



Issue: #10

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'How to Turn a Non-Union offer into a Union Job!'

Special Guest: Sheldon Smith
*AFTRA/SAG Washington-Baltimore member
and award-winning Voiceover Artist*

Monday, May 10
KMRC One East Erie, Suite 660
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
(details below)

AFTRA/SAG Chicago Hires Kathy Byrne as Director of Television/Theatrical and Freelance Organizing

AFTRA/SAG Chicago has announced that Kathy Byrne has been hired as the new Director of Television Theatrical and Freelance Organizing for the Chicago Local of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and Branch of Screen Actors Guild.

Byrne will assume her new position on May 17, 2010, and will report to AFTRA/SAG Chicago Executive Director Eric Chaudron. She will oversee the AFTRA and SAG television agreements, administer the Guild's theatrical contracts including the student film and low budget agreements, and focus on creating more work opportunities for union performers.

"Kathy's extraordinary background--19 years of experience with the Chicago Film Office--not only gives her the expertise needed to succeed in this job, her contacts and knowledge of the city's entertainment industry make her the perfect candidate," Chaudron said. "I am certain Kathy will prove to be a very valuable asset to Chicago's AFTRA and SAG members."

In addition to her duties with the Chicago Film Office, Byrne has worked with the mayor's office of special events coordinating Chicago's Outdoor Film Festival since 2006, and working on Mayor Daley's Holocaust Remembrance Day and the Memorial Day Commemorative Ceremony since 2008.

"While it's always hard to leave a place you have called home for so long, I look forward to new challenges," said Byrne. "It has been an absolute privilege to serve the production community, and I look forward to that continuing in my work at AFTRA/SAG."

Byrne will succeed Assistant Executive Director Kit Woods, who is retiring in June after serving AFTRA and SAG members for 33 years, first in Atlanta and then in Chicago since 1991.

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Has this ever happened to you?

- A producer calls you and dangles money (a job) in front of you, only to add, "but it's got to be non-union."
- A producer has heard your demo and calls you directly. You ask him or her to call your agent, only to NEVER hear from the producer again.
- A producer you've worked with before calls and asks if there's any chance you'll work "off the card just this once."

Award-winning voiceover artist Sheldon Smith will show you "How to Turn a Non-Union offer into a Union Job." Sheldon, an AFTRA and SAG member, has taught this successful seminar in Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago and across the country. His workshop-designed for voiceover and on-camera principal performers-has helped countless union performers enhance their careers by using his methods.

The Conservatory and Kaufherr Members Resource Center are pleased to announce that Smith is returning to Chicago on May 10. Don't miss this opportunity to let him help you understand the dynamics of negotiating these scenarios and give you the tools you need, including the script to do so!

This information will ONLY be available if you attend the seminar and will not be reproduced. The workshop is designed for voiceover and on-camera principal work only. It is not applicable to background work.

To RSVP, please call (312) 573-8081 or e-mail lwagner@aftra.com. Space is limited!

Work the perk! AFTRA/SAG Conservatory programming is a benefit of your union membership and is offered to all AFTRA and SAG members in good standing. Please bring your paid-up membership card.

The Actors Fund Publishes *How to Get Affordable Health Care in Chicago*

Booklet offers easy Q&A format on how to obtain affordable health care and health insurance in Illinois and the greater Chicago area.

The Actors Fund has added to its national series of booklets with the publication of *How to Get Affordable Health Care in Chicago*. Compiled by the fund's Artists Health Insurance Resource Center, the brief guide outlines how to obtain affordable health care, health insurance and medication from both private and public programs.

The booklet addresses questions about eligibility, pre-existing medical conditions and government subsidized health care, among other topics. Select Chicago health, mental health, dental and pharmacy services are also listed. The guide is available on The Actors Fund's website, or to obtain a hard copy, contact Don Towne, director of social services at the Chicago office of The Actors Fund at (312) 372.0989, or e-mail dtowne@actorsfund.org.

About The Actors Fund:

The Actors Fund is a nationwide human services organization that helps all professionals in performing arts and entertainment. The fund is a safety net, providing programs and services for those who are in need, crisis or transition. Learn more about The Actors Fund at actorsfund.org.

FULL STREAM AHEAD Events Available Online

Although the Screen Actors Guild Foundation and Screen Actors Guild FULL STREAM AHEAD series has ended for now, the presentations are available to view online in the [LifeRaft Video Gallery](#).

Check out the final event in this series, "Marketing Yourself," to learn about the ins and outs of marketing for actors.

Special Discount for AFTRA Members \$29 2010 NARM/A2IM Music Business Crash Course

This year's NARM/A2IM Music Business Crash Course is on Friday, May 14 and Saturday, May 15 at the downtown Hilton Chicago. The Crash Course features educational presentations and panel discussions focused on the independent sector, a must for independent music labels, artists, technology companies and students to remain current in the transforming music economy.

AFTRA members can attend the two-day NARM/A2IM Music Business Crash Course for just \$29. More information is available at AFTRA.com. Remember, you must be an AFTRA member to receive this discount.

AFTRA/SAG Senior Radio Players Present *The War of the Worlds*

This is the radio play that Time Magazine labeled "a textbook example of mass hysteria." Listeners who were tuned into the program from its beginning knew it was simply a compelling drama adapted from the H. G. Wells story; however, many of those who came in late believed the dramatized news bulletins, interviews with scientists, and announcements from government offices were real-and some who lived in the Grover's Mill, New Jersey area tried to run from what they believed was almost certain extinction by creatures from Mars. The AFTRA/SAG Senior Radio Players are proud to re-create the script that made America love, hate, and, most of all, become aware of a huge talent by the name of Orson Welles.

Series: *The Mercury Theatre on the Air*

Program: ***The War of the Worlds*** (originally broadcast October 30, 1938 on the CBS Radio Network)

Director: Guy Barile

7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) Tuesday, May 18

Admission is free; seating is first come, first seated
Chicago Cultural Center's Claudia Cassidy Theater

Networking Night at the KMRC

Facing Facebook: Social Networking for the Working Performer
Special Guest: Michael Issac

Don't know a tweet from a poke? Do your eyes glaze over when someone talks about Facebook, or Twitter or LinkedIn? All three can be valuable networking and marketing tools for a performer. Chicago member Michael Issac is going to break it down so you can get up and running on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

If you have a laptop, please bring it. But don't worry, one is not necessary to benefit from this event.

6 - 8 p.m. Thursday, May 27
Kaufherr Members Resource Center
One East Erie, Suite 660

Work the perk! Networking Nights--like all AFTRA/SAG Conservatory and KMRC programming--are a benefit of your union membership and offered to all AFTRA and SAG members in good standing. Please bring your paid-up membership card.

Chicagoans Demand Financial Reform, Jobs



L to R: Brendan Hutt, Jane McCreedy, Alma Washington, P.J. Jenkinson, Richard Shavzin, and Richard Henzel portrayed greedy bankers and unaware, unapologetic, idle rich as more than 1,000 working men and women took to the streets of Chicago on April 28. Organized by the

Chicago Federation of Labor and the AFL-CIO, the rally is part of the AFL-CIO's Good Jobs Now! Make Wall Street Pay mobilization demanding financial reform. The CFL asked if a few AFTRA and SAG members would lend a hand to help deliver the message.



Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive Saturday, May 8

The 18th annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) National Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger" is the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Carriers collected a record 73.4 million pounds of food in last year's drive.

Letter carriers will collect non-perishable donations from homes as they deliver mail along their postal routes. The food is delivered to food banks, pantries and shelters that serve the communities where they are collected.

It's easy to help:

1. Place non-perishable food products in a bag
2. Leave at your mailbox on Saturday, May 8
3. Your letter carrier will pick up and deliver to local food banks or pantries

If you have any questions, please contact your local post office.

In response to members' requests 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

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AFTRA/SAG Chicago: (312) 573-8081

Hot line: (312) 867-3710

E-mail: chicago@aftra.com

WEBSITES www.AFTRA.com and www.SAG.org.

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