

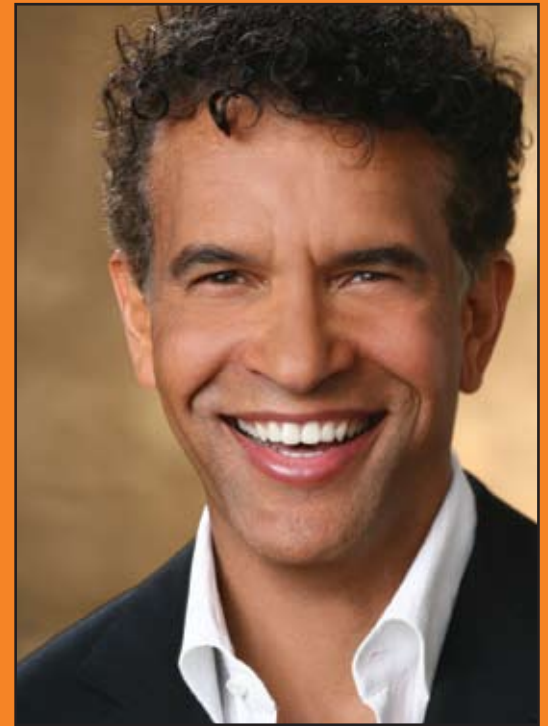
MARQUEE

SPRING/SUMMER 2008 ISSUE: VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ACTORS FUND

Dear Friends –

“2007 was a year of accomplishment and progress as we helped 9,315 entertainment and performing arts professionals - an increase of 11% over 2006 - representing almost every state in the country. These entertainment colleagues found a responsive and caring place to turn when they came to The Actors Fund.



Highlights from Brian Stokes Mitchell's remarks at the May 22, 2008 Annual Meeting in NY

The Fund's careful stewardship of our mission and our programs meant that 84 cents of every dollar went to helping those in need, and for this care we have been awarded the highest possible rating - Four Stars - by Charity Navigator, the country's largest and most utilized evaluator of charities and their performance.

Of the 9,315 we assisted this year with close to two dozen programs - 4,301 received Social Services and Financial Assistance, 4,371 used our health services (including the Health Insurance Resource Center), 2,404 participated in The Fund's Employment & Training programs, 252 were active in our young performers program, called Looking Ahead, and 315 lived in our residences.

In 2007 our support and revenue of \$23 million exceeded the budget of \$22.6 million. That's good, and our budget this year is \$26 Million.

The Actors Fund is proud of our record of quickly responding to crises and situations as they occur throughout the entertainment industry, and 2007 was no exception. We helped our colleagues who continued to be affected by Hurricane Katrina, provided assistance to those in New York dealing with the work stoppage due to the Local 1 strike, and offered significant support to those suffering

the tremendous impact of the Writers Guild strike. In response to the needs of our colleagues affected by the writers strike, as of mid-May 2008 we have already spent \$1.2 million helping more than 700 people - 63 percent are craft, technical & administrative workers, 34 percent are performers and 3 percent are writers. We should all be particularly proud that the unions and management agree on one thing - the value of The Actors Fund.

Tremendous progress was made in 2007 on major projects, including the expansion and renovation of The Lillian Booth Actors Home in Englewood, New Jersey and the development of Schermerhorn House in Brooklyn, New York.

The Board of Trustees, Western Council, Actors Fund committees and individual volunteers are playing an expanded role in supporting all of these efforts - through personal appeals, special gifts, leadership and counsel and other vital assistance. Because of these volunteers, we have met many new partners and donors, built new relationships in Los Angeles and New York, and created new programs, including The Dancers' Resource in 2007. The Dancers' Resource addresses the unique needs of injured dancers, and is also helping the dance community understand that all of the services of The Actors Fund are available to them.

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Renata Marinaro



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Client Profile

The effects of the Writers Strike

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Donor Profile

The Professional Dancers Society



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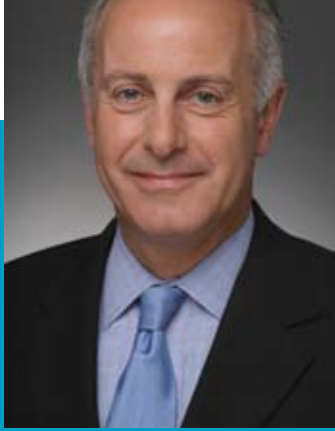
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VIEWS from

Joseph Benincasa

Executive Director



New programs of The Actors Fund come about in different ways. Many times, The Fund's new programs represent careful assessment of the needs of various parts of our constituency. This type of program follows research, many conversations with various partners and colleagues, and detailed investigation concerning unmet needs and how they are currently being addressed, if at all. This is how programs such as the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, Looking Ahead and The Dancers' Resource were developed and came to be part of The Fund's programmatic schedule. Our continued work to expand our online presence – including the development of the Stage Manager's Handbook detailing medical resources and the new Resource sections of our website – are other examples of such program development.

And then there are the programs or initiatives that come together at what seems like a moment's notice. These efforts can best be characterized as fast response – the recognition that, sometimes, The Fund needs to simply be the organization that's there, whatever the need and whatever the emergency. When it became clear that hundreds truly had no place to turn – not just entertainment and performing arts colleagues but their families as well – when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf states, we made a decision to step out and offer The Fund as the place to contact, whatever the need might be. And, while we ultimately helped hundreds of people, whether their requirements were financial or for clothing, shelter, relocation, paperwork support, or other needs, the end result is a new recognition by many of the role that The Actors Fund can play in times of crisis. Since Katrina, The Fund has taken an important role in a national effort to develop a network of resources and programs that deal with disaster relief.

The recent writers strike is another example. So far, we have provided more than \$1.2 Million to help those impacted by the strike, much more than budgeted in our Emergency Assistance Program. Also, the nature of the strike led us to develop new ways of addressing this type of need, in terms of outreach, in terms of communication to our colleagues, and in terms of collaborations.

While the staff and the Board of The Fund will continue to carefully plan for what we expect the community to face in the future, both short-term and long-term, we believe it's integral to our work to be able to respond to those needs that we may not foresee. Being able to just be there – whatever the circumstances – is, plain and simple, what The Actors Fund is all about.

We look forward to continuing to serve you and yours – now and into the future. Thanks to all of you – inside The Actors Fund, inside the community, and those who simply care about the arts in this country and the people who dedicate their lives to them.



Fran Gaar (1918 – 2008)

A Life Member who was elected Trustee in 1995, Fran loved The Actors Fund, especially the residents at the Lillian Booth Actors' Home in Englewood, New Jersey. She chaired the Board Committee overseeing the Home's operations and established "Fran's Gaarden of Aquatic Delights", replete with beautiful ponds, waterfalls, fauna, flora and statuary.

A Broadway and film performer, Fran was inducted into the Divers Hall of Fame in 2001. She was supervisor and soloist of the famed "Sea Hunt" show at the 1964-65 NY World's Fair. The only performer to combine scuba with water ballet, she also gave exhibitions on cruise ships, enabling her to pioneer and popularize underwater tours in the Caribbean. Fran also founded the Aqua Lung School of NY, where she trained thousands of instructors and students.

Fran's passionate devotion to the Home is legendary and was regularly demonstrated in variety shows she produced for the residents. We will celebrate her life everyday, remembering that The Actors Fund is made strong by leaders like her.

continued from cover

As always, so much is made possible by the championship support of our great friends and colleagues at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, which provided \$4,450,000 in 2007 for a total of \$45 million since 1987. The support of BC/EFA for ongoing programs, including the AIDS Initiative, Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, Actors Work Program and Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic, as well as their seed funding for the new program The Dancers' Resource, is a model of partnership and commitment, and we salute them!

I am honored to serve as President and proud to serve on a Board of Trustees with so many wonderful and dedicated people. Our staff is simply sensational - professional and compassionate, every day and hour of the week - and entertainment and performing arts professionals around the country are lucky to have them in their corner.)))

Brian Stokes Mitchell

And now some news –

The Fund's new initiatives this year include a continued move towards using technology to bring additional resources to those who need our help. The Fund completely revamped our website over the last two years, and we're now creating a truly interactive, comprehensive resource for the use of performing arts and entertainment professionals across the country.

For many years, Actors Fund staff – social workers, career counselors, health care providers, insurance advisors, housing advocates and more – have offered advice and referrals to a wide variety of organizations and programs. We're now taking the next step by putting this "rolodex" on our website in a new

“The Fund's commitment to providing resources continues to grow and last year attracted over 600,000 visits.”

section of www.actorsfund.org called Links and Resources. It can be accessed from the home page or from any of our Services and Programs pages, and it includes all types of resources, including:

- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Disaster Relief
- Financial Services
- Cancer
- Seniors
- HIV/AIDS
- Substance Abuse
- Career Counseling and Jobs
- Arts in Education

And much more. And we're planning to add such sections as Child Care, Family Services, Domestic Violence and other critical resources.

Depending on the subject area, resources can be accessed by state or through a national directory and all include a brief description and link to a specific website.



The Actors Fund Website

Our Health Insurance and Health Care Resources already have a renowned and dedicated site at www.ahirc.org, and information on affordable housing and other housing links can be found at our Housing Resource Center.

The Fund's commitment to providing resources continues to grow and last year attracted over 600,000 visits. The site has become a true destination – for anyone looking for essential information and assistance. And there's more – over the course of 2008 you'll also find videos, photo albums and many other new links and information, so you might want to visit our websites often – there's lots to see and learn!

Did you know

The Fund has provided over \$1,200,000 to help those affected by the writers strike? 63% of those are craft, technical and administrative workers, 34% are performers, and 3% are writers.

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VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2

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.

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The Aurora

New York, NY
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The Palm View

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Actors Fund Programs:

SOCIAL SERVICES

Entertainment Assistance Program
Mental Health Program
Chemical Dependency Program
AIDS Initiative
Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative
Senior Care Program
Disabled Care Program
The Dancers' Resource
Looking Ahead
Conrad Cantzen Shoe Fund
Funerals and Burials
Partner Programs

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Insurance
Resource Center
Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic
Brent Varner Project

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Actors Work Program
AIDS Training and Employment Program

SUPPORTIVE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors Fund
The Aurora
The Palm View
Schmerhorn 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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Staff Profile

RENATA

Marinaro

of the Health Insurance Resource Center at The Actors Fund is truly an advocate – and not only for those in the entertainment community. She is passionate about making medical care accessible to everyone. “We should be able to insure everybody,” said Renata. “It is embarrassing in this country where we have the resources that we do but still can’t provide basic care for those who need it most. We need a system that addresses everyone’s needs.”



Manager, Special Projects, Health Insurance Resource Center

Renata is a very public face of the Health Insurance Resource Center, offering seminars and workshops to groups around New York as well as individual counseling to those searching for coverage and affordable care. “My mission is to educate those in the arts community about their rights; where they can go for care, where they can go for help if they get sick,” she said. Her goal right now is to increase The Fund’s outreach to arts councils and umbrella arts organizations around the country and to train them in learning to educate the people they serve about insurance and health care options.

As part of this ambitious project, Renata has been creating state-by-state resource guides funded by a grant from Leveraging Investments in Creativity (LINC).” The guides cover the reasons for getting health insurance, rights and protection for accessing care, available plans and health care facilities in their area. So far Renata has completed guides for New York, Los Angeles, Kansas City and the state of Washington. The guides are conversational and accessible, making them concise

“My mission is to educate those in the arts community about their rights; where they can go for care, where they can go for help if they are sick.”

and easy to understand. Another big project is the Access to Health Insurance/ Resources for Care website within www.ahirc.org which can also be accessed from The Actors Fund website. The site contains more than 6,000 links to resources and information – and is not just useful for those in the arts community. The information found there can be helpful to anyone in the United States who is looking for insurance or health care.

Renata knows how important health insurance is after working at a National Health Service program in New Haven, Connecticut. “I learned a lot about the health care system there,” she said. “And, if you don’t have good insurance, there is a good chance that you won’t get good care.”

Now Renata is working to educate people before they get sick, and finding coverage for those facing a difficult illness. “To be honest, I truly am happiest when someone calls me up and says, ‘I got that insurance’ or ‘I can have that surgery now.’”

And, thanks to Renata, that happens every day for people who come to The Fund.

Actors Fund Special Performances

Actors Fund Special Performances are an 81-year theatrical tradition and raise significant support for The Fund’s programs. Thanks to the casts, crew, musicians, front-of-house and company management for donating their time and talents to make this possible.



Backstage with Andrea Martin and Megan Mullally at their February Special Performance of *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN*

Mark your calendars

Don’t miss these exciting events:

July 16

Lion King, Special Performance, Washington D.C.

July 20

Boeing-Boeing, Special Performance, New York

July 27

Wicked, Special Performance, New York

August 3

Lion King, Special Performance, New York

August 24

Jersey Boys, Special Performance, New York



The company of *XANADU* before their January Special Performance



Alan Cumming, Dianne Wiest and Angela Lansbury at *THE HOMECOMING*



Company of *THE HOMECOMING* at their April Special Performance



Cast and crew members just before the Special Performance of *NOVEMBER*



The cast and crew and personnel of *CURTAINS*



Behind the scenes with the musicians of *MARY POPPINS* in December



The company of *WICKED* at The Fund’s December Special Performance

**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment**
Celebrating 125 years.

Client Profile

The Writers Strike is over, but the effects continue...

This past winter's Writers Guild strike has had a tremendous – and rippling – effect all through the performing arts and entertainment community. As you may know from letters or other communications from The Fund, or through other stories in this issue of *MARQUEE*, The Fund feels strongly that we must step up to help those who have no other place to turn. Since the strike began, The Actors Fund has provided more than \$1,200,000 in emergency grants to those in need – hundreds of craftspeople, actors and writers who find themselves without income or short-term prospects to help pay their bills and keep their heads above water. The story that follows, while specific to these individual clients, is symbolic of what so many are dealing with in our community.

Penny Juday and Anthony Fredrickson are facing the loss of everything they have spent their lives working for. Entertainment industry veterans who met and married while working on the series *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, Penny and Anthony are now out of work and, seemingly, out of options except for two – bankruptcy and foreclosure.

Both have more than 20 years' of industry experience – she as an art coordinator, he as a scenic artist – but their unemployment has run out and there is no work to be found. "It used to be that we would get at least two or three calls a month about jobs," said Penny. "Now there are none. There are so many people out there looking for work. And everything has just been put on hold."

In Los Angeles, in the wake of the strike, on-location film, TV, commercials and other shoots fell 23% in the first quarter, the sharpest quarterly decline ever recorded.

FilmLA, a production tracker, recorded 28% fewer production days than in the same three-month span of last year. Television productions were off 5% with dramas, sitcoms and pilot production off 68%, 72% and 77%, respectively. Even reality shoots fell 29%.

For Penny and Anthony, that has meant struggle and sacrifice. The first thing they did was sell off their collection of *Star Trek* memorabilia, collected over many years. Penny has taken work cleaning houses, doing interior decorating, running a messenger service and working as a notary to try and make ends meet. "I am not sure what we can do or where we can go," said Penny. "I am 52 years old and I think we will have to go live with my husband's mother in Phoenix."

"You know, I don't even mind that much for me," said Penny. "What worries me the most is what will happen to the animals?" In addition to working in TV and movies, Penny runs an animal rescue organization (PreciousPaws.org) and the home they are about to lose is not just a house, but an animal rescue headquarters and a 4-acre wildlife preserve. "Some of the animals may be all right, but there are some that no one is going to take. The cat with the missing leg, the kitty with the missing eye – I have no place for them to go. I am afraid I am going to have to put them down."

Both The Actors Fund and the Writers' Guild Fund have helped Penny and Anthony with money for their mortgage and car payments. But as time drags on and there is still no work, that help is not enough. "We've been talking to credit counselors. We've been working with financial planners. But, with no income, lenders don't want to work with us. I've been working all my life to keep my credit perfect. Now..."

Penny and Anthony are not alone in their plight. "The people we are seeing are the ones that did everything right," explained Keith McNutt, The Actors Fund's Western Region Director. "They worked, they paid their bills on time, they saved money. But this has gone on for so long that their bank accounts are empty, they have borrowed what they can from family and friends, and they are out of options."

As of May 1, The Actors Fund had given out more than \$1.2 million in assistance to people like Penny and Anthony who were directly affected by the strike, and the need will only continue to grow. The Fund is launching an expanded fundraising campaign to continue to help those in need like Penny and Anthony. "Now more than ever we need to appeal to the community for their help and support," said Joe Benincasa, Executive Director of The Fund. Our mission is clear and, with the help of an expanded group of supporters, we look forward to continuing to help those like Penny and Anthony who truly require it.

“I am not sure what we can do or where we can go,” said Penny “I am 52 years old and I think we will have to go live with my husband’s mother in Phoenix.”

“Now more than ever we need to appeal to the community for their help and support,” says Joe Benincasa

Acknowledgements

Continental Airlines



Continental Airlines is the official airline of The Actors Fund.

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**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment**

Celebrating 125 years.

Donor Profile

The Professional Dancers Society

and The Actors Fund are celebrating 10 years of partnership, serving dancers in need. Over the last decade, the Professional Dancers Society has provided over \$1.2 million to The Fund to support their friends and colleagues in critical times.

"Affiliating with The Actors Fund has been a godsend to The Professional Dancers Society and the dancers we were established to serve," says longtime PDS Chair Joni Berry, reflecting on the anniversary. "Before we started working with The Fund, we had collected more than \$300,000 in our treasury, but found it difficult to distribute to the people who needed it because professional dancers did not want to let their peers know they had financial problems."

That is how the partnership with The Actors Fund was born. "When I learned The Actors Fund would handle cases of need with full confidentiality, it solved our problem and we turned all of our money over to The Fund," Joni said. "The Fund has saved lives and underlined the goals we set when PDS was first formed."

PDS was founded over 30 years ago by Bob Sidney, Peggy Gordon, Sylvia Lewis, Cass Jaeger and Frank Radcliffe. "We wanted some identification, because dancers had no guild or union and were considered below even the extras in films when we started in the mid-70's," said Sidney.

Donald O'Connor, most famously known for his performance as Gene Kelly's sidekick in *Singing in the Rain*, was the first president of PDS. The group initially held picnics, entertainments and parties in friends' homes to raise money – until the idea of the Gypsy Award came up.

What started in 1987 with a tribute to choreographer Louis DaPron has grown to become one of the most popular events in the Hollywood entertainment and charity year. Gypsy Awards are presented every spring at the PDS luncheon at the Beverly Hilton, and the room is filled to overflowing with luminaries from the dance world. Gypsy Awards have been presented to such icons as Carol Burnett, Shirley MacLaine, Sammy Davis, Jr., Mary Tyler Moore, Gwen Verdon, Ann-Margret, Debbie Reynolds, Angela Lansbury, Bob Hope, Cyd Charisse, Ann Miller, Jane Powell, June Allyson, Dick Van Dyke, Ginger Rogers, the Nicholas Brothers, Gregory Hines, Juliet Prowse, Joel Grey, Rita Moreno, Buddy Ebsen, Marge Champion, Florence Henderson, Nanette Fabray, Donald O'Connor and Mitzi Gaynor.

PDS is currently run by the powerhouse duo of Joni Berry and Mitzi Gaynor. Joni came on board in 1992 in the position of PDS Chair, with extensive dance and charity experience. Joni got an early start in the dance business; as a member of the famed Muriel Abbott Dancers, she was known as a Baby Professional. As a child, she appeared in Chicago theatre musical programs and later in a host of MGM musicals. She was a S.H.A.R.E. (a venerable show

business charity) dancer and served as head of her family's foundation before joining PDS.

In 2003, musical icon Mitzi Gaynor assumed the role of PDS president, following the death of Donald O'Connor.

Mitzi is, of course, one of the top singing and dancing stars of all time, with 17 films to her credit, 9 television spectaculars (which garnered her 17 Emmy nominations) and four decades as a razzle-dazzle concert performer and Las Vegas headliner.



Chita Rivera and Joe Tremaine with PDS Chair Joni Berry and President Mitzi Gaynor

This year's Gypsy Award event on March 16 honored Mary Tyler Moore, attracting more than 600 people to the award ceremony and raising over \$100,000 for The Actors Fund. Coupled with the annual Fall Ball, traditionally honoring a choreographer, PDS continues to raise funds and help The Actors Fund take care of dancers.

Volunteer Profile

John Erman

John Erman joined The Actors Fund Board of Trustees in 2003 as a way to give back to an organization that had helped many of his friends and colleagues through the years.

"I always thought actors got the short end of the stick, financially. I had friends who were suffering. The Fund helped them," says Erman.

After joining the Board, one of his personal goals was to look for something concrete to do that would make a difference in the lives of people in the business. One idea was to start a series of celebrity visits to The Fund's Lillian Booth Actors' Home in Englewood.

In January 2007, John brought Jane Powell – a fellow Actors Fund Trustee – to The Home to talk with the residents. "The reception for her was so heartwarming for everyone concerned. It gave me the impetus to really get this thing going," he said.

Since then, John's celebrity series has featured such luminaries as Joel Grey, David Hyde Pierce, Alan Alda, Mary Tyler Moore, Angela Lansbury, Robert Osbourne, Lynn Redgrave, Arlene Dahl, Marge Champion, Philip Bosco, Sally Anne Howes and Susan Kohner.

"I want to bring out someone they know," explained Erman, "not just someone famous. I try to find someone who they've grown up with, seen on TV or in the movies. That is the real secret to the success of the program."

Each month, The Home screens at least one movie, show or highlight film featuring the special guest before the visit. John then acts as moderator, staging an interview and then running around with a microphone so that residents can ask questions and interact with the invited guest.

John said the reaction has been overwhelming. "When Angela Lansbury went out, I'd never seen anything like it. People were standing, screaming and applauding at everything she said." Visitors have run into old friends and acquaintances at The Home and have brought new life and joy to the residents. "When the residents get talking, they get so excited and energized," said John.

John plans to continue going through his rolodex, grabbing friends when they are in town and bringing them out to The Lillian Booth Home for a bit of monthly magic. And, as much of a boon as it is for the residents, John said he gets so much in return. "It has been a highly emotional and highly rewarding experience."



Trustee John Erman with Angela Lansbury at the monthly celebrity series at The Lillian Booth Actors' Home, where he's also interviewed Alan Alda and Mary Tyler Moore



Join

BECOME A MEMBER

of The Actors Fund and help professionals in need in performing arts and entertainment.

The Actors Fund provides vital services and financial assistance to over 9,000 performing arts and entertainment professionals every year. Whether they are facing a serious illness, financial problems, a housing crisis or unemployment, The Actors Fund is here to help the people who work on stage, in front of the cameras, and behind the scenes, but we can't do our work without the support of members and friends like you.

If you're not a member, please join today and receive some very special benefits, such as:

- House seats at cost
- Tickets for Special Performances
- Invitations to "Insider" Events
- Private screenings
- The Actors Fund newsletter
- And much more!

For more information on the benefits of membership please visit our website at www.actorsfund.org or call Judy Fish, Director of Individual Giving, at 212.221.7300 ext. 127.



Brunschwig & Fils

In December Brunschwig & Fils auctioned off a dozen beautiful gowns made with their exclusive fabrics for the benefit of The Actors Fund. Here Actors Fund President Brian Stokes Mitchell and his brother, designer George T. Mitchell, show off Mitchell's gorgeous creation.



Ron Abel, at the piano, with Lucie Arnaz singing "Forever All We Know"



John Bowab, Musical Mondays co-producer, with Lucie Arnaz and Patricia Morison

MUSICAL MONDAYS

The third season of MUSICAL MONDAYS, The Fund's cabaret series in the lobby of the glorious Pantages Theatre in Hollywood, got underway in March with the music of Ron Abel.



Backstage cast call: Christa Jackson, Joey Gian, Giselle Wolf, Joely Fisher, Linda Purl, Ron Abel, Lucie Arnaz, Valarie Pettiford, Marsha Kramer, Loretta Devine and Wayne Moore

Seth's Broadway 101



Building on the great success of 2007, Seth Rudetsky's SETH'S BROADWAY 101 brought down the house with a close look at how Broadway really works. This photo features Norm Lewis, Rudetsky and the ensemble ... going for it!

Revlon Run/Walk NY

The Actors Fund teams in New York (May 3rd) and Los Angeles (May 10th) supported the fight against women's cancers again this year. The Fund receives significant support for the Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative from the Walk through the Entertainment Industry Foundation.



Revlon Run/Walk LA

Auction of 1000 Stars

Top right: Tina Fey greets Auction winner Alyssa Reyes on the set of "30 Rock."

Lower right: Auction winners Doug & Jenn Smith of Austin, TX join Seth Rudetsky (center) as co-hosts of his Sirius radio show.



May 5th 2008 Annual Gala

Close to 500 guests enjoyed The Fund's Annual New York Gala at Cipriani 42nd Street, where our honorees included trustee Stewart F. Lane and Bonnie Comley (left), Renée Fleming (left below with presenter Patrick Stewart) and Alec Baldwin (below with Gala performers Faith Prince and Kate Shindle).

Edwin Forrest Day



The Fund's annual Edwin Forrest Day was celebrated at the Lillian Booth Actors' Home in Englewood in April. More than 100 guests attended the festivities, along with acclaimed actor Simon Jones, who performed the traditional reading from the works of Shakespeare, and trustee Frances Gaar, who cut the cake.



**The Actors Fund,
for everyone
in entertainment**
Celebrating 125 years.