

January 2025

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Roundtable Roundup

Narrative Directors: Meet Taylor Coriell
Mon, Jan 6, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Film Club: ROMEO + JULIET
Mon, Jan 13, 7:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Screenwriters: 2025 Goal Setting
Mon, Jan 27, 6:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

Roundtables are free for WIFV Members /

President's Message



Dear WIFV Members & Friends,

A new year is coming. Here are some things that I'm committed to for 2025.

- 1) Be Grateful – Gratefulness changes perspective. When we look for the positive (things to be thankful for), we shift our focus to accomplishments (no matter how large or small) instead of disappointments.
- 2) Give Back – We can give back by paying it forward. **WIFV's Mentorship Program** is a wonderful way to give back. I've been blessed to work with three fantastic, talented and brilliant mentees. By serving as a mentor, I was able to share my journey with them and encourage them to move forward on their path. You can sign up to be a mentor, even if you're not a WIFV member. To be a mentee, however, you must be a member. 😊
- 3) Dream Big – Too often, we diminish our dreams because we think they're unattainable. Your dream(s) can be as big as you want them to be. Write them down in a journal. Create a vision board. Put them on your bathroom mirror. Seeing your dreams everyday is the first step in achieving them.
- 4) Eliminate Excuses – This is one of the things I share most frequently with my mentees. Don't wait for perfection before moving forward.
- 5) Self-Care Is Crucial – Make yourself a priority. Your health, both mental and

\$15 for public
You will receive your login link with your confirmation email

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.



physical, is not optional, it's mandatory.

6) Reflection – Look back at all you accomplished this year, the past five years, the past 10 years. You are remarkable! Also, reflect on repeating patterns – both good and bad. What happens just before something wonderful occurs in your life? What are the things that trip you up regularly?

7) Laugh More – Laughter releases endorphins, also known as feel-good chemicals. These important hormones function as the body's natural pain killers and mood elevators. Endorphins can also stimulate creativity and slow the aging process.

Let's end 2024 with gratitude and encouragement and start 2025 with hope.

Happiest of Holidays and Happy New Year!

Connie

PS WIFV Office Closed Dec 25-Jan 5

New and Renewing Members (Nov 25 - Dec 22, 2024)

Beth Adler
Gina Anderson
Miriam Ashraf
Patricia Aufderheide
Kaitlyn Babinski
Catherine Bobalek
Sharon Burtner
Liang Cai
Nic Cohen
Ari Davis
Maxine Downs
Cassidy Edwards
Marianne Elbertson
Meredithe Ettrich
Renee Fischer
Joy Frelinghuysen
Jerry Friedman
Jon Gann
Tara Garwood
Miriam Gennari
Scott Gordon
Tracy Mitchell Griggs
Erik Gudris

Richard Hall
Lisa Hodsoll
Savannah Hunter
Richard Kain
Mira Kelly
Stephen Kolb
Lance Kramer
Laura Kroeger
Gussie Lehman
Ellen Lent
Nichole Meminger
Jessica Mendel
Leah Michaels
Gabrielle Mitchell
Cathryn Moe
Michael Moser
Ginger Moss
Samantha Noland
Elisabeth Noone
Olha Onyshko
Christie Perry
Travis Persick
Tatyana Pokrovskaya
Jim Powell

Ricardo Preve
Helene Hope Prince
Sam Reetz
Marsha Rehns
Jack Reilly
Amna Shabbir
Dan Sonnett
Zohar Rom
Noelle Cwiklinski Serper
Stephanie Streeter
Bernhard Streitwieser
Ramona Taylor
Theresa Tierney
Adrienne Toghraie
Kristen Udowitz
Susan Verbeeck
Pamela Vines
Nela Wagman
Caitlin Wallace
Ben Weinberg
Jonathon Woolford-Hunt
Kitty Wu
Tara Zabriskie

Corporate Members:
Word Wizards, Inc.

Hallet Honored in Utah

On December 6th **Judith Dwan Hallet** and her fellow colleagues were honored at a premier screening at the Salt Lake public library of an 80-minute documentary on them and EXTRA, the television news magazine show that aired for seven years in the 1970s and 80s. They were a mixture of filmmakers and journalists and they put on an extraordinary mixture of investigative journalism as well as social and cultural issues every week. The owner of the TV station felt they were a window to the outside world.



[Here is a link to the Utah Documentary Association event page.](#)



WETA Broadcasts, January 4, 5, 10 / and In Person Screening January 9

Spark Media is organizing a free screening and discussion event at the MLK Library on January 9th. We hope you are able to attend! The event will include a listening workshop with Peoplehood, a screening of Public Defender and a panel discussion that will include our executive producer Richard Schiff. [More info and register here.](#)

PUBLIC DEFENDER will be broadcast on WETA in 2025. WETA PBS - Saturday, 1/4 at 9p and Sunday, 1/5 at 5p WETA Metro - Saturday, 1/4 at 2p and Friday, 1/10 at 9p

New Studio in Neighborhood

Ron Dixon announces the opening of ideaPlex in the Mt. Rainier, MD neighborhood. The studio provides a space where creativity meets bleeding-edge technology. ideaPlexMD is a state-of-the-art immersive production facility designed to transform ideas into impactful, professional content. "Equipped with advanced tools and a flexible set-up, we empower creators, businesses, and organizations to bring their visions to life." There are discounts for WIFV Member productions! [See the pitch deck here.](#)



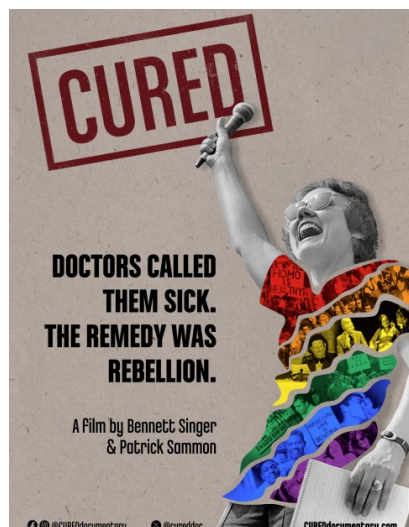
**BALTIMORE
SCREENWRITERS
COMPETITION**

Submit by January 8

The Baltimore Film Office at the Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is accepting entries for the 20th annual Baltimore Screenwriters Competition. This is an opportunity to craft a winning screenplay that highlights Baltimore. The competition awards **prizes in both the feature and shorts categories** for scripts that are set or able to be filmed in Baltimore. The Baltimore Screenwriters Competition is a project of the Baltimore Film Office in conjunction with film programs at Johns Hopkins University and Morgan State University. **The deadline for submissions is 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The application is available online at www.Baltimorefilm.com.**

CURED Available for Streaming on Various Platforms

An award-winning documentary from WIFV member **Patrick Sammon** is now available for streaming on various platforms. The Emmy-nominated **CURED**, which is co-directed by Sammon and LA-based filmmaker Bennett Singer, takes viewers inside the David-versus-Goliath battle that led the American Psychiatric Association to remove the diagnosis of homosexuality from its manual of mental illnesses in 1973. WIFV member **Julianne Donofrio** served as a co-producer on the project. **CURED** attracted 1.5 million viewers during its US broadcast premiere on the acclaimed PBS series Independent Lens. The film is now available to stream on Prime Video, **iTunes** and Xfinity. You can also watch it in-flight on **American Airlines** through next June.



MediaMaker Spotlight

Coming Up This January...

The graphic features two episode highlights. On the left, a woman's portrait is shown in a dark blue rounded square. Below it, the text reads '#089 Jan 5' and 'Art Amidst Adversity: A Journey from Ukraine to Venice'. On the right, another woman's portrait is shown in a similar dark blue rounded square. Below it, the text reads '#090 Jan 19' and 'Stories that Reframe Aging and Celebrate Older Women'. A 'MediaMaker Spotlight' logo is in the top right corner, and a camera icon is in the top left.

Zhanna Ozirana

Melissa Davey

#089 Jan 5

Art Amidst Adversity: A Journey from Ukraine to Venice

#090 Jan 19

Stories that Reframe Aging and Celebrate Older Women

On January 5th, episode #089: “**Art Amidst Adversity: From Ukraine to Venice**” - Host **Tara Jabbari** speaks with Zhanna Ozirana, a Ukrainian filmmaker whose first feature film premiered at the Venice Film Festival. They talk about the inspiration behind her film, the importance of art showcasing challenges like war, winning the Biennale Cinema Competition, and much more.

Then on January 19th, episode #90: “**Stories that Reframe Aging and Celebrate Older Women**” - Host **Candice Bloch** talks with documentary filmmaker Melissa Davey about her latest feature, *Climbing Into Life*. They also discuss Melissa's journey, past work, and her mission to keep shining a light on incredible older women in order to redefine how we think of aging.

And have you listened to December's episodes yet?

#087: “**Making Films That Highlight Shared Humanity**” with host **Sandra Abrams** and guest **Monda Raquel Webb** - A profile of Monda, former EVP of WIFV, winner of the 2024 Trailblazer Award from the African American Women in Cinema of New York City, and EVP and Festival Programming Coordinator for the Chesapeake Film Festival. She discusses her journey as an independent storyteller and her production company, Little Known Stories.

#088: “**September 5: Inside the Day of Terror That Changed Live TV**” with host

Candice Bloch and guests Ben Chaplin, Leonie Benesch, and Tim Fehlbaum. Hear about September 5, a film that takes audiences inside the ABC Sports live broadcast room during the 1972 terrorist attack at the Munich Summer Olympics and offers a unique perspective on a day that changed live news reporting forever. September 5 opens nationwide on January 17th.

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!



Upcoming Deadlines

WIFV is honored to provide a range of fellowships and direct grants for its members. All of these programs enhance the local narrative and documentary film infrastructure and strengthen the Mid-Atlantic as an independent film production hub.

WIFV Mentorship Program Application Deadline January 10

Applications are now being accepted from WIFV members seeking to be paired with an industry professional. You can apply for a mentorship for a specific project or for general career mentorship. [More info here](#). [Apply to be MENTORED by clicking here](#)

Willing to serve as a Mentor? We would also like to hear from you! [Let us know your interest in being a mentor here](#). Someone from the WIFV mentorship committee will follow-up with you. Mentorship engagements usually require one hour per month virtually via Zoom. The WIFV mentorship program has been tremendously effective in its first few years and the committee's goal for 2025 is to increase the number of mentorship pairings to serve even more WIFV members.

WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship Deadline February 10

Through the 9-month WIFV Narrative Script Development Fellowship accomplished film professionals will work with 4-6 Fellows to take scripts from page to production. The scripts become the basis of collaboration between the mentors and Fellows around how to move your script to screen. [Learn more about the Fellowship here](#). There is a \$50 application fee.

WIFV Documentary Development Fellowship Deadline February 17

The WIFV Documentary Development Fellowship program, exclusively available to members of WIFV and members of Filmmakers with Disabilities-Documentary (FWD-DOC), is entering its second year. This program will give documentary filmmakers a safe space to learn about the ecosystem for indie docs during a nine-month program of 3-4 workshops/month to support fellows in taking a documentary idea from early stages to closer to production. [More info here](#). There is a \$50 application fee.

DC.Camera Grant Deadline March 3

DC.Camera wants to assist a WIFV Member working with a local, non-profit client or on a local social issue, whose project would benefit from access to a camera package to support a specific media project. Send your client's non-profit mission statement or description of the proposed social issue topic you are producing, along with the information below and projected production timeline including number of segments and total days needed for gear. The period of access to equipment is limited to 4 production days and no more than 2 check-outs.

Not every camera or every lens in our inventory is available, Focus your request up to mid-level camera and lenses. Their inventory can be found at www.DC.Camera to assist with your request. The equipment request must be completed within one year of notice of

the grant. Deadline for submissions is 5:00 pm (Eastern) on March 3, 2025. Incomplete applications will not be considered. [Application form available here.](#)

Upcoming WIFV Events

Narrative Directors Roundtable

Brought to you by




Meet Taylor Coriell - Jan 6

A redhead who hails from Kentucky, Taylor Coriell is a bicoastal Black List Recommended writer & director, addicted to shows and movies about the people and places that make you feel at home with yourself, through the lens of ladycentric dramedies, rom coms, and buddy comedies. She was most recently featured on The Stunt List's Naughty List

and in the Top 15% for the Nicholl Fellowship, as a Finalist for the Humanitas New Voices Fellowship & Atlanta Film Festival's TV pilot competition, and as a 2x Semifinalist for the Sundance New Voices Labs. Her work as a director and producer has screened on Amazon Prime, Dekkoo, and in festivals all over the world. A former figure skater, recovering opera singer, and full-time pal, Taylor would love to talk about your favorite period piece, whether or not LA can one day provide her with a *actual* bagel, or even hear if you have a theory about why Barack Obama follows her on Twitter (yes, still). [More info here.](#)

Monday, January 6, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$15 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

The Business of Freelancing - Jan 8

Are you considering leaving a full-time job to go freelance? Or you're new to freelancing and feel like "you don't know what you don't know"? Being a freelancer means you are a small business owner, and there's more to it than just waiting for the phone to ring, grabbing some gaff tape, and heading out the door. No matter what area you intend to freelance in, there are financial considerations, process considerations, and time management considerations. **Sharon Sobel** took her freelance leap in 2003, and hasn't looked back. She'll share what every freelancer should know before taking the freelance leap - it's not for everyone, **Micah Baylor** will introduce Opolis and how they act as the Employer of Record for the professional self-employed worker, offering freelancers entity creation, payroll, tax advantages, and benefits.



Wednesday, January 8, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Executive Members (must be logged in and use discount code)

\$20 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$35 for public

You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Event sponsored by [Interface Media Group](#), [202Creates](#), [OCTFME](#), and [Maryland Film Office](#)



NETWORKING

Coffee in Annapolis

Tuesday, January 7, 8:00 am [RSVP here](#)

49 West Coffeehouse, 49 West Street, Annapolis, MD

Organized by **Felicia Barlow Clar** and **Alison Bauer**

Coffee in Frederick

Wednesday, January 8, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Le Luna Bakery & Cafe, 162 W Patrick St, Frederick, MD

Organized by **Jean Rosolino**

Happy Hour in Richmond

Thursday, January 9, 5:00 pm [RSVP here](#)
Best Café at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
200 N Arthur Ashe Blvd, 1st Floor, Richmond, VA 23220
Organized by Virginia Bertholet, Robin Farmer, and Laura Seltzer-Duny

New Member Coffee

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

You will receive the login info for the zoom with your registration

Executive Member Coffee

Tuesday, January 14, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the login info for the zoom with your registration

Reel Moms Coffee

Friday, January 17, 10:00 am [RSVP here](#)

The two-minute film challenge theme is LOVE

Organized by **Alyscia Cunningham**.

Coffee in Baltimore

Tuesday, January 21, 9:00 am [RSVP here](#)

Ceremony Coffee Roasters/Mt. Vernon, 520 Park Ave, Baltimore, MD

Organized by Jacquie Greff and May Santiago

ROMEO + JULIET - Jan 13

In January we are discussing ROMEO + JULIET (1996) directed by Baz Luhrmann starring Claire Danes and Leonardo diCaprio. Synopsis: Shakespeare's famous play is updated to the hip modern suburb of Verona still retaining its original dialogue. Available on Amazon and AppleTV.



Watch the film in advance of the Film Club Meeting. Be prepared to share your likes, dislikes, and insights. We announce the next film at the end of each meeting. The Film Club is organized by **Connie St. John** and **Ericka Boston**.

Monday, January 13, 7:30-8:30 pm [RSVP here](#)

You will receive the Zoom login information with your registration confirmation.



Winter Holiday Party - Jan 24

Come out of hibernation with good food and great company! Registration includes food, drink, and a chance to win a door prize. Registration closes at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, January 21.

Friday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

\$25 WIFV Members / \$45 Public

DCTV, 901 Newton Street, NE. Washington, DC

Right at the Red Line Metro! On-street parking

Save the Date

FEAW Accessibility Tools - Feb 5

For the past three years, the Film Event Accessibility Workgroup (FEAW) has been hard at work on a suite of FREE and easy-to-use accessibility tools to help film organizations create more accessible events, combined with existing tools from organizations like FWD-Doc, filmmakers and event organizers now have the resources they need to build



accessible events and sets.

The new tools from FEAW include an **Accessibility Checklist, Resources, Terminology**, and an **Accessibility Vendor Database**. WIFV is honored to have **Cassidy Dimon** join us to discuss the tools and overall initiative! These are tools that you as a filmmaker and as a screening attendee want to be familiar with!

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

FREE for WIFV Executive Members (must be logged in and use discount code)
\$20 for WIFV Members (must be logged in) and Students / \$35 for public
You will receive login information with your registration confirmation.

Event sponsored by **Interface Media Group, 202Creates, OCTFME**, and **Maryland Film Office**



Will AI Enhance or Assault Equity? February 11

WIFV Filmmakers capture and make history through their powerful storytelling. In this 45th Anniversary Year, WIFV will host four newsworthy panels.

Panel #2 - Will AI Enhance or Assault Equity?

This panel will feature panelists who will discuss the opportunities of AI and whether this hot technology will democratize or increase inequity within the film, TV, and

publishing industries in 2025 and beyond.

Confirmed Panelists:

Ryan Hastings, Manager, Entertainment Contracts & Local Administration, SAG-AFTRA Washington-Mid Atlantic Local

Rachel Kim, VP, Legal Policy & Copyright Counsel at the Copyright Alliance

Judith Snyderman, Archival Research Producer

Tuesday, February 11, 6:30-8:00 pm [RSVP here](#)

Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW Gallery Place Metro

FREE for WIFV Members (must be logged in) / \$25 for public

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.

Thanks to Our Sponsors



Send Stories to:
director@wifv.org

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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