

MARQUEE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ACTORS FUND

SUMMER 2010 ISSUE: VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1



Annual Gala Celebrates \$10.1 Million Special Campaign

Top: Emanuel "Manny" Azenberg presented The Actors Fund Medal of Honor to Kevin McCollum
Bottom Left: (l-r) Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mike Nichols, Annette Bening and Peter Gallagher
Far Right: Jane Krakowski presented The Actors Fund Medal of Honor to Jonathan Tisch



The Actors Fund's Annual Gala celebrated our Special Campaign: *Responding to Essential and Evolving Needs* on April 12 at the Marriott Marquis in New York. Campaign Co-Chairs Annette Bening, Kevin McCollum and Jonathan Tisch were feted and presented with our highest award, The Actors Fund Medal of Honor. Thanks to their leadership and dedication, the Campaign has raised \$10.1 million to date. Proceeds from the Gala bring the grand total to more than \$10.8 million – an incredible achievement.

Top: (l-r) Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch, Annette Bening, Warren Beatty, Lynette and Kevin McCollum

Produced by Trustees Abby Schroeder and Michael A. Kerker and hosted by Cheyenne Jackson, the Gala included tributes and performances by Kevin Chamberlin and other cast members from *The Addams Family*, Michael Feinstein, Peter Gallagher, the Jets of the Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, Jane Krakowski, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Jessica Molaskey, Bebe Neuwirth, Phyllis Newman, Mike Nichols and John Pizzarelli.

Our Co-Chairs, in conjunction with a dedicated Campaign Cabinet, have worked hard over the past year to build The Fund's financial reserves by hosting events, private dinners and receptions in the homes of many of our friends and colleagues,

urging them to join The Actors Fund in their good work. Special thanks to Bruce and Janice Ellig, Lou and Kelly Gonda, Stewart Lane and Bonnie Comley, and Phyllis Newman, all of whom opened their homes to The Fund, our supporters and many special guests, including Alec Baldwin, Annette Bening, Charles Busch, Sidney Lumet, Brian Stokes Mitchell, David Hyde Pierce and J. Robert Spencer.

The \$10.1 million in Campaign contributions represents gifts from every member of The Fund's dedicated Board of Trustees and the Western Council, as well as donations from the theatre, TV, film and corporate communities, including a wide range of unions, guilds and associations.

This diversity of support serves as a testament to the profound impact The Actors Fund has on the lives of nearly 12,000 performing arts and entertainment professionals across the country, as well as a vote of confidence from our supporters, who appreciate The Fund's fiscal responsibility.

We look forward to confirming additional outstanding gifts in the coming months as we continue to work together with you, our strongest supporters, in helping everyone in entertainment. For more information on the Special Campaign, visit www.actorsfund.org or call 212.221.7300 ext. 129.

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Scott A. Weiner



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Donor

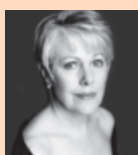
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VIEWS from

Brian Stokes Mitchell,

Chairman of the Board



Continuing to offer hope to everyone in entertainment

Dear Friends,

Cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." It is hard and always unsatisfying to wait for change, which is why it is up to us to bring it about. The Actors Fund remains steadfast in its commitment to everyone in performing arts and entertainment, always recognizing the necessity for continually adapting and honing its services to reflect the needs of our community.

In this issue of *Marquee*, you'll read about how The Fund has responded to an increase in requests for assistance during this difficult economy by launching our Special Campaign: *Responding to Essential and Evolving Needs*, which raised in excess of \$10.1 million dollars. The support The Fund received during the Campaign speaks volumes about the absolute necessity of the good work we do and the amazing number of supporters like you – "thoughtful, committed citizens" – that believe in our essential work.

The recent passage of the Health Care Reform Law was a landmark achievement and is great news for many, but The Fund has always been a step ahead in this fight for change. You'll read about how The Actors Fund has been leading the charge for quality comprehensive health care for artists since 1998 through our all-encompassing website – ahirc.org – a resource that helps people find and keep affordable health insurance, and

through our Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic, which provides health care for more than 2,000 under- or un-insured patients every year.

You'll also read about other ways The Fund responds to the needs of our community. You'll meet Lorey Hayes and Matt North, who have utilized the unique services of The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP) to consider career alternatives and exploit their creative abilities with fascinating sideline jobs while still pursuing their artistic endeavors. You'll also learn about Valley Days in California, where The Actors Fund provides off-site services for those unable to travel to our Los Angeles office.

The recent economic crisis is arguably the worst in this country since the Great Depression. Although we have seen some optimistic forward motion, for those of us that work in performing arts and entertainment, times are still incredibly erratic and unsteady. The Actors Fund appreciates the immeasurable contribution of artists to our country's cultural landscape and continues to respond to the essential and evolving needs of our community, particularly during these difficult economic times. Thanks to you, our "thoughtful, committed citizens," The Actors Fund is here during times of need, crisis or transition, offering hope to everyone in entertainment.

Profile



Scott A. Weiner

Named President & CEO of Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation

The Actors Fund is proud to welcome Scott A. Weiner as President and Chief Executive Officer of the newly created Actors Fund Housing Development Corporation (AFHDC). The Fund launched AFHDC to develop high-quality, affordable, supportive and senior housing for the performing arts community in major urban arts centers.

Scott is an experienced executive who has successfully led public agencies and private enterprises. As CEO of the New Jersey School Development Authority, he spearheaded efforts to develop public schools in the state's neediest districts, and served as the Governor's Special Counsel for School Construction.

Scott also has a distinguished career in the energy industry, having served as a senior executive in a number of private and public corporations. He is the founding Director of the Center for Energy, Economic and Environmental Policy at Rutgers University and has served as a Senior Policy Fellow and Faculty Fellow at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University.

Projects in Newark, NJ and Los Angeles, CA are in the planning stages and are expected to be announced officially this summer. AFHDC is also exploring possibilities in New York City and other urban centers. The buildings will be funded by a variety of means, including tax credits and tax-exempt bonds, combined with philanthropic dollars.

We welcome Scott, and we look forward to sharing more on these housing developments in the coming months. For additional information on AFHDC, contact Scott at 917.281.5906 or sweiner@actorsfund.org.

“Dancers, actors and singers, in fact many people who work in performing arts and entertainment, often have low incomes, and only a small percentage of them work full-time. Launching the housing development corporation will extend our reach and effectiveness in a very vital area for our community – providing safe, affordable housing for those in need.”

Local 80 IATSE Teams Up with The Actors Fund in LA

In 2009, The Actors Fund and Local 80 IATSE, Motion Picture Studio Grips/ Crafts Service, began a new relationship in Los Angeles that has brought services and training to hundreds of people in the performing arts and entertainment community living in the San Fernando Valley.

Many of our colleagues in Southern California have found it difficult to travel the long distances required to reach our offices in Hollywood, particularly as gas prices have increased. In response, we began to seek out partners who would host The Fund's staff off-site, allowing us to bring job counseling, health insurance information and emergency financial assistance to a wider audience.

Our friends at Local 80 IATSE immediately stepped up. Not only did they offer free use of their Burbank soundstage and two private meeting rooms, but they also printed posters to raise the profile of the event. In addition, they made a commitment to provide these facilities every other month to The Actors Fund, all at no cost.

Thanks to their generosity, The Fund now offers a series of "Networking Breakfasts" through The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP) to much larger groups than was ever possible before, with 100 to 150 people in attendance. The breakfasts have featured dynamic speakers on marketing, social

networking, internet research and the use of professional networking sites like LinkedIn.com.

Afternoon sessions have included workshops on managing cash flow for artists, job seeking skills and resume writing. Throughout the day, The Actors Fund provides individual counseling appointments for information on social services, emergency financial assistance and health insurance.

Our colleagues who live in the San Fernando Valley can now access services in their own backyard and, just as importantly, have a place to gather and support each other as a community of performing arts and entertainment professionals. This past May, The Actors Fund welcomed many new attendees while many people returned, having found the services to be an essential part of their job-seeking process.

While we look forward to providing ongoing services to performing arts and entertainment professionals in the Valley through this partnership with Local 80 IATSE, The Actors Fund continues to seek out additional venues to expand the reach of our services even further. To donate space and help bring more of our services to everyone in the entertainment community, please contact the Los Angeles office at 323.933.9244.

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The Actors Fund is a national 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.

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The Lillian Booth Actors Home
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SOCIAL SERVICES
Entertainment Assistance Program
Mental Health
Chemical Dependency
HIV/AIDS Initiative
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Senior and Disabled Care
The Dancers' Resource
Looking Ahead
Financial Wellness
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Funerals and Burials
Partner Programs

HEALTH SERVICES
Artists Health Insurance
Resource Center
Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING
The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP)

SUPPORTIVE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
The Lillian Booth Actors Home
The Dorothy Ross Friedman Residence (formerly The Aurora)
The Palm View
Schermerhorn House

For more information on Actors Fund programs, please call 800.221.7303 or visit our website at www.actorsfund.org.

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The Lights are **BRIGHT ON BROADWAY AT** Actors Fund Special Performances

Actors Fund Special Performances

A spectacular array of new and exciting musicals, plays and revivals continues to light up the marquees of The Great White Way. Thank you to the casts, stage managers, musicians, company managers, theatre managers, producers and more who donate their time and talent for Actors Fund Special Performances. Our “Producers’ Picks” also continues its successful run, where producers donate great seats to select performances to benefit The Fund.

Actors Fund Special Performances have all the electric energy of an Opening Night and the excitement is felt on both sides of the curtain. Casts from other productions have the opportunity to see the show on their night off while performers in the show play for an audience full of their peers, celebrities from the entertainment community and you! **Be a part of the excitement of Special Performances!** Order your tickets today at www.actorsfund.org.



(l-r) Eddie Redmayne and Alfred Molina backstage before their June Special Performance of RED



(l-r) Angela Lansbury, Catherine Zeta-Jones, & Stephen R. Buntrock and the company of A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC thrilled audiences at their April Special Performance



The companies of FELLA! (left), MEMPHIS (below left) and BILLY ELLIOT (below right) gave spectacular Special Performances in early 2010



HAIR
OLEANNA
LOOPED
THE MIRACLE WORKER
A BEHANDING IN SPOKANE
NEXT FALL
SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM



(l-r) Tony Shalhoub (pictured with co-stars Jan Maxwell and Brooke Adams) gives a rousing curtain speech after their recent Special Performance of LEND ME A TENOR

Donor Profile



5 Questions for... In the Spotlight Member Jamie deRoy

Will you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I'm proud to be involved in so many areas of the business, including cabaret, producing (for theatre, recordings, TV and film), and even acting – so where do I start? I've won eight MAC Awards (Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs), appeared as Joan Rivers' opening act in New York and Los Angeles and headlined at every major club in New York. For the past 18 years, I've hosted a cable television variety show, *Jamie deRoy @ Friends*, and I'm actively involved in producing on Broadway, including many shows this season. I've also produced for TV and film including the Emmy-nominated *The Biggest Little Operas in Town* for Channel 13 and Rick McKay's documentary *Broadway: The Golden Age*. I've even appeared on TV shows like *Alice*, *Spiderman* and *Knight Rider*, and in the films *Goodfellas* and *Raging Bull*, to name a few. It's a varied career, to say the least!

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

Being the daughter of acclaimed artist Aaronel deRoy Gruber, I share my mom's love of art and my dad's sense of humor. In my spare time, I create collages and assemblages celebrating friends' and families' special occasions.

When did you first hear about The Actors Fund and what prompted your support?

When I first moved to New York, I heard about The Actors Fund's Special Performances on Sunday evenings. I was so taken by the attending audiences and their responses to the productions that I always try to attend or send friends. Plus I had always heard about The Actors Fund's Lillian Booth Actors Home in New Jersey and was duly impressed. Who knows - I may end up there!

As a member of The Fund for the past ten years, what keeps you engaged?

I try never to miss The Actors Fund's Special Performances and Events. They are just so fantastic and memorable. I will never forget The Fund's staged reading of Sheldon Harnick and Joe Raposo's *A Wonderful Life* starring Brian Stokes Mitchell – one of the most incredible evenings in the theatre! These one-night events can never be duplicated! There are so many of them that have been put together by The Actors Fund and I am eternally grateful.

Considering your experience in the cabaret, theatre, recording, film and television industries, what do you consider the best thing about a life in the arts?

When my career first got started, I found myself onstage performing and loving every minute. As my career progressed, I found being behind the scenes, producing my cabaret and variety TV shows also very creative and rewarding. So when I later started producing film and theatre, I felt very comfortable moving into a producer's role. With every stage of my life, I have found the arts always supplied me with new avenues to explore, as well as friends and challenges always worth taking.

To join Jamie as a member of *In the Spotlight*, The Actors Fund's premiere giving society, call Judy Fish at 917.281.5927 or email jfish@actorsfund.org.

The Actors Fund helps...

Lorey Hayes

actor, playwright



Lorey Hayes, The Actors Fund Work Program Member

Every day should start with a conversation with Lorey Hayes. Her genuine enthusiasm and healthy outlook on life are more potent than a shot of Red Bull®.

An accomplished film, television and theatre actor and playwright, Lorey is also a long-time member of The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP). She first discovered AWP during a trip to the Actors' Equity offices, checking in about an upcoming audition. There she learned about an AWP workshop which she attended, and quickly saw that this essential program of The Fund has a unique understanding of what it means to be a performing artist.

"I was very impressed with their level of empathy for what I was trying to do. They understood what I was going through." Like many other performing artists, Lorey was looking for a lucrative and satisfying sideline job that would allow her to pursue her craft both as an actor and as a writer. From AWP career counselors and other staff, she learned how to transfer the skills she already possessed as an artist into a skill set for something completely different. "Everything feeds into everything else," says Lorey.

Currently, Lorey develops and teaches workshops using drama-based leadership skills that appeal to a wide variety of clients. Health care workers, city employees, educators and students all have benefitted from her original workshops, her creativity and her passion. Lorey is thriving by using her newly focused skills and opportunities outside of performing. "So often in this business, we're subject to the whims of others. I wanted power and control over my life." Lorey states that the proficiency she uses in her workshops (as well as negotiating her work contracts) also helps her with the business end of her acting work. "There is such a lack

of understanding for the business side of our business. Acting and writing are businesses. You need business skills."

Rejection plays a part in the life of most artists and Lorey is no exception. "I eat 'no' for breakfast," she laughs. "You learn to use it, to grow from it. A rejection gives another perspective. It gives you a chance to prepare for the next opportunity; you've learned something new – more skills."

She credits her success to AWP and the encouragement she receives from staff each time she contacts them. "They are like a buoy. They help keep me afloat," Lorey said. Still very much a working actor as well as a produced playwright, Lorey continues to apply what she has learned from her sideline jobs to how she handles her own artistic pursuits.

Kathy Schrier, Director of The Actors Fund Work Program, noted that AWP has been a resource for Lorey for close to ten years, and had glowing reviews for her professionalism. "She understands the reality of the business. I have worked with her when she has been in Los Angeles, Dallas and New York City; she always spends the time preparing her resume and is a pro at job interviews. She's a real tribute to the work we do with so many artists at AWP."

Lorey sees her work with AWP as essential to her ongoing success, giving her focus and a place to come back to again and again for guidance and support. "As actors, we don't know how to give our lives direction." AWP has given Lorey the requisite support and direction. Lorey states simply, "I don't know what I'd do if The Actors Fund wasn't there."

The Actors Fund helps...

Matt North, musician

Matt North came to Los Angeles in 1996 with a deal to develop his own sitcom after being seen at the Montreal Comedy Festival. When the show wasn't picked up, he was subsequently dropped by his agent.



Matt North, The Actors Fund Work Program Member

Undeterred, Matt worked professionally in LA for nearly fifteen years, starring opposite James Woods in the Golden Globe winning made-for-TV movie *Dirty Pictures*, and earning parts in *Angel* and *Heroes*. He was even cast by Larry David to play an agent in HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*.

However, the unstable nature of the business, as well as the birth of his son, Foley, led Matt to question who he was as an artist and the direction his career was taking. At the suggestion of his wife, actress Laurel Green, Matt found his way to The Actors Fund Work Program (AWP).

Through counseling at AWP, Matt discovered that he no longer had the desire to be a professional actor. "I felt I achieved the goals I set for myself as an actor," he explained. Matt considered teaching as an alternative, but during his sessions with his AWP counselor, he found himself talking more and more about his other life as a drummer. "I always felt like a musician hanging around with actors," Matt said. In LA, he was able to secure work as a drummer in addition to his acting gigs, keeping his two artistic lives separate but working professionally at both. After weighing his options, Matt decided he could find success and fulfillment as a musician in Nashville.

With some strong connections in the Nashville music community, Matt decided the time was right to make this transition, noting that Nashville would also provide a better environment for his family. "I've left acting for the stable career of a musician," Matt laughed. Currently Matt records music, contributes to *Modern Drummer Magazine*, does some teaching and has set up a business repairing vintage drums (www.ThisOldDrum.com).

Matt gave Michael Salerno, Western Regional Manager of AWP, high marks for candor and for keeping him focused during their sessions together. Michael was "patient and receptive whenever I needed time to verbally unravel my confused thoughts. Most helpful was his belief that understanding my personality was the key to understanding my drastic change of heart for acting in

Hollywood as a profession."

AWP not only helped Matt to examine his values, skills and career goals, but also gave him the tools necessary to confidently invest time into work that suits him instead of trying to suit the work. Matt added "Any professional in the arts who is re-inventing their mission and purpose in life would greatly benefit from working with AWP."

“Any professional in the arts who is re-inventing their mission and purpose in life would greatly benefit from working with AWP.”

Acknowledgements



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The Actors Fund, for everyone in entertainment.

Chance and Chemistry: A Centennial Celebration of Frank Loesser



(l-r) Annette Bening, Jonathan Tisch, Sir Paul McCartney, Kevin McCollum and Brian Stokes Mitchell after the benefit gala *Chance & Chemistry*

Last fall, The Actors Fund presented *Chance and Chemistry: A Centennial Celebration of Frank Loesser* at The Minskoff Theatre in New York. Co-Chaired by Jo Sullivan Loesser and Sir Paul McCartney, the benefit evening included performances by *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* star Nia Vardalos, John Stamos, Michele Lee, Art Garfunkel (singing a memorable "Two Sleepy People"), Brian Stokes Mitchell, Audra McDonald and Sir Paul McCartney, who spoke touchingly about his affection for Loesser's music and shared an unforgettable version of "Slow Boat to China." Our deepest gratitude to director and choreographer Christopher Gattelli, musical director Brad Haak, the estate of Frank Loesser and the endless energy of Jo Sullivan Loesser and her stunning commitment to The Fund.

Musical Mondays



(l-r) Maureen McGovern, Alan & Marilyn Bergman and Lari White

Up Close and Personal with Alan & Marilyn Bergman, our latest "Musical Mondays" benefit, was held on March 15 in the beautiful and historic Pantages Theatre Lobby in Los Angeles. The event celebrated the Bergmans' distinguished and masterful lyrics, which have earned sixteen Oscar® nominations (and three wins), along with multiple Emmys® and Grammys®. The evening was moderated by Trustee Michael A. Kerker, and the Bergmans shared wonderful stories of their amazing career. The audience heard the beautiful lyrics to so many of their classic songs, performed memorably by Maureen McGovern and Lari White.

Valley of the Dolls

On March 15, a sold-out house gathered at The Gerald W. Lynch Theatre at John Jay College in New York "to climb Mount Everest and reach the *Valley of the Dolls*." The staged reading of the cult classic film, expertly directed by Carl Andress, featured the talents of Heidi Blickenstaff, Martha Plimpton, Nancy Anderson, Tovah Feldshuh, Craig Bierko, Julia Murney, Troy Britton Johnson, Brad Oscar, Daniel Reichard, Julie Halston and the one and only Charles Busch as Helen Lawson.



Charles Busch and the full company of *Valley of the Dolls*

Did you know In 2009, Actors Fund Special Performances and Events raised more than \$1.6 million.

Feinstein's at Loews Regency

continued "The Actors Fund presents..." this spring, its series of evenings to benefit The Fund at one of the most beautiful cabaret rooms in New York, with the vocal stylings of Jason Danieley and the Frontier Heroes and Tony Award® winner Debbie Gravitte, both of whom generously donated their time and talent for these very special nights.



Debbie Gravitte



Jason Danieley

14th Annual Actors Fund TONY AWARDS® Party



(l-r) David Rambo, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Annette Bening, Tommy Tune and Marc Cherry

The 14th Annual Actors Fund Tony Awards® Party on June 13 in Los Angeles was hosted by nine-time Tony Award® winner Tommy Tune, and once again featured the only live feed of

Broadway's biggest night on the West coast. Three-time Oscar® nominee Annette Bening presented Tony Award® winner Brian Stokes Mitchell with the Julie Harris Award for his tireless leadership of The Actors Fund as Chairman of the Board. Produced and written by Marc Cherry (*Desperate Housewives*) and David Rambo (*CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*), the evening featured cocktails, silent auction, dinner and the live broadcast.

Auction of 1000 Stars



The Broadway cast of *CHICAGO* welcomes donor Karen Mitchell, center, for her walk-on



Auction winner Norman Faria and guest met Joy Behar on the set of her talk show in New York City

Entertainment Industry Foundation Revlon Run/Walk



Our Team walked in support of The Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative (PNWHI) on May 1 in New York (top), and on May 8 in Los Angeles (right). Go Team Actors Fund!



Mark your calendars

For these upcoming events!

August 1 *The Lion King* Special Performance, New York

August 15 *Wicked* Special Performance, New York

August 18 *The Lion King* Special Performance, Utah

August 30 *They're Playing Our Song* Special Event, New York

September 7 – 28 Auction of 1000 Stars Bid on celebrity experiences & memorabilia!

September 14 Launch Party of *The Friends of The Home* Special Event, New Jersey

September 19 *Promises, Promises* Special Performance, New York

September 26 *Million Dollar Quartet* Special Performance, New York

Working Toward Health Care for Everyone in Entertainment

By James Brown, National Director of Health Services, The Actors Fund

When actress Liz Morton came to my seminar on accessing affordable health insurance last year, she was faced with a difficult decision – go without health care, or pay upwards of \$697 a month for coverage [see article below]. Unlike the vast majority of Americans who receive health insurance from employers or government programs, many people in performing arts and entertainment are ineligible for union or employer benefits and are forced to find coverage for themselves and their families at their own expense. In most states, they can be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions and, when it is accessible, it is often unaffordable and minimally useful. For this reason, artists, like other self-employed workers, are twice as likely to be uninsured as are members of the general population.

The Actors Fund is proud to be a leader in the fight for health care for everyone in entertainment, including artists like Liz. Through web-based resources, access to health care subsidies and community health care clinics, we help ensure artists remain healthy and creative. Our website – ahirc.org – has assisted artists in locating affordable health care since 1998, thanks to funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Commonwealth Fund and Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC). Along with a coalition of 13 entertainment industry unions, The Actors Fund fought for and won a 50% subsidy for COBRA* premiums in 2004, permitting thousands of people in performing arts and entertainment to keep their insurance when their union benefits run out.

In 2003, The Actors Fund opened The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic in New York City, providing access to primary health care for more than 2,000 under- and un-insured artists a year, while at the same time helping them explore options for obtaining affordable health insurance. In addition, The Fund has also partnered with the Venice Family Clinic in Los Angeles to form The Performing Artists' Clinic, which provides free primary health care to artists twice a month.

Along with the support of The Actors Fund, the recent passage of the Health Care Reform Law is more good news for artists struggling to find affordable health care. It will do more for the health and well-being of people in performing arts and

entertainment than any other piece of legislation in the past fifty years. For instance, the U.S. Government has created a website – HealthCare.gov – not unlike The Fund's own ahirc.org – as a resource to assist people in finding and keeping health insurance. In addition, the federal government will provide subsidies to families and individuals to help them afford the monthly premiums for quality comprehensive health insurance. Also, an important centerpiece of the Reform Law is the expanded use of community clinics to provide people with primary care and a “medical home.”

The Health Care Reform Law will directly address the imbalance in access to coverage for artists in other ways. Private insurers will no longer be permitted to deny people coverage or cancel their policies based on their claim history. An affordable health benefits package will be available to everyone, offering shared costs, credits and/or subsidies, caps on yearly out-of-pocket expenses and no annual or lifetime limits on coverage.

Despite The Actors Fund's success in helping artists access affordable health care and the changes provided by the recent Reform Law, there is still much work to be done. With your support, The Actors Fund will continue to be at the forefront of the fight to help everyone in entertainment access the health care they so desperately need.

How The Actors Fund Helped Me Keep My Health Insurance

By Liz Morton

As an actor, I fight cynicism on a regular basis. So when my eligibility for health insurance through the Screen Actors Guild and Actors' Equity was coming to an end in June 2009, I was convinced there was nothing I could do but fork over \$697 a month for the COBRA* payment. Nearing the deadline, I happened to look on The Actors Fund website and saw they had a health insurance seminar that began an hour later. I hurried over.

Jim Brown, National Director of Health Services, sat with our group for an hour, gave us hand-outs loaded with information and answered our questions. When I shared my particular situation, he told me I qualified for a federal COBRA subsidy which would cover 65% of my costs for nine months. He also said I qualified for the New York State Continuation Assistance Program which would pay 50% of my costs for 12 months, and explained that I could utilize both subsidies at once and therefore continue my coverage at no cost for several months. **Wow!**

The following day, I visited the New York Screen Actors Guild Pension and Health office, and their staff went over each form with me to put my application packets together. A few weeks later, I was approved for both subsidies. I haven't paid a dime in health insurance costs in months. **What would I have done had I not met with Jim Brown that day? I really don't know...**

Those of us in performing arts and entertainment often feel like we're in an uphill battle with anything to do with “the business.” It's a genuine surprise to find people and organizations that are there to help us. I am so very grateful for my unions and for The Actors Fund!



Liz Morton, helped by the Artists Health Insurance Resource Center, a program of The Actors Fund



Lynn Redgrave

(1943 – 2010)

The Actors Fund mourns the loss of our beloved friend and colleague Lynn Redgrave. Lynn was a staunch and gracious supporter of The Actors Fund as well as an advocate for everyone dedicated to performing arts and entertainment.

Lynn served on the Board of Trustees since 1992 and as a Vice Chair since 2006. She was deeply committed to The Fund in a very personal way, walking with us every year as Captain of The Actors Fund's EIF Revlon Run/Walk team to raise awareness about women's cancers, helping develop *In the Spotlight*, our major gifts program, donating her time and talent to Auction of 1000 Stars by teaching private Shakespeare lessons to many lucky donors and performing in and attending many Special Performances. Lynn was truly one of the warmest and most active supporters of this organization.

As an actress and a writer, she took our breath away. As a Trustee, she inspired us to do our best. As a human being, she taught us to live with humor and grace. The Actors Fund offers its deepest condolences to her family. She will be sorely missed.

If you would like to honor Lynn with a memorial contribution, please call Judy Fish at 917.281.5927, email jfish@actorsfund.org or visit www.actorsfund.org. Lynn's family will be notified of your generosity.

*The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) gives workers and their families who lose their health benefits the right to choose to continue benefits for limited periods of time. However, qualified individuals may be required to pay the entire premium for coverage – a significant expense for performing artists. Source: United States Department of Labor.

The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment.