

WIFV People in the News - October 2024

Daria Strachan, Debbi Mack, Claudia Myers, Monica Lee Bellais, Mary Beth Warner, Bernhard Streitweiser, Elizabeth Stuelke, James Gossard, Mark Ricche, Andrea Kalin, Robin Farmer, Connie St. John

WIFV Member Interactive Timeline

Please submit your items for consideration in the timeline here. Your work is important and we want to document it as part of the WIFV 45th Anniversary Year!

WOMEN OF VISION AWARDS

AS YOU ARE

DIRECTED BY DARIA STRACHAN

A QUEER TEEN STRUGLES TO BE TRUE TO BOTH HER SEXUALITY AND HER RELIGION. SEEKING A PLACE WHERE SHE CAN TRULY BELONG. A BLACK GIRLS FILM CAMP PRODUCTION

JUNE 17, 2024

DARIA STRACHAN

WIFV member Daria Strachan premieres her film, AS YOU ARE, at Black Girls Film Camp Premiere Weekend

www.blackgirlsfilmcamp.org/

Timeline JS

Mack's Stories on Multiple Platforms

Debbi Mack's short script about a woman who sees plastic bottles leaking green goo littered around her neighborhood, along with worrisome changes in her neighbors, recently made Semifinalist in the Filmmatic Short Screenplay Awards, Season 9. The story highlights the dangers of plastic pollution. It reflects her interest in the subject as a former land use and zoning attorney who also worked with EPA's chemical regulation office. She hopes to film the movie next year.



Debbi also has two podcasts. She hosts and produces the **Crime Cafe**, where she interviews crime, suspense, and thriller writers every other week. She also co-hosts **Dark and Twisted Alleys: A Film Noir Podcast** with crime and horror fiction author F.R. Jameson. You can access both through the usual podcast apps, as well as on **her blog**. For bonus episodes and more, check out the Crime Cafe on **Patreon**. For early access to Dark and Twisted Alleys, plus serialized movies and film reviews, check out Debbi Mack's Movie Club on **Patreon**.

She's also currently at work on her third novel in the **Erica Jensen mystery series**. Her novels are available through all online retailers, as well as her own **online store**. All



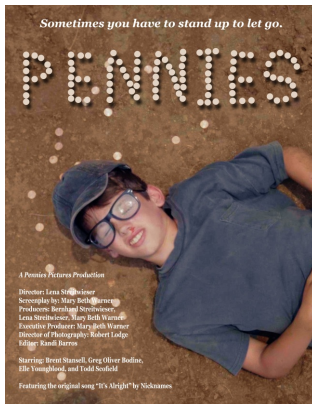
Myers' BAD GUARDIAN Streaming

If you missed the broadcast on Lifetime in May, you can now see THE BAD GUARDIAN, directed by **Claudia Myers**, on **Amazon**.

Leigh Delgado comes back from a vacation with her husband and kids to find her elderly father has had an accident. In Leigh's absence, he has been assigned a legal guardian who now controls all his healthcare and financial decisions. Leigh must race to rescue her father from the clutches of a corrupt system and a predatory guardian before his life is changed forever. [Watch here](#).

Bellais Re-elected to WGA-E Council

WGA-East announced that in the film, television and streaming sector, **Monica Lee Bellais** was re-elected while Larry J. Cohen, Don P. Hooper, Victoria Pollack, Celine Robinson and Suzanne Weber additionally won seats. [Read more here](#).



PENNIES at Festivals

In September, **Mary Beth Warner** and **Bernhard Streitweiser** were thrilled to see their fearless director, Lena, get the award for Best Director (Female) at the Central Coast International Film Festival in Ventura, California! It was the last award of the evening, and it got a great response. It was also gratifying to hear members of the audience talk about the film after the screening. There always seems to be at least one person who can relate to Ian's character.

Max Streitweiser and Mary Beth participated in the Q and A with their editor, Randi Barros, who came down from San Luis Obispo for the event. If you want to see some photos and video from the event, check out their Instagram at [@penniespictures](#).

Next up - The Alexandria Film Festival - tickets are available for purchase here. PENNIES we will be in Shorts Program II, Saturday, November 9 at 700 pm at the Northern Virginia Community College Auditorium.

Stuelke Wins in Toronto

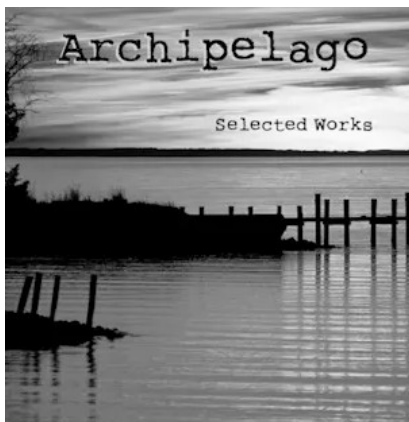
Elizabeth Stuelke can't believe it has been a year since she began work on the short, HER LOVER, beginning with the Line Producer seminar with Maureen Ryan at WIFV's ScriptDC 2023. "The film and all involved are now award winners! We have won Best Cinematography at Toronto International Nollywood Film Festival.



Cinematographer Robert Lodge and his wonderful wife, Kathryn and actor Galway McCullough, Lem in the short, along with myself (Writer/Director/Producer) and my wonderful husband, Satre, attended the festivities and they were grand! Lots of red carpets, lots of smiling faces, lots of speeches by earnest filmmakers. A great time!" Work has begun on the feature film, all cast and crew are secured, we are currently looking for producing partners, anyone interested may [contact Elizabeth here](#).

Next up is the Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival November 4-10. HER LOVER screens Saturday at 4 in the "Festival Darlings" block. If you are near the beach, stop in for some great films! [Get tickets here](#).

Photo Caption: Galway McCullough, Elizabeth Stuelke, Robert Lodge at TINFF



Support Free Book Giveaway of Archipelago

Archipelago, Selected Works by **James Gossard**, is available in a limited signed and numbered print edition, direct shipping included, for \$30. This release is coupled with a fundraiser to provide free open-to-the-public readings and a free book-give-away (up to 100 free copies of my book for those attending the in-person readings in MD), funded in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC.org) [Support the Indiegogo campaign and get your book here](#).

Cryptic Pictures Distribution Closes Deal at Big Box Stores!

MORTAL REMAINS, produced and co-directed by WIFV member **Mark Ricche** (yep, that's him to the right), is celebrating its 10th Anniversary in a big way, with a big box store, bootleg DVD re-release. "It was always part of our distro plan to release a 10th Anniversary DVD. But we are beyond thrilled that Walmart, Barnes and Noble, FYE, and Amazon wanted to celebrate with us...and just in time for Halloween! Karl Atticus is rolling in his grave... if he is actually dead, that is." (Cryptic Pictures Distribution is a division of [CrypticPictures.com](#).)



PUBLIC DEFENDER Streaming on The New Yorker

What happens when a liberal public defender represents right-wing January 6th rioters? PUBLIC DEFENDER, a short documentary directed by **Andrea Kalin**, takes on America's epidemic of division and misinformation with humanity and comic relief, modeling how to restore trust and accountability one relationship at a time. [Watch PUBLIC DEFENDER here](#). [Learn more about their book drive to support prison libraries by visiting Spark Media's website](#).

Public Defender reminds us that behind every person



there may be a surprising and unique story and by truly listening with empathy, we can open hearts and connect with our shared humanity. Richard Schiff, Emmy Award Winning Actor, Executive Producer of PUBLIC DEFENDER

Farmer at Labs and Residencies

WIFV board member and Narrative Script Development Fellow **Robin Farmer** participated in the Athena Film Festival Screenplay Lab last month. She also spent three weeks in residence at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA). Robin worked on screenplays and her second novel during her "bubble of bliss" and she is waving to you in the photo below. She encourages members to apply for a VCCA fellowship - [more info here](#). Approximately 400 artists are chosen annually for their residencies each year.



We Don't Do That Here! Performance Oct 24



Writer / Director **Connie St. John** has created an innovative approach to help end bullying in middle schools and high schools -- a 30-minute musical stage production called "We Don't Do That Here!"

On October 24, the show will be performed by students from Duke Ellington School of the Arts, at The Kennedy Center for the national Arts Schools Network conference.

This performance will be the kick-off of the national launch, as No Weapon Productions partners with Change Your Life Entertainment(TM) to bring this program to schools around the country.

Thanks to the WIFV Sponsors



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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