

WOMEN IN FILM & VIDEO WASHINGTON, DC

WIFV NEWS

October 2026

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President's Message



Dear WIFV
Members and
Friends,

One of the greatest
parts of WIFV is
getting to meet
people face to face.
I really enjoy our
Baltimore monthly

coffees and occasional trips to DC. Our
September 2 Open House was no
exception. It was held in DCTV's beautiful,
welcoming space which has plenty of
parking and a nearby metro stop. Nearly
200 people signed up – about equal
numbers of members and non-members.

Lisa Scott and team dished out great,
easy to eat, food and drink. Door prizes
included original artwork, \$50 off a
ScriptDC registration, a Holiday Party pass,
and a cookbook from the MediaMaker
Spotlight team. Committee chairs circulated
with clipboards to answer questions and
recruit members. Many suggestions were
received on our Suggestion Whiteboard! A
great bonus – I got to meet **Sophie Ewing**,
our new Programming/ Operations
Coordinator, and **Ashley Worley**, our new
intern!

Everyone seemed very engaged and
interactive – so much so that the space
eventually became loud and warm. I really
appreciated the speaker system so
introductions could be heard more easily.
Later, I discovered that the DCTV studio,
which housed the author corner, was much
cooler, along with being quieter. Michelle
Kim took advantage of the quiet to record a
few member testimonials.

Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: RITE OF PASSAGE
Monday, October 5, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers
Friday, October 9, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Docs: Trailer Night
Monday, October 12, 7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: UNCUT GEMS (2019)
Monday, October 19, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)
FREE for All. Watch film in advance

Art of Animation
Friday, October 23, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Writers Helping Writers
Monday, October 26, 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.

At our next Board meeting, we did a debrief on the event. In addition to the many positives, people suggested better organization of volunteers and better labeling of food for people with dietary restrictions. If you were there and have other suggestions, please let me know!

Our next in-person event will be ScriptDC Filmmakers Conference, November 21-22, at George Mason University's Arlington Campus. It will include sessions for all aspects of the film industry, a Vertical Short Screenplay Competition, and a showing of THE BALTIMORONS.

Jacquie

Jacquie Greff
2025-27 WIFV President

New/Renewing Members (Aug 26 - Sept 23, 2026)

Zahra Ahmed
Emily Allgair
John Armand
Peggy Aw
Yossera Bouchtia
Nancy Breslin
Sheila Brooks, PhD
Joy Cheriell Brown
Madeline Caldis
Marjuan Canady
Susanne Coates
Emily Cohen
Cheryl Crim
Martin Dale
Amy DeLouise
Paloma DiBella
Carolyn Dodd
Ramata Eller
Miranda Evans
Alan J. Field

Krista Gallagher
Pilar Gibson
Andrew Houghton
Alyssa Hurley
Keisha Jackson
Kaya Jones
Phelps Kelley
Tanya La Force
Becky Lake
Ying Lew
Nora Lindner
Andy Lipshultz
Jay Mallin
Beth Mendelson
Ariel Michael
Roland Millman
Rebecca Mlinek
Imani Njau
Joshua Ogbuefi
Diana Owens

Roberta Pieczenik
Allie Rood
Christopher Root
Aliciya (Lici) Simmons
Manoj Singh
Brenda Spevak
Kevin Steele
Jessica Stuart
Minnie Tanner
Kate Tsubata
Dianela Urdaneta
Diedre Von
Marilyn Weiner
Marissa Woods
Ashley Worley
Joanna Zelman
Amel Ziad

Corporate Supporters:
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News You Can Use



Coming Up This Month...



Kate Beyda

#135
Oct 11

**Physical Production:
Solving Puzzles to Execute Stories**



Erika & Paul

#136
Oct 25

**Has SFX Aged Well in Horror
with That Aged Well Podcast**



On October 11th, *Physical Production: Solving Puzzles to Execute Stories* (Ep. 135)

In this episode, **Kate Beyda**, EVP of Physical Production at New Line Cinema, joins host **Candice Bloch** to share her extensive experience in film production. From managing budgets to hiring crews to solving complex logistical puzzles, physical production figures out how to get projects made. In the interview, Kate reveals stories from overseeing production logistics to solving on-set challenges, and offers advice on the essential skills required for success in this creative, collaborative industry. [Purchase The Creative Producing Handbook here.](#)

Kate has been a part of bringing countless beloved titles to our screens, including films such as *WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING*, *THE RAINMAKER*, *CHRISTMAS VACATION*, *ELF*, *MORTAL KOMBAT*, *THE HOBBIT* trilogy, *WE'RE THE MILLERS*, *WEDDING CRASHERS*, *THE CONJURING*, and *IT* franchises, *Weapons*, and many more. [See many of Kate's credits here.](#)

Kate also happens to be one of Women in Film and Video's 2026 Women of Vision honorees!

Then on October 25th, *Has SFX Aged Well in Horror with That Aged Well Podcast* (Ep. 136)

Tara Jabari is joined by **Paul and Erika** of the podcast, *That Aged Well* for a crossover conversation to discuss why some movies age better than others, especially with respect to the practical effects in horror films like *THE EXORCIST*, *THE WITCH*, and *POLTERGEIST*. They explore what makes horror truly scary, how the "final girl" has evolved, and why films become stronger when they include diverse perspectives. The conversation also offers a behind-the-scenes look at podcast chemistry, long-form podcast episodes, and building a loyal listener community. [Follow and listen to Paul and Erika \(and Tara on their podcast\) 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!](#)

SWANN QUEEN Premiere - Oct 1

Join writer/director **L cedeño miller** for a RED CARPET premiere at Martin Luther King, Jr Library on Thursday, October 1st from 6-8pm! The night will feature live drag performances by Hennessey and Mas!, the trailer premiere of Black in Space's upcoming



film, THE STORY OF SPACE, plus SWANN QUEEN's star and writer/director in conversation after this, the first in-person public screening of their film. [Register for free tickets here.](#) See you in your best drags for our red carpet event!



Underground Resistance Night brings together independent filmmaker **CJ Crim** and author Chris Pickett for an evening celebrating the people power of grassroots movements!

Sunday, October 4, 2026 4:00-8:00 PM

Dupont Underground, **19 Dupont Circle NW, Washington, DC, 20036**

Tickets \$15.00 [Get Yours Here!](#)

1/3 of all door proceeds are generously donated to support Dupont Underground as a continuing space for local arts and culture in Washington, DC.

The Maryland Film Industry Coalition

15TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Come celebrate & promote the Maryland Film Industry



Friday, October 23, 2026

6:30-10:30 PM

MARTIN'S WEST

6817 Dogwood Road Baltimore, MD 21244

SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
MARYLAND BULL ROAST
OPEN BAR
MUSIC FROM
A-Man the DJ

\$100
Individual Tickets

\$1,000
Reserved Tables of Ten

To Purchase Tickets go to www.mdfilm.org

Questions? Email us at info@mdfilm.org



Vertical Short Screenplay Competition DEADLINE October 26

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

Treat the Student in Your Life

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.](#)



Upcoming WIFV Programs and Networking

Narrative Directors Roundtable



RITE OF PASSAGE - October 5

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. [You can watch the trailer here.](#) **Katrina Binutu**, the film's writer/director, is a researcher, writer, and filmmaker whose work explores power dynamics, identity, and social transformation. [Director bio here.](#)

Monday, October 5 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

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

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 Karambelas** 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

Monster Mash - Oct 7

Stuck on a project? Need a set of hands on a shoot? Come to the Monster Mash and collaborate with other creatives in the area! Part work-trade and part round-table, this Wednesday One will be a place to trade insight and suggestions with other filmmakers and build community dialogue!

Wednesday, Oct 7 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

Interface Media Group, 1233 20th Street NW
FREE for ALL - How's that for a treat?

Event sponsored by [Interface Media Group](#), [Maryland Film Office](#), [OCTFME](#), [Virginia Film Office](#), and Netflix.



National Networking Night - October 8

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

Writers Helping Writers - October 9 and 26

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

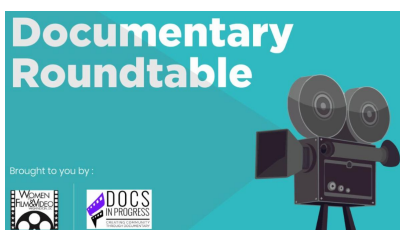
The purpose is to give deep dive, constructive feedback on story structure, format, character, dialogue, and what works about the script. If you don't have a script to read feel free to join us and support your fellow members. It is a great way to expand your knowledge on script writing and giving feedback 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, October 9 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

MONDAY, October 26 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members / \$15 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.



TRAILER NIGHT - October 12

Trailer Night is an opportunity to meet others in the documentary community and to provide feedback to several filmmakers on their trailers.

Featured Trailers:

BETWEEN TWO HANDS by Ayanna Gill

Set in Brooklyn, *Between Two Hands* follows veteran midwife Trinisha Williams and two expectant mothers as they navigate pregnancy within a healthcare system marked by stark racial disparities. Through intimate visual storytelling, the film reclaims birth as a powerful act of dignity, resistance, and community care.

STORIES FROM THE BALCONY by Joanna Hay (Docs In Progress Impact Fellow 2026)
Stories From the Balcony is an exploration of community, love, and belonging at Frankfort's Grand Theatre in Kentucky during Jim Crow, told through Black and white residents, Tony Award–winner George C. Wolfe, and activist Katima Smith-Willis, reflecting on segregation, resistance, and the fight for a more just world.

Monday, October 12 - 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

FREE event

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Organized by Docs in Progress, moderated by Dawne Langford

Richmond Happy Hour - Oct 13

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

Tuesday, October 13, 5:00-7:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Starr Hill Brewery, 3406 West Leigh St, Richmond



DDF: Impact Producing - October 13

In this workshop, Award-Winning Documentary Filmmaker and Impact Producer, **Laura Seltzer-Duny** will share successful impact strategies based on her films. She will help attendees assess how their film (or film idea in development) can:

- Encourage social action & activism;
- Help change public policy;
- Engage experts to develop & coordinate educational materials to accompany the film;
- Support causes and communities featured in a film.

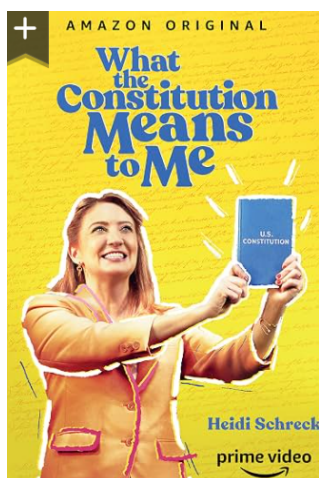
Tuesday, October 13 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

[Panelist bio here](#)

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



Mid-Term Election Film Series - October 14

Fifteen-year-old Heidi Schreck earned her college tuition by winning Constitutional debate competitions across the United States. In this hilarious, hopeful, and achingly human show, Heidi resurrects her teenage self in order to trace the profound relationship between four generations of women and the founding document that shaped their lives. The play received a nomination for Best Play in the 73rd Tony Awards and a finalist spot for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. The film was directed by **Marielle Heller**, 2024 WIFV Women of Vision Award recipient. Ms. Heller is starting production of a new film on October 14 and can't join us for the lively discussion we anticipate having! Available for streaming on Amazon Prime.

Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 pm [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive the login info with your registration confirmation.

Please watch the film in advance of the October 14 conversation!

UNCUT GEMS - October 19

UNCUT GEMS (2019) was directed by Josh and Benny Safdie, who wrote it with Ronald Bronstein. It stars Adam Sandler, LaKeith Stanfield, Julia Fox, Kevin Garnett, Idina Menzel, and The Weeknd in his debut role. Sandler plays Howard Ratner, a jeweler and gambling addict who must retrieve an opal to pay off his debt.



Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. Available for rent on Amazon, YouTube, or free with ads on the Roku Channel.

Monday, October 19, 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**

DDF/NSDF: Legal Issues for Filmmakers - Oct 20

This webinar on legal/contracting issues for filmmakers, presented by **Cathie Saadeh, Esq.**, will walk through the key parts of a contract that every filmmaker should be know, and discuss the various types of agreements that a filmmaker may need and key issues for each:

- underlying rights agreements (book options, script acquisition agreements, etc.)
- producer, director, and cast and crew service agreements;
- appearance, location, and material releases;
- life rights agreements;
- composer and music agreements;
- post-production agreements; and
- sales and distribution agreements.

Tuesday, October 20 - 6:30 pm [REGISTER here](#)

\$20 Members and students / \$35 Public

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

[Presenter bio here](#)

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

Art of Animation - October 23

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, October 23, 9:00-10:00 am [REGISTER here](#)

You will receive login info with your registration confirmation.

Organized by **Jessica Mendel**



Annapolis Coffee - Oct 6

Tuesday, Oct 6, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Double T Diner, 12 Defense Street, Annapolis, MD

Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar**

Frederick Coffee - Oct 7

Wednesday, Oct 7, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Roggenart European Bakery, Bistro & Cafe

1305 West 7th Street, Unit #19, Frederick, MD

Organized by **Jean Rosolino**

New Members Coffee - Oct 9

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

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Executive Coffee - Oct 13

Tuesday, Oct 13, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login information with your registration confirmation.

Reel Moms Coffee - Oct 16

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 October is RHYTHM.

Baltimore Coffee - Oct 20

Tuesday, Oct 20, 9:00-10:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Red Emma's, 3128 Greenmount Ave, Baltimore, MD 21218
Organized by **Jacquie Greff**

DC Coffee - Oct 22

Thursday, Oct 22, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)
Java Nation, 1010 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD
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, crew, and talent connect with 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. THE BALTIMORONS screening on November 21 and Case Study on November 22. Vertical Screenplay Competition on November 22. Registration with Early Bird Pricing opens soon. 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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Platinum
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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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Women in Film & Video | 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE | Washington, DC 20003 US

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