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**OCTFME Recognizes Maryanne Culpepper
as the**

April 2018 Filmmaker of the Month

*Emmy award-winning filmmaker, writer and Executive Director of the
Environmental Film Festival*



Washington, D.C. -- The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME) is pleased to recognize Maryanne Culpepper as the April 2018 Filmmaker of the Month.

Born in Washington, D.C., Culpepper is a 20-plus year veteran in documentary and non-fiction content production and production development.

Early in her career, Culpepper founded her own production company, which specializes in story-driven narratives for theatrical, broadcast, feature film, and digital platforms.

Culpepper then transitioned into a distinguished career as a media development executive at the [National Geographic Studios](#) (formerly, National Geographic Television) at which she held several senior-level positions, including President.

In 2016, Culpepper was named Executive Director of the [D.C. Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital](#). Held every March in the District, the [DCEFF](#) is considered to be the preeminent showcase of films that shines a light on environmental and conservation issues. The [DCEFF](#) typically screens over 100 films, including filmmaker and relevant panel discussions each year.

Culpepper became aware of the Festival early during its inception when she had been screening films. Then, while attending a [Women in Film and Video](#) Advisory Council meeting, she was informed of the opportunity and jumped at the chance to be involved with the organization. Culpepper had been wrapping up a film and decided that “[the position and Festival] just appealed to me, bringing together my skill set and experience. I am drawn to projects with mission and advocacy.”

“The Festival started twenty-six years ago by [EFF Founder Flo Stone](#), who had a vision for a film festival that would celebrate our planet and inspire people to protect it. I wanted to be a part of that movement,” said Culpepper. “And I’m very proud of our work at DCEFF. We’re mission-centric here and want to make the world a little better.

On September 14, 2017, [Mayor Muriel Bowser](#) and the [D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#) honored the [DCEFF](#) with the Mayor’s Arts Award for Excellence in Creative Industries.

“D.C. is a culturally-rich city with so many incredible arts organizations operating in all 8 Wards. We’re grateful to be recognized for the work we’ve done this year,” said Culpepper. “[DCEFF](#) combines the environment, arts, and education...and I look forward to the next 26 years in D.C.”

In addition to heading the Festival, Culpepper serves as Adjunct Professor at George Washington University’s School of Media and Public Affairs and in 2011, she won the Women in Film and Video’s highest honor, [Woman of Vision Award](#). Culpepper also won an [Emmy](#) for Children’s and Family Programming. In addition, she is a member of the [Producers Guild of America](#) (PGA).

Culpepper’s more recent work includes [Avatar: Discovering Pandora](#), a science exhibit that is currently touring in China and based on James Cameron’s [Avatar](#). In addition, she also produced the [National Geographic Photographers: The Best Job in the World and Vamizi: Cradle of Coral](#). The film explores Mozambique’s wondrous coral reefs.

“My career path has allowed me to travel all over the world, and I’ve been fortunate to spend time in 6 of the 7 continents,” added Culpepper. “Antarctica is on my bucket list,” she joked.

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OCTFME launched the “Filmmaker of the Month” initiative as a vehicle for highlighting the talents and creative contributions of filmmakers that make the District of Columbia their home. The Filmmaker of the Month initiative is part of OCTFME’s mission to elevate the national and international profile of the District’s talented filmmakers.

***If you know of a filmmaker that would make a great future Filmmaker of the Month, you can send OCTFME your recommendations using this [nomination form](#).

About OCTFME

The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment is responsible for implementing, managing, and administering programs, initiatives, and services that support media industry economic activity, growth, and employment in the District of Columbia.

Washington, D.C.’s instantly recognizable landmarks, diverse neighborhoods, cultural amenities, and first-class accommodations are just some of the many features that make the nation’s capital a venue of choice for media production.

For more information, contact the Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment at (202) 727-6608, visit us on the web at <http://entertainment.dc.gov>, join the DC Film community on <http://www.facebook.com/EntertainDC>, or follow us on http://twitter.com/Entertain_DC.

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