

WIFV NEWS



Members in the News - January 2021

Abigail Sharon, Kirk T. Schroder, Cintia Cabib, Sara Barger, "Smokey" Stevens, Interface Media Group, Amy DeLouise, David Stern, Sallie Keena, Charlie Puritano, Projects and People This Month!

Sharon & REGULAR HEROES



Abigail Sharon worked on the REGULAR HEROES series at the beginning of the pandemic for Amazon. It is an eight-episode docuseries highlighting the contributions and personal sacrifices of

some of today's most generous individuals who are going above and beyond to support their communities during the COVID-19 crisis.

"The heroes I followed are DCPS high school teacher **Jonté Lee**, VA trucker **Serita Lockley**, **Dana Marlowe** of "I Support the Girls", and innovator **Brad Halsey**." [You can watch Amazon's REGULAR HEROES here](#)

Schroder Recognized



Virginia Lawyer's Weekly, Virginia's statewide publication for lawyers and the legal profession has selected 17 lawyers in Virginia that they describe as the "GO TO" lawyer in certain business fields. WIFV member,

Kirk T. Schroder, was chosen as one of those lawyers for the field of Entertainment Law given his extensive background and experience as an entertainment lawyer. [Read the full article here.](#)

Cabib's Doc on PBS Plus



Cintia Cabib's doc, **KINDRED SPIRITS: Artists Hilda Wilkinson Brown and Lilian Thomas Burwell**, is being distributed to PBS member stations by PBS Plus. The film will

premiere nationally on PBS stations in February in celebration of Black History Month. Locally, KINDRED SPIRITS will be broadcast on Thursday, February 4 on WHUT at 9:30 p.m. and on Maryland Public Television at 10:30 p.m. In the film, Lilian Thomas Burwell recounts the life story of her aunt, unsung artist and educator Hilda Wilkinson Brown, and her influence on Burwell's own career as an

LITTLE BUT FIERCE Streaming on Amazon



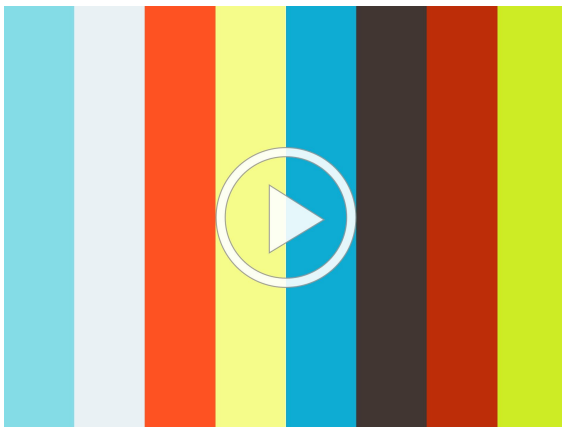
DC filmmaker and WIFV Vice President **Sara Barger's** short doc, **LITTLE BUT FIERCE**, is now available to watch online. The film was nominated for a student Academy Award in 2020.

The documentary tells the story of Madison, a 9-year-old girl from Hampton, Virginia who is battling a rare form of brain cancer. Her mother, an ER nurse, does everything in her power to save her daughter, including buying medical cannabis off the black market. [More info on the film here.](#)

abstract expressionist artist. Their lives, works of art and sources of inspiration are presented against the backdrop of a segregated society where marginalized Black artists created their own venues to exhibit and publish their work. [Learn more about KINDRED SPIRITS here.](#)

Stevens BLACK BROADWAY Doc Streams

BLACK BROADWAY AT THE VILLAGE GATE by **Ronald "Smokey" Stevens**, is a slice of Black Entertainment history from 1983 featuring Broadway artist of the 1980's performing on *The Sho Nuff Variety Revue* at The Village Gate in NYC. This film chronicles the making of the revue by the original producers and takes the viewer back to an historic evening of performances.



[Please watch the film and leave a review.](#) Films need a minimum number of reviews in the first month in order for Amazon to start promoting them. Thank you!!

Interface Media & Green Sports Alliance Summit



[GSA's 10th annual summit](#) went for the virtual experience with IMG helping steer their way. The thought leaders at GSA and across the global sports industry channeled their ambitious environmental and social messaging via pre-recorded content for their presenters and panel sessions. More than 500 people registered for the 2-day, content rich event which included 26 sessions recorded via Skype & Zoom. GSA streamed this on the Whova platform. IMG provided services: TriCaster & Tech Team; Editing; Graphics and Project Management.

Mastering Remote Interviews



By **Amy DeLouise**

What's the secret sauce for a good remote interview? Like you, I've been conducting interviews in ways I never did before, both to edit into videos or to host live for virtual events. So I've been collecting my tips and tricks for a better experience on all sides.

Technology. In terms of tech, I always prefer to shoot high resolution video when possible. There are plenty of camera kits you can buy or rent, which ship out with appropriate lighting, a lavalier microphone, and a laptop through which you as the interviewer can communicate with your "talent" remotely. [AbelCine](#) has the most comprehensive set of kits. But several DC area DP's, such as [Chad Horn](#), and post houses such as [Interface Media](#), have also built rigs that ship. Prices vary from \$1,400 a day on up, and in some cases even include tech support from a DP who can remote into the camera software to manage your focus and help the talent offload the media card before the camera is returned.

Making it Work. But tech is only part of the puzzle. Being sure the interviewee looks and sounds their best when you can't be in the room with them is especially challenging.

Getting their background to look right, for example, may mean asking them to rearrange a bookcase or move their desk. I always ask in advance about any people or pets who could interrupt our conversation—dogs, children, spouses. Most interviewees are, like us, stuck in their homes. So trying to develop that pre-interview rapport becomes even more challenging when we are all maneuvering around work-from-home obstacles.

Sharing Themes. One of the things I do for virtual interviews that I rarely do for in-person is share a proposed flow or outline in advance. At the very least, I give the subject(s) themes and ask them to think in advance of examples. Because our remote time together might be even shorter than an in-person sit-down, I find this helps keep the interview or panel discussion moving along.

I have a few more specific tips on prepping remote interview subjects and/or panelists for an engaging video interview, so you can [read my full blog post here](#).

Stern Shares Lessons from THE FORGIVING

By **David Stern**

My latest feature film, THE FORGIVING, has recently acquired distribution on Amazon Prime, Google Play, TubiTV, and YouTube Movies. **There have been a number of independent reviews, mostly positive.** This has been the result of five years of hard work, from when the first draft of the script was completed.

When I started this venture, there was no doubt in my mind that I was going to make a film. The question was what would the low budget hit be to the quality of the production. I had a fixed amount, \$8000. For a feature, it would be an understatement to say it would be a challenge. But I was determined to make this, no matter how.

There are two things that come to mind in thinking how it happened with such success. One is determination. For five years I have had my sights on completing THE FORGIVING, and I never let myself slide into doubt. This is no easy feat. It requires an enormous amount of positive energy, even at the lowest of times. As the director, everyone I work with would follow my department. I set the tone.

The second thing is to cast yourself out without reservation. Take risks. For example, we've all heard the old adage, if you don't ask, you won't get. This is a great truth when it comes to making a low budget film. But it's more than that. It's also leaving behind inhibitions and replacing it with enthusiasm and generosity.

Some of the crew and myself did a panel discussion and spoke about the details of how the film got made with so little money. **You can visit our web site for that video and more information about THE FORGIVING.**

Keena Directs Women's Health Series at Puritano Media Group

By **Charlie Puritano**

Puritano Media Group is excited to be continuing their relationship with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in creating a new women's health education-based CME course in partnership with the CDC, with writer-director **Sallie Keena** at the helm (pictured at right).

Sallie, a skilled director and film industry veteran, is passionate about fostering female leadership on set, and dedicated to creating content by and for women, and this next collaboration with PMG and ACOG will feature predominately female crew, both in pre-production and on set, including Maya Elby as production manager, and Brittany Rogers as production specialist. In collaboration with PMG, Sallie will also be writing scripted content, casting and



associate producing for these projects for ACOG, an organization dedicated to distributing content that furthers women's health education and tackles health disparities.

These new CDC-approved online courses and other video productions will continue PMG and Sallie's near-decade relationship with ACOG under a renewed agreement including multiple upcoming projects, after the success of last years' online course educating healthcare providers on Early Onset Breast Cancer through dozens of interviews and dramatizations, also directed by Sallie.

Sallie's recent personal projects include directing, self-producing and playing the lead in a sizzle reel to pitch an hour episodic dramedy-detective series she has written entitled BERET GIRLS DETECTIVE AGENCY. Her short film, MOON EYES premiered digitally at Annapolis and other film festivals in 2020.

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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.

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