

**Gulf Coast Women In Film
Virtual Monthly Meeting
September 13, 2020
Meeting Notes**

Rachel Searcey, co-creator of Gulf Coast Women in Film, begins meeting at 7:00pm.

Participants present:

1. Nicole Dickson
2. Amelia Gilley
3. Carrie Hunter
4. Darby Matthews
5. Rachel Searcey
6. Marcia Vega
7. Cynthia Yap

GCWIF Slide Presentation by Rachel Searcey

- GCWIF mission statement: To bring women together in a safe and encouraging environment to share their art. Rachel shares that regardless of what happens during production of projects outside of class, the class is intended to be a safe place for all to meet together in a supportive environment.
- GCWIF Google Classroom includes folders linked to Google Drive. Those folders contain monthly meeting notes, monthly meeting agendas, slide-show presentations, participant roster, participant head shots, resumes, websites, etc., resources and other documents pertaining to GCWIF.
- Resources include news articles, book lists, information pertaining to sexism/discrimination, workshops for women in film and film festival information. The resource bank will continue to grow.
- The goal of GCWIF is to provide access to :
 - Virtual film festivals
 - Guest speakers
 - Weekly film screenings (female led films, female centered films, films with female key crew positions)
- Participants were asked to introduce themselves, tell what they do, what they are working on, if they need help on a project and comment on what they would like to see from GCWIF. (see below participant comments).

Participant Comments:

Nicole Dickson - writer/director/actress wants workshops and filmed scene study classes. She needs more time in front of the camera to self-study. Nicole shares there is not enough women representation on film in our Gulf Coast area. She looks forward to seeing GCWIF grow. Nicole states she believes networking and personal connection are very important.

Amelia Gilley - writer/director wants more speakers, workshops, and continued resources that will help us to collectively grow together. Amelia shares that she is working on resurrecting a script that she wrote in the past that has been waiting for her return.

Carrie Hunter - director/filmmaker/entertainment law was invited by Nicole Dickson and wanted to see what everyone else is working on. Cari is the director/filmmaker of the documentary, Blue Tarps. She is also the co-creator of the Emerald Coast Filmmaker's Group. She states she is currently wrapping up a short project.

Darby Matthews - actress/producer/YouTuber would like to participate in filmed scene study classes. She shares that she loves children and exercising. She also shares that her Youtube program helps her to get comfortable working in front of the camera.

Marcia Vega - actor/writer/director/voice artist with theater and improv experience. Marcia states she wants more educational training for women to support the need for more confidence in front of and behind the camera. She would like screen writing and analysis workshops from someone who truly has experience. She wants to see women become more confident in their area of filmmaking. She wants female empowerment. Marcia shares that everyone should be open and accepting of criticisms in an effort to grow in their craft. She believes we should not take criticisms personally. Marcia contributes 3 literary resources to the Google Classroom stream for the group.

Cynthia Yap, actress, would like to continue networking with the group. She loves the idea of workshops and wants to take it all in. She further shares she would like to continue working on the local short films and competitions.

Response to Comments & Questions:

Rachel Searcey responds to comments and questions from the group.

- A script library will be added to the GCWIF Google Classroom.
- Upcoming festivals or competitions: 48-Hour Film Project, Four-Points Film Project
- Rachel is willing to provide screenwriting workshops.
- Participants must reach out to Rachel and communicate what they are looking for in the workshops. They can post to the GCWIF Google Classroom stream, email or personally text her to share specific ideas for what is needed/wanted from the group.
- Rachel comments that participants are encouraged to seek resources and attend workshops that include all areas of filmmaking. It is critical for all women in film to be educated on responsibilities, skills and knowledge that are required of all production areas in filmmaking. There are many elements required for a successful film production. Every piece should be examined by women in film.
- All new members should be told to contact Rachel for admission into GCWIF. The goal is for Rachel to personally know and have communicated with each participant of the group.

- Participants do not pay any fees or dues to participate in GCWIF.
- Once we can safely gather in groups again, meetings, “mixers,” workshops, etc. will include not only virtual opportunities but also as face-to-face gatherings.
- Monthly meetings will be held every 2nd Sunday of the month at 7:00pm.
- People who travel to the area are also invited to join GCWIF.
- GCWIF resources and information can be found on Rachel’s website which is www.agirlandhergoldfish.com.
- Workshop planning for GCWIF will begin in January 2021.
- Beginning next month, Rachel will present 2 new resources and a member spotlight. Member spotlights will also be presented on Rachel’s website at www.agirlandhergoldfish.com

Closing Comments:

Rachel Searcey reiterates that GCWIF group was created to provide women in film a safe place to work without discrimination and/or sexual harassment. She acknowledges that many projects that we work on together will die and we may even argue. Nevertheless, we all support each other in GCWIF. We come together as adults to these meetings without “bad blood” and support each other as women in film.

Meeting closed at 8:12pm

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 11, 2020 @7:00pm.

Recording Secretary: Amelia Gilley, 9/24/2020