

WIFV People in the News - July 2024

Sheila Brooks PhD, SRB Communications, Erika Timmons,
Cheryl Jacobs Crim, Gabrielle Ewing, Alyscia Cunningham, Carletta S. Hurt,
Sunnye D. Durham, ZenBusiness

SRB Communications Turns 34!

As SRB Communications celebrates 34 years in business this month, we asked our CEO and her business advisers for strategies on scaling a small business. Here are some tips:

- Build strategic relationships within corporations and government agencies you wish to do business with. Join advocacy groups that support minority- and women-owned businesses. Invite colleagues to join your foursome on the golf course. Re-introduce yourself to clients at business fairs and community events they sponsor.
- Recognize the power of the global marketplace. Tap into opportunities with the global supply chain.
- Invest in technology for efficient work processes with clients.
- Create opportunities with your current clients, especially multi-year contracts.
- Work your strategic business plan every day. Write the plan. Plan the work. Close the deal.



Congratulations **Dr. Sheila Brooks** on 34 years in business!



Premiere of WRITERS IN THE SHADOWS - August 8

The DMV red carpet premiere of WRITERS IN THE SHADOWS, **Erika "ET" Timmons'** latest short film, will take place on August 8th at the Cinema Arts Theater located at 9650 Main Street Fairfax, VA. This short suspense thriller was ET's first in this genre and is their most ambitious work to date. The evening's festivities will include a red carpet reception beginning at 6:30, an art show, and a spoken word artist! The film will start at 7:30 with a special introduction by the cast. To top the evening off, WIFV's very own **Sheri Stroud** will serve as moderator for the panel discussion that will follow the viewing. **Tickets are limited and can be purchased on EventBrite.** Hope to see you on the red carpet!!

Crim Receives Prize

Cheryl Jacobs Crim, was named Best

Emerging Filmmaker at the 10th Annual Women's Voices Now Film Festival for RESISTERHOOD, a documentary about the power of women, hope, and resistance during the first two years of the Trump administration. The Women's Voices Now honor comes with a \$1,500 prize. This is the 15th award for RESISTERHOOD which has a 100% Fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes. This important and timely documentary follows six Americans as they fight for our civil rights on the streets and in the halls of power. As one of the judges commented "We need to tell women's history from the lens of women and RESISTERHOOD definitely did that. . . . But it's not just a story of the past in the hope and the resistance but it really offers a blueprint for how we move forward, how we need to move forward, frankly in these times." The film is a powerful tool for the defense of our democracy but it needs your help to spread the word. **Please watch, review, and share Resisterhood streaming on Amazon Prime.**



The filmmakers had a great screening at the 8th annual Network NoVa Women's Summit at the Capital One Hall in Tysons. Followed by a Q&A with me, Margaret Morrison from the film, and film critic, Nell Minow. Everyone - including CJ - was surprised at how unfortunately relevant the film still is. The film is also available (free with ads) on YouTube and Tubi.



DC-Camera Grant Supports CREDIBLE FEAR Production

In 2021, **Gabrielle Ewing** and her feature length documentary CREDIBLE FEAR received the **DC-Camera** Grant administered by WIFV. Despite taking several years to raise the rest of the funds and coordinate with the main subjects, DC-Camera was able to honor the original equipment request, which included the ARRI Alexa Mini, lenses, sound, lighting, and grip equipment. "This incredibly generous grant allowed us to actually make this shoot happen, and with top of the line camera gear. Without this package, it would've been nearly impossible for us financially as a small independent documentary" said Ewing. DC-Camera worked extensively with the team behind CREDIBLE FEAR, including Director of Photography Katherine Castro and sound recordist Lena Moreno (who is also the owner of the DMV based production company Crabtown Media) to ensure they had everything they needed. "They were awesome to work with, and went above and beyond when a piece of our equipment needed a swap in the middle of our first day," said Ewing, "It was a stressful situation for us but they got us through!" CREDIBLE FEAR is a woman-led project, which is dedicated to having women in all its key creative roles. For their two-day DC and Virginia filming, everyone on their crew identified as a part of a historically marginalized community, something the Ewing describes as very important to her personal and professional beliefs. With the production wrapped and the footage logged, Ewing reflects back on this collaboration with gratitude: "I'm incredibly grateful to both WIFV and DC-Camera for supporting our project, and hope that opportunities like this are afforded to more documentaries, especially in this difficult funding market we're currently in."

Caption: AC Leroy Amankrah (left) and sound recordist Lena Moreno (right) building the camera.

Cunningham Screens, Creates & Blogs

Alyscia Cunningham's film NEGRO MOUNTAIN, was selected to screen in the Hip Hop Film Festival which takes place from August 11th to 18th at the world-famous Apollo Theater in Harlem, New York. Catch NEGRO MOUNTAIN on Block 2, screening on Thursday, August 15th at 3:00 P.M. **Purchase tickets here**



Cunningham is an award recipient of 2024 Grant for Emerging Educational Filmmakers with The LearningTimes Foundation for her documentary SEEING WITHOUT SIGHT. The LearningTimes Emerging Educational Filmmaker Grant is designed to help fund those furthering societal conversations about education, teaching, difference, sameness, values, community, and the power of learning. [Learn more here](#)

Alyscia participated in Stowe Story Lab Producers' Lab in beautiful Stowe, VT. "I was awarded a spot in the Lab for the submission of my script titled IMPS (the feature of DOUEN II)." Stowe Producers' Lab is designed for emerging producers looking to produce their first or second, micro-to-low budget (\$25,000 – \$1,500,000) feature film. The goal of the intensive, four-day lab is to help participants develop creative vision, market knowledge, practical skills, and leave the lab with a concrete plan and action items to push the work forward. [Read Alyscia's blog about her experience here](#).

From her "Lessons In Crowdfunding" Blog

I've crowdfunded for the past 11 years on various projects. Although I've gained invaluable experience, it doesn't make the load any lighter. But the lessons learned have been the most valuable part of the process.

Crowdfunding is simply...funding by a crowd. A crowdfunder would typically create a list of potential supporters prior to the launch date. It's crucial to make everyone aware at least 30 days prior to the launch date. It not only helps to create awareness but also builds excitement. I typically separate my list (spreadsheet) into categories. For example, personal, professional, educational, etc. [Read Alyscia's blog on crowdfunding lessons here](#).



Double Header Fest Select

Carletta S. Hurt, has two films screening at the Bronze Lens Film Festival in Atlanta, GA in August. Both films were selected in the short films category.

HER VOICE: Charlayne Hunter-Gault, co-directed by Carletta and **Sunnye D. Durham**, is about Gwendlyn's procrastination on a writing assignment takes her on a journey of history celebrating the first African-American female student to desegregate the University of Georgia in 1961. I'M FINE directed by Shaundra L. McDonald is about a high school student's struggle with depression and anxiety through the voices inside her head.

Still time for Christmas in July - Watch us on Tubi!

Carletta invites you to watch her film, FORGETTING CHRISTMAS on Tubi. [It's now available to watch for FREE!](#) FORGETTING CHRISTMAS stars award-winning actresses, Victoria Rowell and Melan Perez. The film focuses on a young woman who must come home for Christmas to save her father from trapping himself inside his few remaining memories.



New Corporate Supporter

ZenBusiness is a company that provides an easy, all-in-one platform and trusted guidance for small business owners. They've consolidated all the tools, services, and expert support needed to start, run, and grow a successful business. Think of it as the operating system

for small business success. Customers can protect their liability, manage money, and establish their brand—all in one place. [Check them out here](#).

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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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