

WIFV People in the News - June 2026

Mark Maxey, Mark Ricche, Robin Noonan-Price, Jane Barbara, Vickie Warehime, Rick Kain, Tara Zabriski, Susan Lutz, Sandra Abrams, Mignon Pinson, Jainaba Seckan, sheri ratick stroud, Zach Toombs, Eden Raskin Jenkins (is that Martin Sheen?)

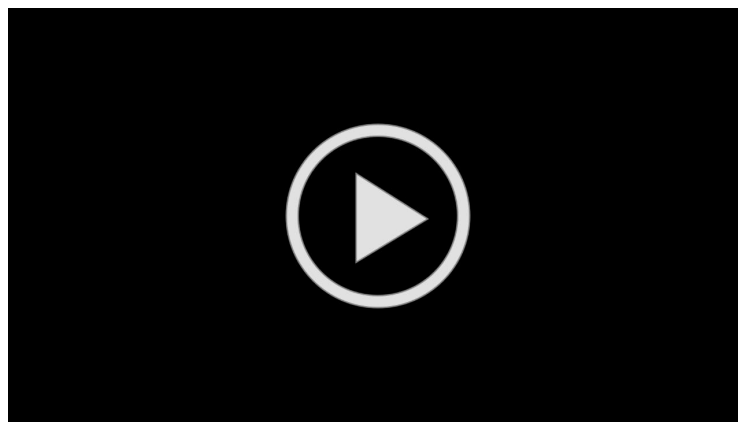


Maxey Fans!

WIFV joined together in support of producer **Mark Maxey's** latest feature, **WORDS OF WAR**, which screened on Monday, May 4, at NYU's DC satellite campus as part of the French in Motion "Democracy on Screen" series in recognition of World Press Freedom Day. The film is a dramatic retelling of the story of Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya,

who spoke truth to power and was ultimately silenced for her work. Following the screening, Mark was joined by legendary journalist Paul Beckett, former assistant editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, for a discussion on the pressures facing modern-day journalists. The film is available for rent on a variety of streaming services.

Pictured L-R: **Mark Ricche, Robin Noonan-Price, Mark Maxey, and Jane Barbara.**



HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE BADGE at SilverVox June 19

The HEARTBEAT BEHIND THE BADGE documentary has been selected to screen in the SilverVox Film and Music Festival in Frederick, MD on June 19 at 3pm. [Information can be found at SilverVoxfest.com](https://www.silvervox.com). Watch the trailer above.

This is **Vickie Warehime's** first time producing and directing a documentary and **Rick Kain** was Cinematographer and assistant director. "It took a village to make this project and I found my amazing editor through a WIFV coffee meetup! Finding **Tara Zabriski** was the missing piece and the only way we finished this documentary!

Thanks to the Frederick Coffee group for making this team a possibility and WIFV for supporting film makers everywhere!"



Lutz Scores on Multiple Fields

In late May, **Susan Lutz's** daughter scored a goal (her first on the varsity team!) and the lacrosse team won their Divisionals. And Susan found out that three projects she worked on as Writer/Producer this year won a total of four **Telly Awards!!!**

URBAN LEGENDS EXPLAINED won two Tellys - the People's Telly Gold Award and the Bronze Award in the General History category;

FORGOTTEN AMERICA: *Rediscovering Events That Changed the Nation* won a Silver Award in the General- Education & Training category;

BOOKS THAT MATTER: *Meditations* won the Bronze Award in the General-Miscellaneous category

Rockets to #1 on Apple

The documentary, **GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: THE BRIGHTNESS OF LIGHT** (2025) from filmmakers Paul and Ellen Wagner, launched on Apple on Monday, June 1 and went to #1 by Wednesday, June 3. The film is available via video on demand. The Charlottesville-based documentarians sat down with **Sandra Abrams, co-host of WIFV's MediaMaker Spotlight** podcast for an interview and shared more about the making of the film about the iconic painter known as the Mother of American Modernism and how actress Claire Danes joined the production team to be the voice of the artist. **You can watch the podcast episode about their five year path to making the film from March 2026 here.**



Pinson Gathering Viewers and Awards

Mignon Pinson and Maya Jai Pinson are an award-winning mother-daughter filmmaking team and the founders of **LoJai Productions**, a D.C.-based production company dedicated to creating inspiring, impactful, and entertaining films that uplift audiences around the world.

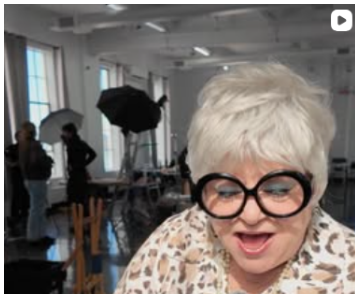
Together, they are the creative force behind the hit faith-based feature film **MY PRIVATE LINE TO GOD**, which has garnered nearly 5 million views online and reached more than 25 million viewers worldwide across multiple platforms. The film is currently available on Prime Video, Apple TV, Roku, Encourage TV, and other streaming outlets, earning recognition for its heartfelt storytelling, family-friendly message, and grassroots success.

LoJai Productions made history on November 29, 2025, with an ambitious triple-premiere event featuring three award-winning short films across three distinct genres: comedy (**BROKE DOWN & BOUGIE**), faith-based drama (**UNCLAIMED SEAT**), and drama/thriller (**FRAME OF EVIDENCE**). This bold rollout showcased the company's creative range and

storytelling versatility and demonstrated that independent filmmakers can successfully produce and premiere multiple high-quality projects across genres. Their latest faith-based short film, UNCLAIMED SEAT, recently achieved eligibility for the Children's & Family Emmy Awards, further establishing LoJai Productions as a growing force in family-friendly and inspirational entertainment.

Seckan Script on Cannes List

Jainaba Seckan's feature screenplay "But Some of Us Are Brave" was among the 30 selected from 300 applications for inclusion on the 6th Cannes Screenplay List presented by Wscripted and Mubi. [Read the article in Deadline here.](#) The list is for projects by female and non-binary filmmakers and screenwriters seeking producing and financing partners.



ratick stroud on Insta?!

"Excited to share "behind the scenes" from my first NY commercial. Signed an NDA so couldn't talk about it. Then last week found this clip on their Instagram site. So now it's out there. Enjoy." **sheri ratick stroud**, Board Member [Watch sher run her lines and develop her character here.](#)

PROJECTING PROTEST - National Short Doc Emmy

Zach Toombs reported that PROJECTING PROTEST produced by Evident Media took home the National Emmy for Outstanding Short Documentary this year!



Here's a portion of his acceptance speech:

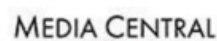
"...Projecting Protest is about a new frontier of the free speech debate. Some of the projected messages you see in the film, I think most people here would think are funny and righteous. Some of the messages most people would find hateful and cruel. But regardless of how we feel about the words themselves, amplifying the voices of ordinary people, preserving our right to be irreverent, to be disruptive, to challenge power, matters a lot right now. To dissent is to be patriotic, at least in the country I hope to live in." [Link to his full acceptance speech here.](#)

Sheen Joins Raskin Project!

Eden Raskin Jenkins, founder & CEO of Chasing the Moon Productions, is thrilled to share the Emmy, SAG, and Golden Globe-winning actor and producer, Martin Sheen, has joined her work-in-progress documentary, NOTES OF A CITIZEN: The Marcus Raskin Story, as Executive Director. Watch Sheen's remarks below about why we need this documentary now more than ever. In February 2026, Raskin-Jenkins joined the WIFV podcast, MediaMaker Spotlight, and explained why she decided to make a film about her late father's prolific and tumultuous life in the 1960s/70s. [Learn more about her work in this interview.](#) NOTES OF A CITIZEN: The Marcus Raskin Story is fiscally-sponsored by WIFV. [Donate here.](#)



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volunteers. You don't need to wait for a call for testimonials, [you can add your insights anytime throughout the year here.](#)

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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