



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WIFT Louisiana to attend London conference and Cannes Film Festival

February 17, 2017, NEW ORLEANS, LA — The Louisiana Chapter of Women in Film & Television (WIFT LA) will join members of more than 40 chapters across the globe at the WIFT International (WIFTI) Chapter Executive Conference May 14-16, 2017 in London. Immediately following the conference, attendees will travel to Cannes and attend the internationally renowned film festival and market. Members are encouraged to sign up and attend these important events.

The influence of women throughout the history of film is undeniable. From Alice Guy Blaché, who went from secretary to studio head in 1896, to screenwriter Anita Loos (*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*), to Kathleen Kennedy (LucasFilm), to Shonda Rhimes (*Gray's Anatomy*, *Scandal*) women are not only in front, but more importantly behind the scenes in decision making positions films and television. Geena Davis to Sophia Coppola, to Meryl Streep, as well as 14,000 other members are part of this important global organization.

In November 2016, WIFT Louisiana became the new host chapter of WIFTI. Now in its 6th year, WIFT LA provides an opportunity for members to learn from one another and network with each other and discuss projects. It gives sponsors a chance to not only support the organization financially and with in-kind donations, but to work with members on developing projects. Some of these projects are featured during the WIFTI ShortCase, a juried short film showcase and others compete in juried festivals like the upcoming Cannes, Sundance and Toronto festivals, as well as the international recognized, local New Orleans Film Festival. Clips of some of these projects can be viewed on the WIFT LA website <http://www.wiftlouisiana.org>.

WIFT LA and WIFTI offer grant support including a film finishing fund as well as a member only secure website with resources, as well as a directory for productions to find producers, directors, editors, cinematographers, writers, actors and crews. Additional benefits include grant and festival opportunities, script readings, discounts on software, panels, seminars and training, preliminary screenings with member feedback. With exciting projects in the works for 2017 throughout the state and the southeast, it is vital to be involved in an organization that networks ground floor information and insights.

If you have media inquiries, or are interested in becoming a member, attending the conferences or becoming a sponsor in this dynamic industry please email: wiftlouisiana@gmail.com or visit our website. www.wiftlouisiana.org for more information.