

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

August 2026

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Roundtable Roundup

Writers Helping Writers

Friday, August 14, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

**Film Club: ADVENTURES IN
BABYSITTING**

Monday, August 17, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)
FREE for All. Watch film in advance

Art of Animation

Friday, August 28, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

President's Message



Dear WIFV
Members and
Friends,

Every trip around
the sun has its
rhythms.
Temperatures
warm and cool as
seasons change.

Work heats up and slacks off as
deadlines come and go, holiday rushes
materialize, and summer vacations
finally arrive. These seasonal rhythms
are unique in different industries and
organizations, as well as for individuals.

WIFV also participates in this annual
cycle. In the summer, programming
slows and planning shifts to upcoming
events like ScriptDC and even WIFV's
50th Anniversary in 2029. Regular
events and member support continues,
such as our Narrative Script and
Documentary Development Fellowships,
Film Club, regional coffees, happy
hours, and round tables.

For me personally, summer is a period
of enforced isolation as Tonal Vision
completes the editing of our many May
and June performances. More typically,
summers offer people a break in the
daily grind of life, providing time to think
differently and become a little more
creative.

As you experience your summer, take
the opportunity step back and reflect on
what supports your longer-term well-
being. Are there habits and routines, like

Writers Helping Writers
Friday, August 28, 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.

a nature walk, meditation, or journaling that give you a boost? When you have a great idea, do you also have the skills, resources and connections to call it into being? Think about what you'd like to learn this fall and who you'd like to meet. If WIFV offers relevant programs events, sign up and put them on your calendar. If we don't, let us know here. We are always looking for great new ideas!

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-27 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (June 25 - July 28, 2026)

Aina Abell
Lise Afoy
Bob Ahmed
Vanessa Anthony
Ama Arthur-Asmah
Elline Auguste
Nikki Rattray Baldwin
Jennifer Beman
Emily Brady
Taryn Brown
Lauren Cardillo
Elizabeth Centennari
Soma Chanda
Elizabeth Crowl
Alyscia Cunningham
Zoe Davidson
Ari Davis
Beth Davison
Sharon Derby
Meredith Esquivel
Brandon Ferry
Marcus Ford
Mary Frost
Andrea Fuller
Lex Gillespie

James Gossard
Jacqueline Greff
Catherine Hand
Taylor Hefka
Steven Holloway
Riche Holmes Grant
Roman Holton
Ben Howard
Jason Howard
Matthew Hua
Jasmine Huggins
Jill Jackson
Robert Jackson
Frances Kramer
Christina Ksoll
Tabresha Langham
Joshua Lawrence
Safi Majid
Shannon Malone-
deBenetictis
Carolyn Marie
Mark Maxey
Erin McPhilomy
Judith Meschel
Pritidhara Mohanty

Christina Perez
Jackie Perez
Joanna Raczyńska
Yanik Ruiz-Ramon
Cathie Saadeh
Jodi Sakol
Jay Schlossberg
Nina Gilden Seavey
Sky Sitney
T. Scott Snider
Brandy Svensson
Crystal Swann
Celeste Locante Thorson
Gwen Tolbart
Charlie Towne
Nyah Tucker
Laura Franco Velasco
Mere Walton
Keri Williams
Brigitte Ayerves Valderas

Corporate Supporters:

Blueprint Interactive
Fusilli Films
Media Central
Roman Media Works
Tonal Vision

News You Can Use

WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Grant

Application DEADLINE August 17

This program exists to support WIFV Members with the post-production of a short film (no longer than 15 minutes including credits). It consists of limited in-kind services from [Henninger Media Services](#), [Interface Media Group](#), [Ott House Audio](#), and [ReelPlan](#). There is one call for applications per year. There is a \$50 application fee. [Read more about the opportunity here.](#)

This grant program was initiated with proceeds from the 2001 DC screening of WHAT MATTERS MOST, written and directed by Jane Cusumano. The WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Fund has supported TELL ME ABOUT ORANGE, THE FAMILIAR, FLIGHT OF THE CROWS, EXCUSE ME, and LOVE IN TWO LANGUAGES.



25,000+ shoots booked. 114 Countries.

On August 1, Media Central celebrates their 33rd year in business providing top certified "local" crew, gear & production support around the US as well the rest of the planet. When **Jay Schlossberg**, President of the company, started it back in '93, he never dreamed it would go this

long and have such a string of successes along the way. Says Schlossberg, "When we began I thought we'd be a great resource for our clients in the mid-Atlantic region and maybe, in 5-10 years, go national. Within a year, we got a request for crew in Jakarta which worked out great! It then made me realize hey, if I can do this in Indonesia, I can probably do it in London, Berlin, Hong Kong and other places, too!"

For info or help on any project, Jay can be reached at 301-648-5400. You can also drop a line to jay@mediacentral.net or visit the Media Central website - www.mediacentral.net



CON-JOINED AT THE HIP Joins WIFV Playlist

The collection of member-made work continues to grow on the WIFV YouTube Channel! In addition to 48 Hour films from Team WIFV there are shorts featured during the WIFV Telethons, testimonials, and much more. [Tune in here.](#)

Film Festivals for Fleming

When she travels, **Peggy Fleming** seeks out grandmothers to interview. She begins by asking, "What is it like for you to be a grandmother?" She has interviewed grandmothers from over 25 different countries. In 2009, she interviewed three grandmothers living in Palestine. In 2025, she interviewed them again via Zoom. GRANDMOTHERS SHARE



THEIR STORIES: Palestine" takes us into these grandmothers' homes as they share stories from their lives over the last 80 years.

GRANDMOTHERS SHARE THEIR STORIES: Palestine, directed by Peggy Fleming and Produced by Nada Nassereddin has been accepted to:

7th annual MOM FILM FEST "showcasing over 50 short films made by mothers." Streaming August 21 through August 24. [Get tickets here.](#)

15th annual [RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST](#), "190 films, 35 countries" September 22 - 27. GRANDMOTHERS SHARE THEIR STORIES: Palestine screens on September 26 at Noon. [Get tickets here.](#)

*ROCK SPRING CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST, Arlington, VA. September 30 at 1:30, address 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA. [More](#)

[info here.](#)

MediaMaker Spotlight Podcast

Coming Up This Month...

#130
Aug 02

The Penguin's Production Designer Shares the Power of Sets

with guest
Kalina Ivanov

#131
Aug 16

Telling Authentic Stories Through Collaborative Filmmaking

with guest
Mary Darling

#132
Aug 30

Cookie Queens Doc: 4 Girls Scouts & the Power of Selling

with guest
Alysa Nahmias

August 2nd: "**The Penguin's Production Designer Shares the Power of Sets** (Ep. 130)" Host **Candice Bloch** is joined by **Kalina Ivanov**, an Emmy-winning production designer and storyboard artist with a rich background in both film and television, spanning various genres and styles. She's known for her work on projects like *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Grey Gardens*, *Peacemaker*, *Lovecraft Country*, and *The Penguin*.

As the first artists brought on board a project, Production Designers are responsible for the overall look and feel of a story. Through collaboration on selecting locations, designing sets, and coordinating with other departments like cinematography and costume design, they establish the visual direction and aesthetics of a piece.

In their conversation, we discover Kalina's creative process, collaboration tips, and insights into visual storytelling in film and television. Kalina combines her artistic vision with a deep understanding of character and story to produce her impressive body of work. Kalina shares about doing her own research and creating mood boards, and offers first-hand stories about some of her past projects.

For example, for the critically acclaimed HBO show, *The Penguin*, Kalina emphasizes that she focused on telling a New York story, which required careful consideration of the streets and architecture to achieve the desired atmosphere. And for her work on George Clooney's period film, *Boys in the Boat*, her research and the historically accurate boathouse built for the production were crucial in capturing the era's essence.

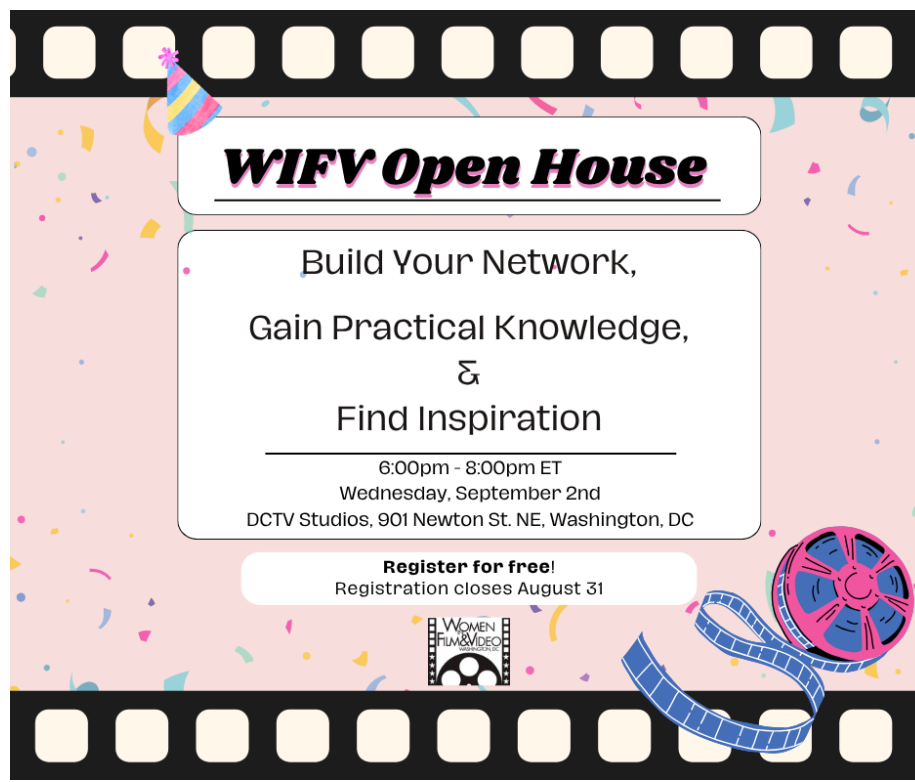
[Learn more about Kalina and her work here.](#) [Follow Kalina on IG here.](#) [Learn more about the Production Designers Collective here.](#)

August 16th, “**Telling Authentic Stories Through Collaborative Filmmaking** (Ep. 131)” In this episode, discover how award-winning director and producer **Mary Darling** navigates storytelling that fosters cultural understanding and unity. She speaks with **Tara Jabbari** about her work, especially her latest film, *Cast Aside The Clouds*, a love story set in Iran. They discuss the importance of cultural authenticity and representation in filmmaking, collaborative directing and diversity in film crews, the universal appeal of small, specific stories, and more. [Watch the trailer and find out the latest about Cast Aside The Clouds here.](#) [See more of Mary's work here.](#)

August 30th, “**Cookie Queens' Doc: 4 Girls Scouts & the Power of Selling** (Ep. 132)” Did you know that Girl Scout cookies are an \$800 million business? In this episode, host **Sandra Abrams** chats with **Alysa Nahmias**, the writer and director of *Cookie Queens*, a new documentary releasing on August 7 all about the pressure of selling the iconic cookies. The doc, which is winner of the SXSW 2026 Audience Award, spotlights four young Girl Scouts, ages five to 12. It follows Ara, Nikki, Shannon Elizabeth, and Olive, through their highs and lows during the Girl Scout cookie selling season - all while still navigating life and pre-teen fun.

In their conversation, Alysa shares how the concept came to life after her children gave her a directive to make a film they wanted to see and how she went from wearing the “Mom” hat to the “Director” hat. She also explains the process of casting these four charming and ambitious girls, how the Duke and Duchess of Sussex of Archewell Productions joined the project, and the role of Roadside Attractions, an independent film distributor, in getting the film into more than 500 theaters. [Learn more and find tickets here.](#)

[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!



Tired of using your dining table as an office? Want to be office buddies?

Rent office space at Hill Center! One of their charming offices on the third floor of our ADA accessible building is available with two windows and views of the Capitol. Utilities, Internet and access to a shared Conference Space are included in the monthly use fee of \$1,325. [Learn more about their office space here.](#)

Interested parties, please email info@hillcenterdc.org

Upcoming WIFV Programs and Networking

NSDF/DDF: Pitch Decks - August 6

The **Deck** is your number one marketing material/door opener for your film. Nailing it is key to getting the meeting or getting your script read. In this session, we are going to look at several different decks that have been used with great success and explore what to include and the secrets to Decks that convert. The program will be presented by **Sara Elizabeth Timmins** of Life Out Loud Films. [Presenter bio here.](#)

Thursday, August 6 - 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

DDF/NSDF: Making Productions Work - August 11

It will be a rare day on set when you get to do just one thing! In order to be good at what you need to do at any given time, you need to know about a lot of things to make sure what you want to happen is happening. **Mary Kerry Craven** will be sharing how she has built her portfolio as a Producer, UPM, Production/ Locations Coordinator so you are best prepared for your next day on set. [Presenter bio here.](#)

Tuesday, August 11 - 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



Mid-Term Election Filmmaker Conversations!

SEAT 31: Zooey Zephyr - August 12

When Zooey Zephyr was expelled from the Montana House of Representatives for speaking on a bill banning transgender medical care, she made a nearby bench her "office." Director **Kimberly Reed**'s cameras land next to Zooey, capturing shocking, funny, and joyous events. The film was shortlisted for a 2025 Academy Award nomination in the 'Documentary Short' category. [Filmmaker bio here](#). Watch the trailer above.

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Watch SEAT 31: ZOOEY ZEPHYR on Kanopy with a library card!

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

RESISTERHOOD - August 26

RESISTERHOOD a feature documentary, about the power of women, hope, and resistance. In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, something powerful happened in America: ordinary people stood up, spoke out, sat in, organized, and voted—not just in resistance, but in fierce hope for a better future. RESISTERHOOD captures this extraordinary grassroots awakening in real time.

But RESISTERHOOD is more than a film about the past—it's a call to action for the present. It reminds us that democracy is not guaranteed—it's something we must choose, protect, and fight for. Through powerful storytelling, **Director CJ Crim** captures unforgettable real-life moments where the film's subjects teach us that we all have the power to change our country for the better and that only by standing up for each other and making our voices heard will we be able to create a more perfect union. [Filmmaker bio here](#). Watch the trailer below.

Wednesday, August 26, 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Watch Resisterhood for free at Free Speech TV

It is also streaming on Amazon Prime, YouTube, and Tubi.

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

The next films in the series are BREAKING THE WEST by Bridget Hunnicutt (September 9) and WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME by Marielle Heller (October 14).



National Networking Night - Aug 13

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, August 13, 7:00-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)
You will receive ILogin info with your registration confirmation



Writers Helping Writers - August 14 and 28

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, August 14 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Friday, August 28 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.



ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING - August 17

Flowing with our summer series theme "Time Is of the Essence," WIFV Film Club invites you to join us for our August movie selection, ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING.

ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING is a 1987 American teen comedy film written by David Simkins and directed by Chris Columbus in his directorial debut. It stars Elisabeth Shue, Keith Coogan, Anthony Rapp, and Maia Brewton, and features cameos by blues singer/guitarist Albert Collins and singer-songwriter Southside Johnny Lyon. The film is on Disney+ and available to rent on Prime Video.

Monday, August 17, 7:30-8:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Watch the film in advance of the meeting.

Art of Animation - August 28

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, August 28, 9:00-10:00 am [REGISTER here](#)
You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.
Organized by **Jessica Mendel**



Annapolis Coffee - August 4

Tuesday, August 4, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Double T Diner, 12 Defense St., Annapolis, MD 21401
Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar**

Frederick Coffee - August 5

Wednesday, August 4, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro & Cafe
1305 West 7th Street, Unit #19, Frederick, MD
Organized by **Jean Rosolino**

LA/DC Gathering - August 7

Friday, August 7, 12:00 pm ET/9:00 am PT [RSVP here](#)
You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.
Organized by **Connie St. John**

Executive Coffee - August 11

Tuesday, August 11, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Baltimore Coffee - August 18

Tuesday, August 18, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
The Bun Shop, 238 West Read St, Baltimore, MD
Organized by **Jacque Greff**

DC - August 27

Thursday, August 27, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Le Pain Quotidien, 2000 P Street NW (Dupont Metro)
Organized by **Melissa Houghton** and **Anna Griesshammer**

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



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TONAL VISION

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.



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