

September 2026

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President's Message



Dear WIFV Members and Friends,

For many of us, the transition from summer to fall is one of the biggest of the year.

Suddenly vacations are over, summer temperatures are easing, school is ready to start, and work is heating up. The return of work raises the question -- are you ready to move forward with your career?

WIFV is here to support you! We provide a collegiate, vibrant and stable community that supports local media-makers, allowing members to build our support network, broaden our skill base, develop new messaging, and even restage our lives. By being part of this community, you are not only investing in yourself, but also making a personal statement supporting diversity and independent media. Thanks to continuing grants and several new Sponsors, we continue to be in good shape financially and are able to offer support like August's WIFV Short Narrative Film Finishing Grant and the Verticals Short Screenplay Competition.

September marks the beginning of our programming year. Our annual Open House is Sept. 2 at DCTV, so come meet some of your tribe. Have a program suggestion? Most of the Board will be there and would love to hear from you! Monthly in-person and online coffees offer regular networking. Professional development opportunities include Wednesday Ones and Roundtables. Many of the Narrative Script Development and Documentary Development Fellowship workshops are also open to the broader WIFV

Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: ADAM'S FIRE
Monday, August 31, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers
Friday, Sept 11, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Docs: THE LAST WITCH
Monday, Sept 14, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: GROUNDHOG DAY
Monday, Sept 21, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)
 FREE for All. Watch film in advance

Art of Animation

Friday, Sept 25, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers

Friday, Sept 25, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: First Five Pages

Monday, Sept 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.

community. New for this year is a mid-term election film series and filmmaker conversations.

Our MediaMaker Spotlight biweekly podcast in September focuses on the making of the docs SUNDAY BEST and the AGE OF AUDIO. Women of Vision recipient Phylicia Rashad will be giving the annual Americans for the Arts Nancy Hanks Lecture via livestream on September 30.

ScriptDC is scheduled for November 21-22 and will include masterclasses for all types of media makers, not just script writers. Early Bird registration starts this month!

We seek your suggestions for programs and are honored to be a resource for you on your mediamaking journey!

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-27 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (July 29 - Aug 25, 2026)

Nofisat Almaroof

John Ayala

Erica Baca

Pierre Bagley

Felicia Barr

Deborah Benner

Randi Cohen Coblenz

Laura Cook

Inna Dmitrieva

Laura Gamse

Nikkia Glover

Susan Grandis Goldstein

Donna Gureckas

Jeffrey Hall

Janelle Harris

Jordan Hoffman

Tina Hoffmann

Monique Johnson

Hannah Lebowitz-

Lockard

Natalie Mansfield

Patti North

Andrea Passafiume

Charlie Puritano

Evelyn Thai

Abigail Sharon

Stephanie Vann

Wynette Yao

Karen Zill

Corporate Supporters:

WILL Interactive

Alexandria Film Festival

News You Can Use

Coming Up This Month...



Margo Precht Speciale

#133
Sept 13

**Ed Sullivan's Legacy of Equality
in Netflix's 'Sunday Best' Doc**



Shaun Michael Colón

#134
Sept 27

**The Origins of Podcasting
with Shaun Michael Colón**

On September 13th, Ed Sullivan's Legacy of Equality in Netflix's 'Sunday Best' Doc (Ep. 133)

In this episode, **Margo Precht Speciale**, granddaughter of Ed Sullivan and producer of the documentary 'Sunday Best,' joins host **Candice Bloch** to share insights into her film that explores Ed Sullivan's role as a quiet disruptor during the civil rights era. Margo shares her journey of discovering Sullivan's impact on social justice and about the power of media to shape culture. With a background in archival research and her personal connection to his legacy, Margo brings a unique perspective to the story of her grandfather. The documentary, directed by Sacha Jenkins, is nominated for both an Emmy and Peabody, and highlights the impact of Sullivan's choices and the cultural significance of his television show. The conversation also explores the process of bringing the documentary to audiences, from assembling the team, to discovering footage gems, to using AI to bring Ed Sullivan's voice to life in the documentary. [Learn more here.](#) [Watch the documentary on Netflix.](#)

Then on September 27th, The Origins of Podcasting with Shaun Michael Colón (Ep.134)

Tara Jabbari speaks with **Shaun Michael Colón**, director of Age of Audio, a documentary about the history of podcasting and its impact on audio storytelling. In their conversation, they go over how he got the idea, the evolution of how he got it made, and how he got some of the biggest names in podcasting involved, including Marc Maron, Kara Swisher, Ira Glass, and Tara's personal favorites, Kevin Smith and Scott Moiser of Smodcastle. [To find a screening \(or request one\) and learn more about the film, visit here.](#) [Watch the trailer here.](#)

Shaun Michael Colón is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and editor, currently known for Age of Audio, a film exploring the rise of podcasting and the balance between creativity and commerce. Based in Dallas, Shaun has spent seven years crafting this project, focusing on independent creators and audio storytelling's evolution.

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!](#)

Support the Student in your life with WIFV Membership and SAVE

Give the gift of membership for this upcoming back-to-school season! WIFV is providing a special discount code, Stu26, for you to gift to your favorite student this year and save \$15! [Sign them up here.](#)



Vertical Short Screenplay Competition

Vertical filmmaking (9:16 portraiture aspect ratio) is reshaping how stories are produced using smartphone technology. Whether a gripping drama, a supernatural thriller, a heartfelt romance, or a daring fantasy, we're looking for bold voices and fresh perspectives across genres.

The 2026 ScriptDC Vertical Screenplay Competition will focus on vertical storytelling!

- Submissions may be up to 5 episodes, no more than 10 pages, excluding cover page.
- Maximum of 5 characters
- DEADLINE for submission and payment of entry fee - October 26 at 5:00 pm et

[More info and enter here.](#) **Table Reads November 22**

Upcoming WIFV Programs and Networking

ADAM'S FIRE & Bob Ahmed - Aug 31

Meet filmmaker **Bob Ahmed**, who has directed four feature films that have received mainstream distribution from Lionsgate, AMC Theaters, American Airlines, and Emirates

Narrative Directors Roundtable

Brought to you by
Women
Film & Video



Airlines. Bob's newest film is ADAM'S FIRE, a powerful narrative of redemption. Learn how Bob got the film made and his innovative approach to raising funds.

Monday, August 31 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Robin Noonan-Price** and **Brian Pascale**

WIFV Open House

Build Your Network,
Gain Practical Knowledge,
&
Find Inspiration

6:00pm - 8:00pm ET
Wednesday, September 2nd
DCTV Studios, 901 Newton St. NE, Washington, DC

Register for free!
Registration closes August 31

WOMEN
FILM & VIDEO

Authors Sharing Their Work at the Open House



Richmond Happy Hour - Sept 8

Come network with fellow VA mediamakers at this Happy Hour in Richmond! BuyBYOB event.



Mid-Term Election Filmmaker Talks! **BREAKING THE WEST - Sept 9**

BREAKING THE WEST is a riveting documentary film about political corruption, told through the story of a Russian-Azerbaijani billionaire pop star who is at the center of Russia's efforts to influence the 2016 American presidential election. With exclusive access, the film follows the 39-year-old oligarch as he struggles to manage his story and protect his father (aka Putin's Builder) and their business empire. Along the way, Fiona Hill (former US National Security Council director for Russian Affairs), Bill Browder (the "Godfather of Sanctions" and bestselling author of *Red Notice*), and intelligence officials who were covering the story—and caught in the crossfire themselves—infuse critical and historical context to illustrate

the catastrophic consequences of unchecked corruption.

Wednesday, September 9, 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive a link to the trailer and the full-length doc with your registration confirmation. Please watch the film in advance of the September 9 conversation!

The next films in the series is WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME
by Marielle Heller - October 14.

National Networking Night - Sept 10

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, September 10, 7:00-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation

Writers Helping Writers - September 11 and 25

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, September 11 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Friday, September 25- 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

THE LAST WITCH - Sept 14

WIFV's Documentary Roundtable kicks off its fall season with a story 330 years in the making - THE LAST WITCH: It's Never Too Late for Justice, a documentary which chronicles the efforts of a middle school classroom petitioning the Commonwealth of

Documentary Roundtable

brought to you by:



Massachusetts to right a wrong and exonerate Elizabeth Johnson Jr. - sentenced to death for the crime of Witchcraft. Johnson was the last remaining person still accused of Witchcraft from the 1692 Salem trials.

[More info here - THE LAST WITCH: It's Never Too Late for Justice](#)

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

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Randi Cohen Coblenz**

Crowdfunding for Independence- Sept 15

Thinking about making a movie, show, or web series? Great! We wanna watch it. But first, how are you going to fund it? And when you're finished, who's going to watch it? We've got answers!

Most people think of crowdfunding as 'friends and family' fundraising for a project. But we're going to show you how crowdfunding can not only get your project off the ground — it can help you build a sustainable film career through a direct connection with your audience. [More details here.](#)



Tuesday, September 15 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 for WIFV Members / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Presented by Seed&Spark

Creative Distribution - Sept 22

Distribution is not the final step of filmmaking. Distribution is part of the filmmaking process.

The step-by-step process of building community for and access to your film. Join **Mark Ricche** of Cryptic Pictures Distribution for an exploration of the challenging and changing marketplace surrounding digital content delivery, media aggregation, and hybrid releasing for the modern filmmaker. [Presenter bio here.](#)

Tuesday, September 22 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

What Happens with a Spec Script? - Sept 24

You have a script. You need someone else to make it. That means you have a "spec script" and this workshop will help you understand the journey that script will take from your keyboard to readers to decision makers. **Steve Douglas-Craig** has been on both sides of the desk and will be your "guide" in this webinar! [Presenter bio here.](#)

Thursday, September 24 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Just How Does Distribution with PBS Work? - Oct 6

Learn how an independent filmmaker or small production company can navigate the public broadcasting system (PBS) to distribute their film. National distribution and station-by-station distribution will be discussed. Public Broadcasting experts, **Devin Karambalas** and **Robyn DeShields**, will share their insights into scheduling, funding, station relations, and identify the challenges to having a one-off program broadcast by the network available to 99% of American households at no cost or cable subscription. [Presenter bios here.](#) We will also discuss the commissioning and acquisition processes at public broadcasting system stations and PBS.

Tuesday, October 6 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

DDF/NSDF webinars sponsored by Netflix, [OCTFME](#) and Gem Star Foundation



GROUNDHOG DAY - Sept 21

As we finish our summer series theme, "Time Is of the Essence," where all the films take place within a 24-hour period, WIFV Film Club invites you to join us for our September movie discussion of GROUNDHOG DAY (1993), a "high-concept comedy" directed and co-written by Harold Ramis. Starring Bill Murray in what many call his most memorable role, the film follows a curmudgeonly weatherman who has to relive the same day over and over when he finds himself stuck in a time loop. The film also stars Andie MacDowell (FOUR WEDDINGS AND A FUNERAL, GREEN CARD).

Critics, ironically, call the film a timeless classic with exceptional re-watchability.

Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. GROUNDHOG DAY is available to rent on Amazon Prime, AppleTV, and YouTube.

Monday, September 21, 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 - Sept 25

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, September 25, 9:00-10:00 am [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Jessica Mendel**



DC Coffee - August 27

Thursday, August 27 - 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Le Pain Quotidien - Dupont, 2000 P St NW, DC

Organized by **Anna Greishhammer** and **Melissa Houghton**

Annapolis Coffee - Sept 1

Tuesday, Sept 1, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Double T Diner, 12 Defense Street, Annapolis, MD

Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar**

Frederick Coffee - Sept 2

Wednesday, Sept 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**

Executive Coffee - Sept 8

Tuesday, Sept 8, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Baltimore Coffee - Sept 15

Tuesday, Sept 15, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

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

Organized by **Jacque Greff**

Reel Moms Coffee - Sept 18

Friday, Sept 18, 10:00-11:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Participate in the Reel Moms Short Film Challenge!
Tell a story in UNDER 2 minutes. The theme for September is FEELINGS.

DC Coffee - Sept 24

Thursday, Sept 24, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Eastern Market Picnic Tables, 225 7th Street SE
Organized by Anna Greisshammer and Melissa Houghton



Filmmakers Conference - Nov 21-22

We know you have a story that needs to be told. You want to make a movie, but where do you start... and how do you make it happen? Attend ScriptDC, the premier conference for Mid-Atlantic filmmakers, where writers, directors, producers, editors, and talent connect with accomplished industry professionals.

This year we are featuring one-day masterclasses as well as individual workshops. Class size is limited to allow for engagement and project attention. Registration with Early Bird Pricing opens September 8. Stay tuned for program descriptions and panelist info!

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.

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director@wifv.org

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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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