



Issue: #25

December 18, 2009

Variety : Scout & About: Illinois

Chicago is actor's town

Read what Casting Directors Sharon D. King and Claire Simon and AFTRA/SAG Executive Director Eileen Willenborg have to say!

[Variety, December 10](#)

KMRC to Offer Film Workshop

The KMRC (Kaufherr Members Resource Center) is launching an in-depth six-week program to train AFTRA, SAG and AEA members on how to write, produce, shoot, edit and distribute a 3 to 5 minute marketing piece. This project could make you an Internet darling, or get you a new agent or an audition.

Classes are taught by industry professionals and space is limited. You must be an AFTRA, SAG or AEA member in good standing to participate.

Application and Prerequisites:

1. Applicants must commit to attend all six sessions. Classes are 6 - 9 p.m. Wednesday evenings in the KMRC, One East Erie, Suite 660 unless otherwise noted.
2. Please submit a paragraph by January 6 explaining your film project idea (a synopsis) and how the idea translates into a 3-5 minute self-promotion "film."
3. Include your resume and detail any prior experience behind the camera.
4. Please include all contact information, including phone number and e-mail address.

5. E-mail your application to Chicago@AFTRA.com with DIY in the subject line.

Questions? Call Kit Woods at (312) 573-8081. Kit will return calls after January 4.

Class 1 - January 13
Overview - Mary Kay Cook
Scriptwriting - Craig Harris

Class 2 - January 20
Scriptwriting - Craig Harris

Class 3 - January 27
Script breakdown - Leigh Jones
Shooting schedule
Budgeting
Character breakdown

Class 4 - February 3
Editing - Steve Ordower
Music

Class 5 - February 10 at Fletcher Camera
Location/permits - Kathy Byrne
Crews/sound/lights
Legal

Class 6 - February 17, 2010
Marketing/Distribution - TBD

Getting Affordable Health Care in Minneapolis

Workshop Friday, December 18

Our friends from The Actors Fund will be in Minneapolis and St. Paul this month to offer their free seminar, "Getting Affordable Health Care in Minneapolis."

Friday, December 18, 12:30-2 p.m., St. Paul Central Library, 4th Floor Meeting Room, 90 W. 4th St, St. Paul

Register for the seminar now by sending an e-mail to Renata Marinaro at rmarinaro@actorsfund.org or by calling (800) 221-7303, ext. 165.

The seminar will cover finding affordable health insurance, getting health care when you're uninsured, lowering the cost of medications, applying for government-subsidized programs and understanding current health care reform efforts. A Q&A will follow, plus individual consultations. It is free. The information given at the workshop is comprehensive, unbiased and without commercial or political sponsorship of any kind.

The Artists Health Insurance Resource Center website at www.ahirc.org was recently redesigned to be more user-friendly. They have also created a new website, www.artistsunitedforhealthcare.org, to address the desire of many people in the arts and entertainment fields to get involved in health care.

The Actors Fund is a national human services organization that helps professionals in performing

arts and entertainment in times of need, crisis or transition. More information is available at actorsfund.org.



Screen Actors Guild and Screen Actors Guild Foundation Announce New Series of Live Streaming 'Business of Acting' Career Seminars

On December 4, Screen Actors Guild Foundation President and SAG National Board member JoBeth Williams, SAG National President Ken Howard and SAG Secretary-Treasurer Amy Aquino announced the upcoming LifeRaft Live Stream Program of career-focused seminars for Screen Actors Guild members. [Click here](#) for video announcement.

Taking place live and streamed online, the SAG Foundation's LifeRaft "business of acting" seminars share significant industry knowledge with Guild members everywhere. The 2010 program will begin January 12 and continue for 15 weeks every Tuesday, 8-10 p.m. (CT).

The first seminar will feature SAG-franchised agents and will be moderated by Zino Macaluso, SAG's national director/senior counsel, agency relations. Other subjects in the series include casting directors, taxes and money management, contracts, creating a demo reel, and young performers' issues.

"The LifeRaft program is yet one more way that the SAG Foundation fulfills its mission to assist, educate and inspire actors," said Williams. The non-profit SAG Foundation is independent from SAG but offers substantive services to Guild members, free of charge.

"We are very pleased to be able to offer these valuable seminars to our members," said Howard. "No matter where our members live, they will have instant access to the seminar as it is happening and will be able to use the information to benefit their careers."

"This is a program that will be of tremendous value to our members and greatly assist them in their professional endeavors," added Aquino. "And with today's technology, no one has to miss out."

Matching industry-leading moderators and panel guest experts to a variety of relevant "business of acting" topics is LifeRaft's winning formula.

To participate, Guild members should simply visit sagfoundation.org/liferaft/livestream at the scheduled time and follow instructions. Guild members can submit questions during the events via e-mail to Liferaft@sagfoundation.org.

Members who are not able to participate in the live streaming will be able to view the archived seminars on the SAGFoundation.org website.

[Click here](#) for full schedule of the LifeRaft Live Stream Program.

Reardon Named to *The Hollywood Reporter's* '18th Annual Women in Entertainment Power 100 List'

AFTRA National President Roberta Reardon was named for a second consecutive year to *The Hollywood Reporter's* annual Women in Entertainment Power 100 list.

Reardon was ranked 70 on the list of 100 female movers and shakers in the entertainment industry, sharing honors with notable AFTRA and SAG members Oprah Winfrey (No. 2), Ellen DeGeneres (No. 26), Meryl Streep (No. 48) and Tina Fey (No. 51).

"I'm deeply honored to again be named to this list that highlights the broad spectrum of talented women in the industry," Reardon said. "This honor is not so much about my achievements as it is about the strides AFTRA members have made in the last year, working together every day to build our union's strength."

This year, *The Hollywood Reporter* focused on mentorship and its important role in helping shape the lives of inner-city and at-risk youth.

The complete announcement and photos from the event are available at AFTRA.com.

AFTRA/SAG Night with the Bulls! Chicago Bulls vs. Detroit Pistons

United Center · Monday, January 11 · 7 p.m.

On this special night all AFTRA/SAG members, family and friends can purchase tickets at half price! For rows 1-7 of the 300 Level, tickets regularly priced at \$60 are available for only \$30. For rows 8-17 of the 300 Level, tickets regularly priced at \$40 are available for only \$20.

IMPORTANT: To order tickets, stop by the AFTRA/SAG office to get the special form. Or, hit REPLY and include BULLS in the subject line to receive one by e-mail. This completed form must be received by the Chicago Bulls (by fax or mail only) no later than Monday, December 28. Please note that tickets are subject to availability and due to high demand, we encourage you to fax or mail your completed form as soon as possible. TICKETS WILL SELL OUT.

AFL-CIO Joins the Fight to Pass the Performance Rights Act

On December 1, AFL-CIO President Richard L. Trumka sent two letters to members of Congress - one to senators, one to representatives - asking them to support the Performance Rights Act, a piece of bipartisan legislation that seeks to correct that the U.S. is the only developed country on the planet that does not recognize the right of performers to be compensated when their music is played on broadcast radio. Trumka writes, "This issue, a basic fight for fairness for working people, is what the Labor Movement was founded on and we are fully committed to victory."

AM and FM music radio stations earn billions every year without compensating the artists and musicians who bring music to life and listeners' ears to the radio dial. Other radio platforms - satellite radio, Internet radio and cable TV music channels - already pay a performance royalty. AM and FM radio stations that stream their signal on the Internet - same music, same DJs, same ads - also pay a performance royalty for their online use. Additionally, although radio stations around the world pay performance royalties, because the U.S. does not recognize this right for American performers, those monies are never paid to them. The Performance Rights Act will close a loophole in the U.S. Copyright Act by requiring that broadcast radio compensates all artists for playing their

music on AM and FM radio stations and will repatriate hundreds of millions of dollars back into the U.S. economy. Under the provisions of the Performance Rights Act, more than three-quarters of music radio stations will pay just \$5,000 a year or less a year to clear the rights for all the music they use, while some will pay as little as \$100 a year.

"AFTRA is a proud affiliate of the AFL-CIO and today we applaud President Trumka and the AFL-CIO's support for this critical piece of legislation," said AFTRA President Roberta Reardon. "If passed into law, the Performance Rights Act will vastly improve the lives of many AFTRA members across the country, especially the thousands of artists who either are not celebrity performers or whose antiquated record deals have not sustained them into their elder years."

Visit AFTRA.com for more information about this issue.

Screen Actors Guild Awards Holiday Auction Help the SAG Foundation to Assist, Educate and Inspire!

The Screen Actors Guild Awards have kicked off the first of three online auctions to benefit the SAG Foundation, with a Holiday Auction of glittering wares that range from autographed collectibles to glamorous vacation packages!

Winning bids from the Screen Actors Guild Awards Auction will support the SAG Foundation's dedicated mission to assist, educate and inspire actors in their careers, lives and communities, a generous opportunity managed by Clothes Off Our Back and Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Please visit sagawards.org/auction to view and place bids for the exciting items, experiences and collectibles available during the Holiday Auction, which will close at 7 p.m., CT on Friday, December 18, 2009.

The new year, which also marks the SAG Foundation's 25th anniversary, will see the Red Carpet Bleacher Seat Auction take place January 4-11, offering a chance to cheer the 16th Annual SAG Awards nominees and presenters on their way down the red carpet as well as the Ceremony Auction from January 21-29, featuring one-of-a-kind experiences and memorabilia donated by SAG Awards nominees and their films and television programs.

Student Film Opportunities

As part of our ongoing effort to expand opportunities for our diverse membership, we are promoting the following talent search: Columbia College seeks performers of all ages and backgrounds, particularly seniors, people of color and performers with disabilities, for student film opportunities. In addition, in wishing to create a more diverse pool for future projects, they are particularly interested in registering performers who appear over 30, as well as those who can portray characters of color. Interested performers are asked to send headshot and resume to:

Film Casting
Columbia College
1104 South Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605

If you have worked on a student film at Columbia or submitted these materials in the last six months, you are on file and do not need to resubmit.

Special Schedule for Office and KMRC

Thursday, December 24	Office and KMRC Close at 1 p.m.
Friday, December 25	Office and KMRC Closed, Christmas
Thursday, December 31	Office and KMRC Close at 1 p.m.
Friday, January 1	Office and KMRC Closed, New Year's Day

In response to the members' request to stay informed, *The Activator* may include notice of rallies, pickets and other actions by unions and the labor movement that have not been sanctioned by the National or Chicago Board of Directors of AFTRA or SAG. This information is provided as a convenience.

The information contained herein regarding workshops, vendors, special offers and the like is provided for informational purposes and is not intended to imply endorsement by the Guild or AFTRA of them or the information, material, products, or services provided. Neither the Guild nor AFTRA makes any warranties or representations regarding the use of the material or the quality of the services or service providers.

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WEBSITES www.aftra.com and www.sag.org.

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