



# THE CHICAGO ACTIVATOR



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## Barbara Rosenblat Talks Audio Books

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*Presented by the Kaufherr Members Resource Center and Chicago's AFTRA/SAG Conservatory, this workshop is free and a benefit of your AFTRA, SAG or AEA membership.*

*The KMRC and AFTRA/SAG Conservatory Present*

### **Barbara Rosenblat Talks Audio Books**

No, this isn't a book club! This is your opportunity to learn from one of the most respected and popular narrators of audio books in the country. Critics and fans have long praised Barbara Rosenblat for her deft handling of characters and dialects across a wide spectrum of classics, mysteries, bestsellers and romances. Her extraordinary body of work (more than 400 titles to date) has earned her six coveted Audie Awards from the Audio Publishers Association. The Audies are the industry's Oscar and Barbara has won more of them than any female narrator.

An AFTRA and SAG member, Barbara has generously agreed to share her knowledge at this special KMRC event. She'll share her experiences and her thoughts about the craft of the audio book. There will also be time for questions.

### **Barbara Rosenblat Talks Audio Books**

**7 - 9 p.m. Monday, March 8**

**Kaufherr Member Resource Center, One East Erie, Suite 660**

Registration opens Wednesday, February 24. E-mail [lwagner@aftra.com](mailto:lwagner@aftra.com) and include your name and membership number or call the AFTRA/SAG office at (312) 573-8081.

*Presented by the Kaufherr Members Resource Center and Chicago's AFTRA/SAG Conservatory, this workshop is free and a benefit of your current AFTRA, SAG or AEA membership.*

### **Tony Bennett, Don Imus Among Presenters at AFTRA Foundation's 2010 AMEE Awards**

On February 16, the AFTRA Foundation announced the presenters for the 2010 AFTRA Media and Entertainment Excellence Awards (The AMEES), where the spectrum of AFTRA talent will be on display. Award-winning broadcast journalist and Radio Hall of Famer Bob Edwards will host the dinner gala benefit tonight at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. Edwards is AFTRA National First Vice President and is a past AMEE Award recipient in broadcasting.

Award presenters were chosen by the honorees and include:

- Singing legend Tony Bennett and broadcast journalist Jorge Ramos (WNJU's *Noticiero 47*) will present the AMEE Award in Sound Recordings to Latin music superstar Juanes.
- Sesame Workshop CEO Gary Knell will present the AMEE Award in Entertainment to the cast of *Sesame Street*.
- Bob Edwards will present the AMEE Award in Broadcasting to *Good Morning America's* Robin Roberts.
- *CBS News Sunday Morning* contributor Bill Geist will present the AMEE Lifetime Achievement Award in Broadcasting to veteran newsman Charles Osgood.
- Radio personality Don Imus will present his longtime friend, Sam Moore, with the AMEE Lifetime Achievement Award in Sound Recordings.

The AMEES were created in 2003 to honor AFTRA members for excellence in their craft and their contributions to the fields of media and entertainment. Proceeds from the 2010 AMEE Awards go to benefit the AFTRA Foundation, an independent non-profit organization separate from AFTRA that provides support to charitable and educational endeavors critical to AFTRA members, including the George Heller Memorial Scholarship, which goes to AFTRA members and their dependents for academic study, and the International News Safety Institute, the only global organization solely dedicated to the safety of journalists and other news professionals.

### **KMRC Committee Meeting Noon, Tuesday, February 23**

Do you want to have a role in guaranteeing that the KMRC continues to be a valuable resource for Chicago's AFTRA and SAG members? Put your ideas and energy to work. Join the Kaufherr Members Resource Center Committee.

Whatever your skills or areas of interest might be, your help is needed. There is always much work to do. Think about how you can help. To join the committee or to RSVP for the February 23 meeting, call the AFTRA/SAG office at (312) 573-8081.

### **All Aboard iActor 3.0 Online Casting Database Now Simpler and Faster**

Screen Actors Guild has announced new enhancements to the iActor online casting database ([iactor.org](http://iactor.org)). The new features enable actors to create profiles that reflect their talents more accurately than ever. The upgrades also make talent searches more focused and easier, a significant benefit for casting agents, producers, new media developers and others needing to cast their projects.

"We recognize that the modern casting process has been refined over many decades, and our goal is to extend the best features of time-tested casting methods into the online space," said Steve Graham, national director of digital marketing for SAG. "We're committed to refining iActor on an ongoing basis to support its functionality and position as a go-to source for the entertainment industry."

"iActor is part of an ongoing effort to utilize technology to better serve our members and our industry partners," said David White, national executive director of SAG. "We will continue to refine our approach and find ways to upgrade the experience, which adds value to the casting process and provides another useful tool for actors to have in their toolkit."

The enhancements are geared toward providing actors with the ability to further personalize their online profiles to better capture their unique attributes that will influence the casting decision. They also improve the functionality of the site by reducing the number of steps needed to perform common tasks. The enhancements include:

***Profile enhancements***

- Improves published resumes by providing both PDF and HTML formats for more flexibility
- Offers additional options for actor body type, ethnicity and special skills
- Adds description fields for "voice quality" and "sound-alikes" to voice-over resume
- Adds a new integrated media slideshow
- Updates options for gender
- Adds the ability to create custom credit types for more control and flexibility

***Functionality enhancements***

- Adds drag-and-drop functionality throughout the site for superior ease of use
- Allows the ability to include a mini headshot on printed resume
- Allows the ability to update business contact numbers within iActor
- Combines "Actors to Locate" with iActor search to provide results for all SAG members
- Adds the ability to publish multiple resumes to public sites
- Changes the way languages are selected; adds options for proficiency and accents or dialects
- Allows additional cross-platform interfaces to share data with third-party casting services

iActor is Screen Actors Guild's proprietary online casting database, populated exclusively by SAG members. Launched in 2007, the online resource provides industry professionals with automated Station 12 clearance, detailed actor resumes and multimedia files. It is provided as a free service to all SAG members and is accessible by the industry at no charge. For more information, visit [iactor.org](http://iactor.org) or e-mail [info@iactor.org](mailto:info@iactor.org).

**Important Notice to AFTRA Members and AFTRA Franchised Agents  
No Contract, No Work Rule in Effect for *Tacky House*  
Produced by Lynchpin Productions for Style Network**

Please be advised that Lynchpin Productions is not signed to the AFTRA Network Television Code, the AFTRA/Style Agreement or to an AFTRA Basic Cable production contract for the non-dramatic program *Tacky House*, which is being produced for Style Network. Please be also advised that Lynchpin Productions is related to another company, Scout Productions, who is also not signed to cover this program.

Although AFTRA has a system agreement with Style that covers all programming produced in-house, production of *Tacky House* is by an independent third-party producer, Lynchpin Productions. Until Lynchpin Productions signs an AFTRA contract, AFTRA members are hereby prohibited from accepting employment on *Tacky House* from Lynchpin Productions and produced for Style Network.

AFTRA and SAG members should always check with the AFTRA/SAG office to confirm that an employer is signed to the appropriate AFTRA or SAG contract. If you have questions about the signatory status of an employer, please call AFTRA/SAG Chicago at (312) 573-8081.

### **Surf the Web, Check Your Work**

Have you checked the Internet for commercials and industrial work you've recorded? Take a look at the websites of products/industrials in which you've appeared-or voiced. There's a chance that your work is posted but the proper channels weren't notified, so you may not have been paid. Check out the websites, check your pay stub, call your agent.

If you can, it's very helpful to take a minute to download anything you find. Then you will also have something for your personal demo or your agency's demo.

Don't forget - all AFTRA and SAG members have free high speed Internet access at the Kaufherr Members Resource Center. The KMRC is open until 9 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday evenings and until 5 on Monday and Friday. Call (312) 573-8081 for more information.

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.

AFTRA/SAG Chicago: 312/573-8081

Hotline: 312/867-3710

E-mail: [chicago@aftra.com](mailto:chicago@aftra.com)

WEBSITES [www.aftra.com](http://www.aftra.com) and [www.sag.org](http://www.sag.org).

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