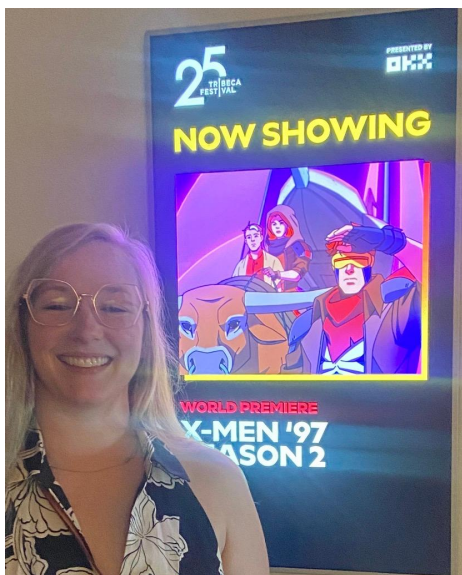


WIFV People in the News - August 2026

Mere Walton, Jessica Mendel, Jaime Horrigan, Matt Hua, K.E. Lanning, Patricia Aufderheide, Phil Shapiro, Sky Sitney, Bob Ahmed

Three in Quarterfinals of PAGE Awards

Congrats to **Mere Walton** who has three scripts still in contention at the 2026 PAGE Awards! **BETTY'S FRIENDS** is a family drama. **THE RUNNYMEADE PLAYHOUSE**, is a historical drama about her grandparents. **OFF COURSE** is a family adventure.



X-MEN '97 Season 2 on Disney+

Jessica Mendel has been working as a Production Supervisor with Marvel since October 2021. Currently she supervises 30+ pre production artists and design production team. She enjoys advocating for artists, setting clear schedule expectations, providing support, and solving day to day problems.

The second season of the 2D animated show X-MEN '97 is now streaming on Disney+.

Interested in hearing more about animation - join Art of Animation at 9 am on the fourth Friday of the month. Next one is August 28 - [REGISTER here](#)

Horrigan Introduces Mezzanine

Update from **Jaime Horrigan** - "Over the past year, we've been growing our team and we're excited to share that we are now a full-service post facility - bringing Offline Editorial, Color Grade/Online, and Sound Finishing together under one roof. Our expanded team brings a wealth of post finishing experience in a variety of mediums including scripted and un-scripted doc and reality, high and low budget narratives and docs, marketing and branding, and on.

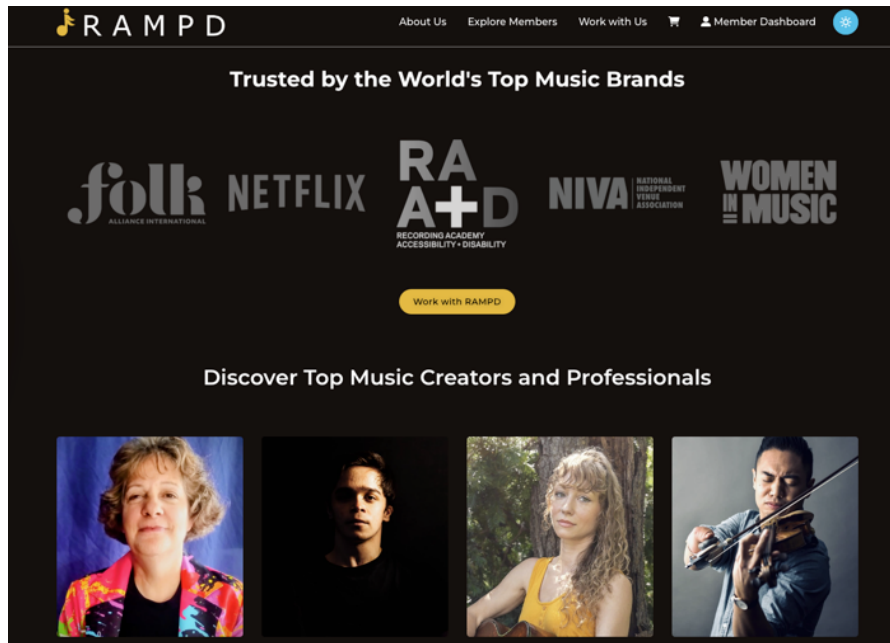


We decided that the new, larger entity deserved a new name... introducing... Mezzanine!

The full Sound Department team is still very much intact, same people, same facilities, and expanded services. [View our website here](#) or give us a call at 323-682-0394."

Matt Hua is a Pro Member!

"I have just been accepted into the Member Network of **RAMPD (Recording Artists and Music Professionals with Disabilities)** as a Pro Member! This has been a goal of mine for the last 4 years and I am honored to be joining a community of professionals pushing the envelope on disability inclusion, accessibility, and advocacy within the music industry." Matt is pictured second from left below.



Lanning Script Heading to RIFF

Screenwriter **K.E. Lanning**'s sci-fi noir feature screenplay, "By Heaven and Hell," has been selected by the Richmond International Film Festival as a Top Official Selection script and is eligible for top honors from the Grand Jury during the Red Carpet Awards at the Byrd Theater on September 27th. [Get tickets here](#) Lanning is a member of the Virginia Screenwriters Forum as well as WIFV!



Balancing Ethics of Care, Inclusion, and Journalistic Autonomy Now Available

Patricia Auferheide, recently released the results of research she conducted as a Documentary Film in the Public Interest Fellow at Harvard's Shorenstein Center! Pat's report uncovers and affirms the care practices of traditional journalism outlets, offering further evidence of similarities between documentary filmmakers and journalists. **Balancing Ethics of Care, Inclusion, and Journalistic Autonomy** is available on the [Center for Social Media Impact website](#). Congratulations, Pat!



Shapiro's Short Story Circulates

Phil Shapiro recently learned that a short story he wrote in early July "Dr. Luis Romero's Lessons," is being used to train medical students at UCLA Medical School. After Phil wrote



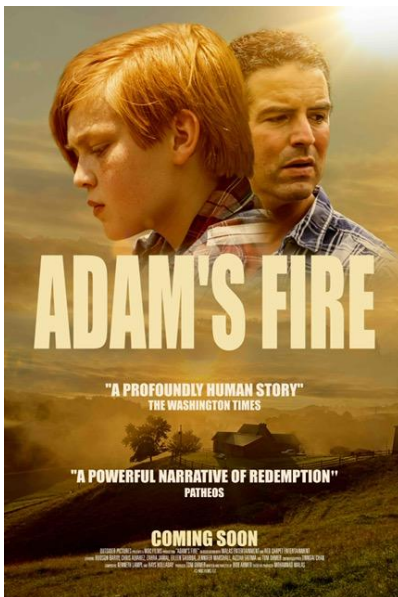
this story, he printed a few copies to hand out to friends visiting Takoma Park Maryland Library, where he works.

One of the people he handed the story to, Mary Duru, has a son who is a professor at UCLA Medical School. Coincidentally, her son was visiting her at that time, read the story, and remarked: "This short story nails it. I'm going to use it in some of the medical school classes I teach." [This short story, donated to the public domain, can be found here.](#)

Phil's short form writings appear in English language textbooks in more than 12 countries and have been licensed to the Educational Testing Service.

Sky Sitney Joins the Academy!

Congratulations to DC/DOX Co-Founder and Festival Director **Sky Sitney**, who has been invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Class of 2026 as a member of the Documentary Branch.



Coming to DC Area Theaters This October!

When DC-based filmmaker **Bob Ahmed** became lost in the misty mountains of West Virginia without phone reception, he stumbled upon a breathtaking hilltop farm. Captivated by the beauty of the landscape and the emotion it evoked, he did something unexpected. Instead of asking to use the phone, he asked the owner if he could make a film there.

That chance encounter became the inspiration and setting for *Adam's Fire*, a deeply moving feature about a young boy who must overcome an unimaginable tragedy and find the strength to forgive the person responsible. Set against the stunning backdrop of rural West Virginia, the film explores themes of cross-cultural friendship, the lasting aftermath of war, and the quiet

heroism of everyday Americans whose stories are rarely told on screen.

The Washington Times has called *Adam's Fire* "a profoundly human story," while Film Threat awarded it a rare 8/10, praising the film for its emotional depth. *Adam's Fire* opens in select theaters this October. Please support a local filmmaker by catching it during its opening weekend. For release information, visit www.instagram.com/AdamsFireMovie or www.adamsfiremovie.com

Thanks to the WIFV Supporters



Thank You!

We appreciate everyone who took time to write a testimonial about WIFV at Great Nonprofits. We remain a Top-Rated nonprofit on their site consulted by donors and 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.



Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.



Volunteer. Donate. Review.

Women in Film & Video | 921 Pennsylvania Avenue SE | Washington, DC 20003 US

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



Try email marketing for free today!