



*Accelerating the Creative*

**News**

## **WIF/GM Alliance and KCWIF Awards Grant During KC Fall Film Days**

*Grants to be used toward the development of regional talent and supporting organizations*

**KANSAS CITY, MO. – Sept. 12, 2005** – For Immediate Release – The newly established chapter of Kansas City Women In Film (KCWIF) plans to put a “spotlight” on local talent – past, present and future.

Made possible through the **Women In Film/General Motors Alliance**; **KC FALL FILM DAYS** will include two professionally produced film festivals, the announcement of the *TrailBlazer Scholarship Fund* and the *VIP TrailBlazer Awards Event*. The mission of KCWIF is to empower, promote and mentor women (and men) in the region’s film, entertainment and media industries.

**KC FALL FILM DAYS** will formally be launched in conjunction with the Kansas City Cyber Youth Club’s **Pathway Digital Film Festival** which runs Sept. 15-17. In conjunction with **AMC Theatres**, Pathway Digital will host the first ever Independent Digital Movie Festival highlighting this year’s up-and-coming Indy film makers who are using the latest in digital film making technologies.

Pathway Digital Film Festival will feature a great lineup of speakers, workshops and screenings specifically focusing on digital media film production. Cyber Youth club is a Kansas City-based, non-profit organization dedicated to teaching mostly at-risk youth the art of videography and media development.

On **Thursday, Sept., 15** at noon on the 28<sup>th</sup> floor of the Radisson Downtown Kansas City, WIF/GM will sponsor a luncheon where KCWIF chapter President, Jill Shemwell will announce **KC FALL FILM DAYS** to an estimated 150 festival attendees. Shemwell will also describe the mission of KCWIF, talk about the WIF/GM Alliance and announce the establishment of the *Trailblazer Scholarship Fund*.

Through the WIF/GM Alliance grant program, this \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a local Kansas City youth “currently working towards a collegiate career or apprenticeship in the film industry.” Pathway Digital Studio will also donate \$1,500 worth of studio production time for the recipient. TrailBlazer Scholarship applications will be available at the KWIF membership table in the lobby of the hotel. Submissions will be accepted through September 30, on-line, via fax or U.S. mail.

On **Thursday, Oct. 13**, KCWIF will round out the month-long celebration in conjunction with the Film Society of Greater Kansas City’s 12<sup>th</sup> annual **FilmFest Kansas City** at the beautiful Screenland Theatre.

*FilmFest Kansas City* draws over 5,000 attendees, boasts 40-plus films shown with many different countries represented, plus numerous American films and filmmakers, both major and independent. Among many great films to be shown at FilmFest Kansas City will premiere Shane Black's new hit starring Val Kilmer and Robert Downey Jr., *Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang*.

KCWIF is proud to be hosting FilmFest Kansas City's opening event with the TrailBlazer Pre-Party at 6 p.m., followed by the *TrailBlazer Awards* at 8:00 p.m. Through the WIF/GM Alliance, KCWIF will honor [TBD] for her "lifetime professional achievements" and [TBD] will be recognized as a film industry "up-and-comer."

KCWIF and the WIF/GM Alliance will also announce the first recipient of the WIF/GM *Trailblazer Scholarship Fund*. Attendees at the Oct. 13 event will include members from existing film organizations in the region, local corporations who support the arts and area filmmakers, and WIF and GM dignitaries. The evening will be one of the season's hottest celebrity events!

The event will feature a Chevy TrailBlazer and other GM autos on display and over 75 General Motors "An American Revolution" golf shirts will be given to guests. Honorees will pose for photos while attendees enjoy music by local jazz artists and food from area restaurateurs. Additional food and entertainment will be provided by FilmFest Kansas City's "Sister Cities" which include 31 countries from around the globe which will be represented. Exclusive international films will be shown throughout the festival.

## **About the WIF/GM Alliance:**

The **Women In Film/General Motors Alliance** was created to expand programs supporting women in the entertainment industry. The initiative was announced in January 2005 by Iris Grossman, president, WIF; Judith R. James, WIF/GM national committee chair; and Gary Cowger, group vice president, global manufacturing and labor, GM.

Founded in 1973 in Los Angeles, **Women In Film** ([www.wif.org](http://www.wif.org)) is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to women in the global entertainment industry. Its purpose is to empower, promote, nurture and mentor women in the industry through a network of valuable contacts, events, programs, workshops, finishing funds and scholarships. In the U.S., there are chapters in Arizona, Atlanta, Dallas, Florida, Houston, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Maryland, New England, New York, Palm Springs, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C. The umbrella network, Women In Film and Television International ([www.wifti.org](http://www.wifti.org)), of which WIF-Los Angeles is a founding member, boasts 35 chapters on six continents. Member chapters range from developing nations to countries with established industries, including the U.S., Mexico, Jamaica, Australia, Ireland, South Africa, Canada, France, United Kingdom, India and New Zealand, to name a few.

**General Motors Corp.** (NYSE: GM), the world's largest automaker, has been the global industry sales leader since 1931. Founded in 1908, GM today employs about 321,000 people around the world. It has manufacturing operations in 32 countries and its vehicles are sold in 200 countries. In 2004, GM sold nearly 9 million cars and trucks globally, up 4 percent and the second-highest total in the company's history. GM's global headquarters are at the GM Renaissance Center in Detroit. More information on GM can be found at [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

GM is a long-time contributor to women's initiatives, the arts and cultural diversity.

**For more information about *KC FALL FILM DAYS*** or KCWIF go to [www.kcwif.org](http://www.kcwif.org) or contact KCWIF President, Jill Shemwell via phone: 816-421-1877 or via email: [jill@kccollaborations.com](mailto:jill@kccollaborations.com)

**For more information about the WIF/GM Alliance** visit [www.women-in-film.com](http://www.women-in-film.com) (*Web site will be active in mid August*).