

The Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative creates educational, workforce and production opportunities in the film and media industry as an economic initiative for the western Massachusetts region.



Executive Director Diane Pearlman and Administrative Director Laura Gratz at a networking event in Boston.

Educational Initiatives:



Carrie Owens with some of her Film Production 1 students

This year BFMC established an exciting new collaboration with Berkshire Community College. Under their non-credit banner, BFMC offered its first Film Production I course this fall. The class was taught by filmmaker and Berkshire resident, Carrie Owens, and was open to students over the age of 16. Students learned the basics of scriptwriting, shooting, editing, and sound and created their own films by the end of the course.

What's next for 2016: Film Production I (it's popular!), Film Production 2, Screenwriting and Game Design.

As part of its Media Literacy Initiative, Reid Middle School 8th graders are using iPads to make their own films. BFMC is training the teachers to become proficient with iMovie, the editing software, so they can assist their students.



An aspiring filmmaker looks at Doug's artwork and storyboards

Last summer, BFMC partnered with the Hampshire College Creative Media Initiative and Ben Tobin's Hilltown Youth Film Camp to arrange for private tours of Academy Award winner Doug Trumbull's studio in the Berkshires. Both groups were able to experience Doug's latest 3-D projects in his unique screening room to see what's next in film technology.

Dear Mr. Trumbull,
I don't have much to say because the whole time I was in shock because of the epicness of everything. Thank you soooooo much!
- Jayden, 6th grader

Top: High school students from Hampshire College Creative Media Initiative program tour Doug Trumbull's studio.

Bottom: Middle schoolers enjoy their visit with Doug.

Workforce Development:

Last May, BFMC produced its second course, "The Art and Craft of Cinematography" at Shakespeare and Company in Lenox, MA. Taught by award winning Director of Photography, Richard Sands, the class brought together students of many ages and backgrounds. In the 2-day workshop, participants learned the basics of lighting, film angles and composition and were able to create their own short videos. Student reviews of the class were extremely positive and BFMC has been able to place several of the students on small filming jobs in the area. Training and building a workforce in western MA is one of BFMC's major goals!

What's next for 2016 ... "How to Be a Production Assistant" plus technical workshops featuring the latest camera and lighting equipment.

Networking events:

BFMC's networking events continue to be extremely popular and draw crowds of at least 100 people looking to meet other locals in the industry. Our last event, at the beautiful, new Hotel on North in Pittsfield, was no exception. Our sincere thanks to Sara Eustis, Janet Eason and Brian Alberg for hosting us and providing over-the-top culinary delights! Join our email list at berkshirefilm.org to be part of the next event!

The 2nd Western MA Film and Media Exchange

This year's Exchange was held at Baystate Health's Whitney Ave Conference Center in Holyoke, MA. For the second year in a row, attendees participated in workshops and seminars including "How to Fund Your Film," "Marketing and Branding Yourself and Your Business," and "How Businesses Can Use Video in Marketing." A full Exhibit Hall featured the latest equipment as well as local production companies and resources. The Keynote Speaker, Academy Award winning filmmaker Cynthia Wade, received rave reviews and was inspiring to all who attended. The Exchange is the only opportunity in western MA for filmmakers to learn to run their businesses more effectively and for businesses to meet and hire our local filmmakers (let's keep dollars in our state)! Holyoke Mayor, Alex Morse, opened the Exchange and the day wrapped up with a networking cocktail party. Extremely positive post-Exchange surveys confirm that BFMC should continue producing more networking opportunities, courses and workshops in the region.



Director of Photography Rick Sands (middle) oversees a scene during the Cinematography workshop.



Networking event in September at Hotel On North, Pittsfield.



Star-Studded Panel: Suzanne Hendery, Baystate Health's VP of Marketing and Public Affairs, John Hesselein, Station Manager, WSHM-TV CBS 3, Springfield, Allison Werder, President, Mass. Live, Patrick Berry, President, Westfield News Group



Attendees engage in one of the panel discussions



Helena Fruscio, from the MA Office of Housing and Economic Development with Keynote Speaker Academy Award winner, Cynthia Wade

Production: Working in Western MA



Andy Turrett records sound for CBS This Morning Show's coverage of "Wilco's Solid Sound Music Festival" at MASS MoCA. With camerawoman Sonja Stark. North Adams, MA.



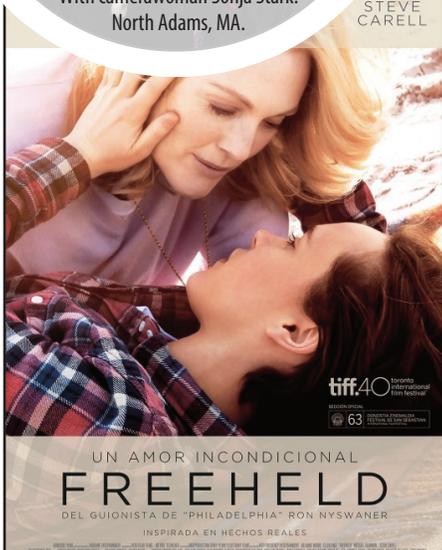
Limelight Productions of Lee, MA did the lighting for World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, PA.



Craig Crawford's Cadence Effects created visual effects shots for *Game of Thrones*, *Daredevil* and *American Horror Story: Freak Show*. Pittsfield, MA



A shot from *Searching for Columbus*, a documentary by filmmakers Leo Mahoney and Mati Kiin. Lee, MA. Photo by Steven Barris.



Freeheld, produced by local filmmaker, Cynthia Wade was based on her Academy Award winning short documentary of the same name. Cynthia also directed *Heartfelt*, a feature length documentary shot in 5 countries about the personal effects of living with high cholesterol.



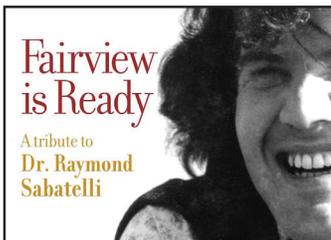
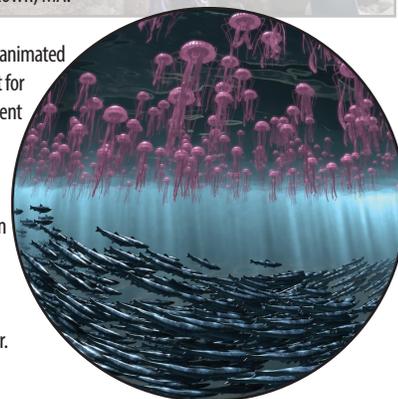
Chris Teebo Films created "Cancer" spots for Baystate Health. Produced by Valerie Paul. Directed by Chris Thibault. West Springfield, MA.



Diana Walczak of Harmless Little Bunny Productions created the short film, *Stories From Morocco* for World Connect. Williamstown, MA.



Stereoscopic animated dome project for the government of Qatar by Synthespian Studios of Williamstown MA. Visual effects supervisor, Jeffrey Kleiser.



Director and Animator Ben Hillman created animated spots for Zoe Olive Oil and a short documentary, *Fairview is Ready: A Tribute to Dr. Raymond Sabatelli*. Director of Photography, Richard Sands. Sheffield, MA.



Campaign for Hyundai 3 minute video, behind the scenes documentary and print campaign. Agency INNOCEAN Worldwide (Korea). Location manager, MA resident Karen Stark. Filmed on Onota Lake, Pittsfield, MA, using local crew and tech support.



Rising Voices/Hothaninpi, a film about Lakota language revitalization, produced and directed by Northampton's Lawrence Hott and Diane Garey, Florentine Films/Hott Productions, in association with the Language Conservancy.



Northeast Drone Video, based in Pittsfield, MA filmed a presentation piece for Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Filmmakers Terry Holland and Richard Sands.

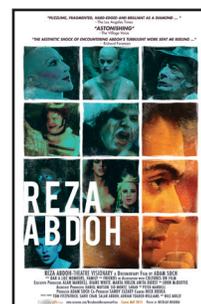


Visual Effects Supervisor, John Nugent and his company Sandbox F/X of Pittsfield created hundreds of visual effects shots for Warner Bros film, *Creed*, starring Sylvester Stallone.

Tormenting the Hen, a feature film shot on location in Stockbridge and Richmond, MA. Produced by Josh Crane & starring local actor, Matt Shaw. Directed by Theodore Collatos.



Healing Voices, a documentary feature directed and produced by PJ Moynihan of Digital Eyes Film. Northampton, MA.



Reza Abdoh, a feature length documentary about the legendary theater director produced by Sandy Cleary of North Egremont, MA.

To our Western MA Film Community and Friends:

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank many of you for your support of BFMC this past year. Your dollars have allowed us to expand both our educational programming, our workforce course offerings as well as build new bridges with organizations across Massachusetts. Our efforts are focused on building the film and media industry in western MA by creating more opportunities and jobs that will attract and keep our young people here and provide our professionals with more work in our region. In the new year, we are looking to offer more collaborative programming with New England Women in Film, Berkshire Community College and the Massachusetts Production Coalition, as well as continue our strong partnerships with the Pioneer Valley Creative Economy Network and 1Berkshire.

We are pleased to announce that we've received our second competitive grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Adams Arts Program. **This is a two year, 1:1 matching grant, which means we need to raise \$35,000 by June of next year.** Although we have raised some of these funds to date, we do have a ways to go. Please use the attached envelope to help us reach our goal and continue to build this part of the creative economy in western Massachusetts. Your donation of any size will make a difference. Help us keep the momentum going!

Very best wishes to you and yours for a happy and healthy holiday season,

Diane

Help us keep our vision strong.
Make your tax deductible donation today!

Please send a check to BFMC,
66 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Or make your contribution by clicking the DONATE button at berkshirfilm.org
Your gift will ensure that filmmaking in western Massachusetts continues to thrive!

BFMC's Posh Picnic at Tanglewood

This year's 2nd Annual Posh Picnic on the lawn at Tanglewood was a tremendous success! Close to 100 people attended the event to support BFMC's educational initiatives. The exquisite picnic-basket lunch was catered and generously hosted/sponsored by Tanglewood. Berkshire Mountain Distillers, also a sponsor, provided their Ice Glen Vodka for delicious Bloody Mary's. Attendees enjoyed the eclectic silent auction and seats in the Shed for an all-Mozart program. Television Producer/Writer, Gordon Hyatt, and Author/Career Consultant, Carole Hyatt, served as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event. Guests included a group of high ranking retired female generals from the US armed forces who had never been to the Berkshires before. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all!



From Top:
Event planner Amy Rudnick,
Representative Smitty Pignatelli,
Director Ben Hillman, and
Financial planner,
Linda Schoenthaler

Filmmaker Cynthia Wade, BFMC
Education Committee member
Hope Fitzgerald, Diane Pearlman,
BFMC Board member Barbara
Newman

Co-Chairs Carole and Gordon
Hyatt with Burt
and Letty Pogrebin

Photos by Joseph Conners

There's been so much production in western MA, it doesn't fit on one page!



Westfield's Kirby Productions shot rock band Sakara's new music video, "Androids are Easy" Directed & edited by Al Liptak; special effects make up by Brett Kelley.



Raf Anzovin of Anzovin Studio completed work for the American Canoe Association. Next projects are top secret so stay tuned for our next newsletter! Holyoke, MA.



The Barefoot Contessa, Ina Garten, filmed her upcoming holiday special, *A Barefoot Holiday*, around the Berkshires. Airdate is December 13th!

Photo by: Food Network



Eleven11 Images created a promotional video for Berkshire School. Directed and shot by JP Lipa; Produced by Chris Lipa. Pittsfield, MA.



BERKSHIRE FILM and MEDIA COLLABORATIVE

of Western Massachusetts

66 Allen Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201



1Berkshire "Life Is Calling" Promo

In the Spring of 2015, BFMC took on a new role as producer of a commercial for 1Berkshire as part of their "Life is Calling" campaign. Diane and Laura visited sites all over the Berkshires from the Interprint factory, to Steven Hannock's studio in Williamstown, to backstage at the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield.

Local cinematographers Richard Sands and Martin Albert shot the promo with additional footage provided by Kevin Sprague and Terry Holland.



Board of Directors: William Beautyman, *Chair*, Karen Zink, *Vice-Chair*, Jay Ignaszewski, *Treasurer*, John Lawrence Ré, *Secretary*

Jeffrey L. Diamond, Ronald Frohne, Stephen Glantz, Brett Goldberg, Lauri Klefos, Jeff Kleiser, George Minkoff, Barbara Newman, Mark Rhodes, Phil Pilevsky, Carl Sprague, Douglas Trumbull

Board of Advisors: Karen Allen, Jayne Atkinson, Elizabeth Banks, Joe Cacaci, Joseph Finnegan, Michel Gill, Kent Jones, Tim Lovett, Sandra Thomas, John Toole, John Whalan

Executive Director: Diane Pearlman



BFMC was a proud sponsor of the new Williamstown Film Festival 2.0, Wind Up Festival, featuring non-fiction films, music, podcasts, long-form journalism, live performance and storytelling.

BERKSHIRE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

BFMC was pleased to sponsor the screening of Pamela Boll's feature documentary, *A Small Good Thing*, which was filmed mostly in the Berkshires.

Volunteer Spotlight

So many people give so much to BFMC. But we wanted to take this opportunity to thank one person in particular – Terry Holland – who



embodies the mission of BFMC. A Pittsfield, MA native, Terry is not only a filmmaker with his own local drone company (Northeast Video Drone), but he is also ready, willing and able to lend a hand whenever needed. Terry ran the check-in table at the Posh Picnic, greeted guests

at our networking events, and came to the cinematography class in May to act in the short videos produced by the students. He participated with Diane on WGBY's "Connecting Point" to promote the Exchange and also contributed footage to the 1Berkshire "Life is Calling" video. Whatever road BFMC takes, Terry is right there pitching in. A true supporter of our mission and a volunteer extraordinaire - Thank You, Terry!

A Special Thanks to Our Major Sponsors

