETA Teams Win Big
7. LAST BATTLEFRONT National Broadcasts in July
8. MediaMaker Spotlight Episodes
9. The Who To Watch TV FYC List
10. CMSI Releases 2026 Study of Documentary Professionals
11. Directors: Making RITE OF PASSAGE, July 6
12. Casting Your Film, July 9
13. WIFTUS Networking Night, July 9
14. Consent Forward Sets, July 14
15. Writers Helping Writers, July 10 and July 24
16. Film Club: VICTORIA, July 20
17. Art of Animation, July 24
18. Networking - Frederick, July 1; Annapolis, July 7; New Member Coffee, July 10; Executive, July 14; Richmond Happy Hour, July 14; Reel Moms, July 17; Baltimore, July 21; DC Ice Cream Social, July 22
19. Care for Creatives/Resources
20. Thanks to Our Sponsors

Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: Making RITE OF PASSAGE

Monday, July 6, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers

Friday, July 10, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: VICTORIA

Monday, July 20, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for All. Watch film in advance

President's Message



Dear WIFV
Members and
Friends,

As we move into
Summer, school is
over, vacations
begin, and work
slows. Even though
there are fewer

formal meetings, this is an important period for the WIFV Board. Board members can only serve 3 consecutive 2-year terms, then must step down. This rotation ensures that the Board continues to be dynamic, diverse, accountable, and effective, with fresh perspectives and new energy, avoiding stagnation. **Read about the results of the election below!**

Some of my personal goals for this coming year include:

- Continue to evolve WIFV to effectively serve and represent the filmmakers of the future, as well as those who are already established.
- Continue to navigate today's challenges to organizational funding and staffing.
- Revisit and update the Strategic Plan developed in 2023 to address the many new challenges of today's environment.
- Incorporate findings from our Inclusion Needs Assessment into practice and programs.

Thank you to those who responded to our demographic survey, helping us understand our membership profile better. From the 95 respondents so far, a picture is developing!

Art of Animation
Fri, July 24, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers
Friday, July 24, 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. [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. Please provide a project name and a photo credit.

WIFV Office CLOSED July 3

- 45% of our members consider themselves established media makers; 41% are emerging.
- 83% identify as female; 16% male.
- 8% identify as a member of the LGBTQ+ community.
- 14% are under age 35, 8% are 35-44, 16% are 45-54, 24% are 55-64, and 38% are 65+.
- 20% are Black or African American; 67% are white or European American; 4% are more than one ethnicity; 3% are Chinese or other East Asian; 2% are Hispanic; 3% are Caribbean; and 3% are Jewish.
- 72% do not identify as a person with a disability; 10% have difficulty walking or climbing; 8% appreciate captioning; 2% appreciate ramps.

WIFV Members who haven't responded, yet, [please add to the picture here](#).

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-27 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (May 27 - June 24, 2026)

John Aaron	Paige Gold	Michaela Pearce
Sandra Abrams	Paul Grant	Chuck Finn Pena
Christina Arellano	Chad Horn	Mignon Pinson
Radford Baker	Bridget Hunnicutt	Julia Reardin
Denee Barr	Walter Jacob	Mark Ricche
Alison Bauer	Megan Jaffer	Bill Rinderknecht
Laura Bennett	Sara Kenigsberg	Charlotte Rinderknecht
Samantha Biatch	Jenn Koiter	Royal Kennedy Rodgers
Alanna Bielke	Christina Kontomichalou	Melissa Rogers
Randall Blair	Mimi Lam	Emily Roos
Suzanne Brindamour	Karen Lanning	Gina Rozier
Kerry Cadden	Hilary Kirsner Leonard	Alex Schor
Celeste Caldwell	Mitch Malasky	Jainaba Seckan
Leola Calzolari-Stewart	Valeria Massarelli	Rachell Shapiro
Nutan Chada	Melanie McGhee	Judith Snyderman
Anne Chapman	Bridget Bell McMahon	Sharon Sobel
E. Samantha Cheng	Anna Molinaro	Connie St. John
Richard Chisolm	Lisa Musgrove	Kimberley Spire-Oh
Mary Kerry Craven	Michael Nephew	David Stern
Heather Duncan	Martha Newman	MarySue Twohy
Angela Edwards	Imani Njau	Susan Stolov Weiss
Meredith Esquivel	Emily O'Connor	
Brandon Ferry	Cheryl Ottenritter	Corporate Supporters:
Tom Fish		Ott House Audio
Lucia Fox-Shapiro		

News You Can Use

WIFV Board Election Results

Thank you for your involvement and votes in our recent election! The new 2026-27 WIFV Board has its first meeting July 15.

Newly elected to the Board are **Jillian Cardillo, Cassidy Edwards, Brandon Ferry, Anna Greisshammer, Amelia Milstein, and Amy Oden**. Welcome and thanks for joining us!



Re-elected for a 2-year term are **Alison Bauer, Jacquie Greff, Carla Sandy, and Lisa Scott**. Continuing Board members are **Sandra Brennan, Alan Field, Cadie Hopkins, Michelle Kim, Renata Phillippi, Sheila Smith, and Connie St. John** (Immediate Past President).

The WIFV officers elected for 2026-27 are: Jacquie Greff, President; Lisa Scott, Executive Vice President; and Carla Sandy, Treasurer. We do not yet have a Secretary.

Our June 17 Board meeting was bittersweet, as a number of long-time, contributing Board members either were required to step down or simply needed a break. I'd like to thank **Virginia Munce Bertholet, Candice Bloch, Alyscia Cunningham, Robin Farmer, Tara Jabbari, Anna Reid Jhirad, Susan Lutz, sheri ratick stroud, Malikkah Rollins, and Judith Snyderman** for their hard work in helping make WIFV such a great organization. All will continue as members and many also serve on committees, so we're not losing them!



Celebrating 5 Years of Film Club

This July, the WIFV Film Club celebrates five years of movie watching! From horror to comedy and epic drama to suspense, the Film Club has discussed more than 60 narrative feature films. (See the full movie list in [Letterboxd here](#).)

Each month co-hosts **Ericka Boston** and **Connie St. John** are joined by WIFV members and non-members for engaging conversations about films of all genres. During the summer Film

Club spotlights themed movies — a brainchild of Ericka's. This summer's theme is "Time Is of the Essence," featuring films that take place within 24 hours or less.

"Film Club has really made me appreciate the magic of movie-making," said Connie. "I've learned so much from the filmmakers and film lovers who have participated over the years."

Ericka added, "Film Club is my favorite WIFV program, and not because I co-host it. It's always fun to discuss our response to a movie, not only as film fans but as fellow filmmakers."

The WIFV Film Club, typically held the third Monday of the month, is free to attend and open to members and non-members. Attendees watch the film in advance and then come to Film Club to discuss it. VICTORIA (2015) is the July 20 selection. [Sign up here](#).

WETA Teams Win Big at Capital Emmys

At the 2026 Capital Emmy Awards on Saturday June 20, former WIFV board member and WETA Local Senior Producer **Judy Meschel** was awarded six more Regional Emmys for work on WETA Arts, WETA/PBS's local arts show. The awards were in categories that ranged from long-form historical documentary to short-form arts and entertainment to DEI, and topics ranged from Revolutionary War reenactors, impromptu rock bands, from

museum exhibitions exploring slavery and Black art, to Washingtonians learning K-pop performance.

WETA itself earned 13 awards from 19 nominations, with honors going to many members of the WETA Local Production team including Jenna Schwartz. Nichole Reed, Jeffrey Eagle, **Judy Meschel**, Elizabeth Albers, **Tracy Baumgardner**, **Jordan Hoffman**, Amanda Lee (all pictured above L-R) and not pictured, but also winners - Frank Carroll, Felicia Curry, Mark Jones, Julie Naff, Austin Reeves, Rory Sheil, Paige Smith Lee, Antoinette Thompson, and Seth Tillman.



THE LAST BATTLEFRONT National Broadcasts in July

Wednesday, July 1 on WHUT at 1:00 pm
Sunday, July 5 on MPT at 5:00 pm
Saturday, July 11 on WETA at 7:00 pm

Washington, D.C. is one of the only capitals in the world where its citizens have no representation in the national legislature and where Congress and federal authorities routinely intrude on the local government of the District. The film, written/directed by **Anna Reid Jhirad**, looks at four turning points in the history of Washington, D.C., to understand how this happened and the struggles of D.C. residents to restore their basic rights of self-government that other Americans enjoy.

The film is seeking distribution funding and is fiscally sponsored by WIFV. [Donate here.](#)

Not in the region? **THE LAST BATTLEFRONT: Quest for the Vote in Washington, D.C.** is playing on more than 50 public television stations, many on the stations' World Channel after the initial main channel broadcast. WHUT is the presenting station via NETA.

Please share the film with friends & family around the country!
[Link to PBS Station Carriage Report](#)

Coming Up This Month...





Wendy Braun
Actress

#128
July 5

Jury Duty's Next Reality-Style Scripted Show: Company Retreat



Mara Reinstein
Film Critic

#129
July 19

Inside the Wild World of a Film Critic

July 5, "Jury Duty's Next Reality-Style Scripted Show: Company Retreat (Ep. 128)"

Host **Tara Jabbari** chats with actress **Wendy Braun**, who gives us a glimpse behind the scenes of "Jury Duty Presents: Company Retreat." Learn the fascinating process behind the unique scripted comedy, where real human moments blend with meticulously staged interactions. Wendy shares insights about blending authenticity with improvisation, the human stories that resonate amidst comedy, and how creative resilience can transform careers and lives.

Watch the show streaming on Prime Video, all episodes out now. [Wendy Braun's free guided meditation for CREATING SUCCESS WHILE YOU SLEEP is available here.](#)

July 19, "Inside the Wild World of a Film Critic (Ep. 129)"

Film critic and entertainment journalist, **Mara Reinstein** joins host **Sandra Abrams** to talk about the state of the film industry from someone who covers it for a living. The life of an entertainment journalist may look glamorous, but it is not. Between the impossible deadlines when the Emmys run late, followed by an early morning screening for a major studio film, it can be a marathon for various publications. Reinstein also explains why large studios focus on remakes or franchises, fewer movies are in theaters, and the impact it has on the movie-going public. But there are a few breakout categories, and she gives insight into the new Tom Cruise movie, **DIGGER**, a satirical black comedy from director, Alejandro G. Inarritu, set for release in October 2026. Reinstein also shares more of her recommendations for movies to see this fall, plus she tells us about who her favorite actor was to interview - in a restaurant that was cleared out for their conversation! [Learn more here.](#)

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!

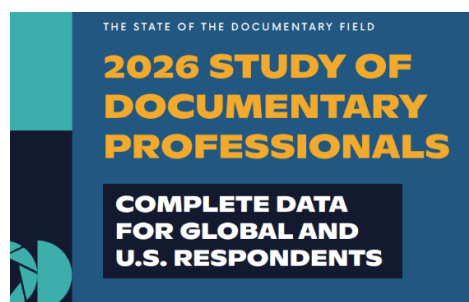
The Who to Watch TV FYC List

The Who to Watch TV FYC List is a call to action to awards voters — these directors, writers, cinematographers, showrunners, editors, composers, and VFX supervisors are doing extraordinary work in categories where gender representation has the furthest to go. This list is uniquely powerful because it was built by our community: Women In Film (Los Angeles) members, tastemakers, executives, creatives, and actors who know the entertainment industry from the inside.



See their work. Champion their shows.
And when it's time to vote, remember their names.

The [WHO TO WATCH list](#) is an act of reclamation — a bold step toward reshaping who gets seen, celebrated, and hired in Hollywood. Visibility drives change; by amplifying these creatives and honoring their work, we open doors for more voices to tell the stories only they can tell. [Social media resources here](#) - help us spread the word!



CMSI Report Released

The Center for Media & Social Impact (CMSI) is proud to launch The State of the Documentary Field, a new three-report series building on 10 years of research into the documentary ecosystem.

The 2026 series includes:

The State of the Documentary Field: 15 Key

Findings: A clear, accessible synthesis of the most important insights shaping the field today.

Conversations About a Critical Moment in U.S. Documentary Filmmaking and Distribution: In-depth interviews with producers, directors, and impact producers.

The State of the Documentary Field 2026: Study of Global Documentary Professionals: A comprehensive analysis of survey data from documentary professionals worldwide.

For context about the impact of this data, Current recently highlighted the reports' findings on challenges facing the documentary film industry following the rescission of federal funding for public media. [Read the article here.](#)

Upcoming WIFV Programs and Networking



Making RITE OF PASSAGE - July 6

RITE OF PASSAGE logline: At her aunt's wake-keeping, Des wears the wrong color, a quiet sign of how far she's drifted from her family's culture. After a charged therapy session with her mother, silence materializes into spoken resentments, leaving her unsure if healing is possible or if some distances can't be crossed. [Watch the trailer here.](#) [Presenter bio here..](#)

Monday, July 6, 6:30-8:00 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**

Casting Your Film - July 9

You've got the script, now you need the actors! In this workshop, **Anne Chapman** will share how to run a casting call; how to get your script in front of an actor; how to work with a casting director; what types of parts would someone want to play; basics on SAG-AFTRA considerations; and a general idea of fees and expectations. This workshop is a public part of the WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship for July. [Presenter bio here.](#)

Thursday, July 9 - 5:30 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

National Networking Night - July 9

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, July 9, 7:00-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

You will receive ILogin info with your registration confirmation



Consent Forward Sets - July 14

Do you want to create a workplace that is both creative and respectful? Join **Windy Borman**, an award-winning filmmaker and Certified Consent-Forward Artist, in this webinar you will learn about the 5 elements of consent, as defined in the acronym CRISP. Windy will guide you on how to apply these elements so you can foster a consensual and collaborative environment in each of your productions, no matter where you appear on the Call Sheet. [Panelist bio here.](#)

Tuesday, July 14, 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Writers Helping Writers - July 10 and 24

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, July 10 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Friday, July 24 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.



VICTORIA - July 20

Flowing with our summer series theme "Time Is of the Essence," WIFV Film Club invites you to join us for our July movie discussion of VICTORIA (2015), a German crime thriller directed and co-written by Sebastian Schipper. This award-winning film is shot in a single, uninterrupted take, and

stars Laia Costa (NEWNESS, THE DIPLOMAT) and Frederick Lau (HEART OF STONE, THE CAPTAIN).

After a night of dancing and drinking, Victoria (Costa) meets Sonne (Lau) and his three friends and gets caught up in a night of crime.

Described as a "kinetic, frenetic, sense-swamping rollercoaster ride," VICTORIA has an 82% rating on Rotten Tomatoes, and won German Film Awards for Best Fiction Film, Direction, Actress in a Leading Role (Costa), Actor in a Leading Role (Lau), Cinematography and Music.

Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. VICTORIA is available on Hoopla, Kanopy and AppleTV. [Discussion questions here.](#)

Monday, July 20, 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**



Art of Animation - July 24

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, July 24, 9:00-10:00 am [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Jessica Mendel**

Frederick Happy Hour - July 1

Wednesday, July 1, 6:30-8:00pm [RSVP here](#)

Jean Rosolino's House

You will receive the location address with your registration confirmation

Organized by **Jean Rosolino**



Annapolis Coffee - July 7

Tuesday, July 7, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar**

New Members Coffee - July 10

Friday, July 10, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Executive Coffee - July 14

Tuesday, July 14, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Richmond Happy Hour - July 14

Tuesday, July 14, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Brambly Park, 1708 Belleville St. Richmond, VA 23230

Organized by **Carly Crickenberger**

Reel Moms Coffee - July 17

Friday, July 17, 10:00-11:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Theme for the 2-minute short challenge is TBD

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**

Baltimore Coffee - July 21

Tuesday, July 21, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Organized by **Jacque Greff**

DC Ice Cream Social - July 22

Thursday, July 22, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP Here](#)

Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams, 526 8th St. SE, DC 20003

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

WIFV Office Closed July 3

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 and the Care for Creatives team will follow up with more information.

Thanks to Our Sponsors



MEDIA CENTRAL



Send Stories to:
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.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!