

The Actors' Fund of America's

LOOKING AHEAD

A program for professional young performers



Looking Ahead Bowling Event



Pic-at-Nick panelists:
Malcolm-Jamal Warner,
Richard Thomas, Kellie Martin

In this Issue:

- Professional Young Performers Brittany Curran and Raymond Braun interview Sharon Lieblein, Nickelodeon Casting Director, and Looking Ahead Staff Members Tami Krichiver and Heather Vanian!
- Coogan Facts
- Looking Ahead Events Calendar

The Actors' Fund of America's LOOKING AHEAD



May 2004

About Looking Ahead

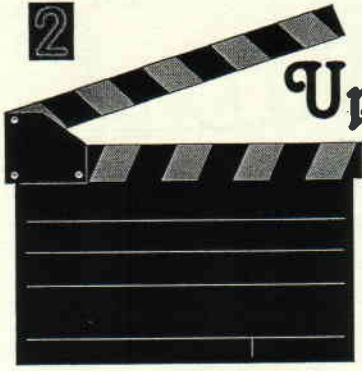
Volume I

Welcome to the first edition of our Looking Ahead Newsletter. As our program has grown and developed, we are finding new ways to bring you information, tips, and a bit of fun. In each of our newsletters, you'll hear from the young performers, parents, industry professionals, and us - your Looking Ahead staff from The Actors' Fund of America.

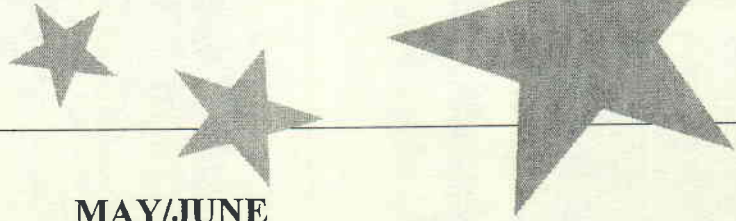
Looking Ahead is a unique program in the entertainment industry - the only one of its kind designed specifically for families with professional young performers between the ages of 12 and 18. It is our goal to support you during this time of transition from the teenage years into young adulthood, keeping in mind all the unique issues you face in the industry.

We are grateful that our program is supported by many industry professionals, unions, and foundations, including the SAG Producers Industry Advancement Cooperative Fund, and The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists Industry Advancement Fund.

To learn more, contact Looking Ahead Social Worker Heather Vanian or Career Counselor Tami Krichiver at (323) 933-9244.



Upcoming Looking Ahead Events



MAY/JUNE

May 20: Total College Planning

Join guest speaker Steve Armanino, a professional college counselor, as he guides you through the process of planning for and preparing to apply to college. It's not too early to begin!

May 22: Softball/Potluck at Veteran's Park

Bring your mitts, your picnic blanket, and your favorite potluck item as we gather for a potluck lunch and a friendly game of softball at Veteran's Park.



Mark Your Calendars!!

June 19: Talented, Cute, Smart: Is that Enough for a Successful Entertainment Career?

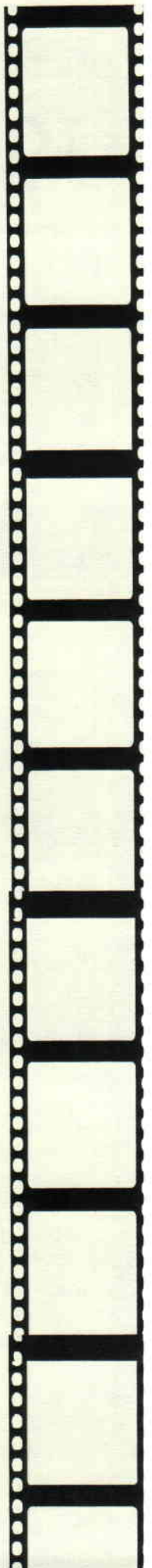
Please join us for a special program for Parents of Young Performers, in conjunction with the SAG/AFTRA Young Performer's Committee. The program will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with an optional individual meeting with SAG contractors at noon. The program, comprised of three sessions, will include information about Collective Bargaining, Looking Ahead, and a panel of former young performers, moderated by Little House on the Prairie's Alison Arngim. Special guest and SAG President, Melissa Gilbert will take your questions during the program.

June 30: Rollerskating

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK FOR:

- College Fair
- Industry Career Night
- Community Service Projects
- Financial Planning Seminars
- Informational and Educational Panels
- Social Activities

All Looking Ahead programs and dates listed above are tentative. In order to participate in Looking Ahead programs, you must be a professional young performer between the ages of 12 and 18. For more information about Looking Ahead or to inquire about upcoming events please contact Tami Krichiver, Looking Ahead Career Counselor, or Heather Vanian, Looking Ahead Social Worker, in the Los Angeles offices of The Actors' Fund of America, (323) 933-9244, or e-mail: tkrichiv@actorsfund.org or hvanian@actorsfund.org. Individual appointments are available.



Interview with: Sharon Chazin Lieblein

Director of Casting at Nickelodeon

By Brittany Curran



Brittany Curran is 13 years old and moved from Boston to Los Angeles about 2 1/2 years ago to pursue an acting career. Most recently she co-starred in the feature film 13 Going On 30. She recently finished work as a lead in the pre-production of a Robert Zemeckis film, Monster House. Brittany has also appeared on Power Rangers, Mad TV, in several theatrical presentations, and has been the principal performer in many national commercials, including Chevrolet, Sears, Campbell's Soup, Suave, KFC, Post Cereal, Uncle Ben's, Youth Smoking Prevention, and an international Hewlett-Packard industrial film.

My conversation with Sharon was fun and interesting. Her enthusiasm for young actors is contagious. Sharon was a child actor and she always had a passion for work in the entertainment industry. She graduated from high school at the age of 17 in Queens, New York, and wasted no time in getting to Hollywood. Right after taking her last exam she got on a plane and headed west. Between then and now she's acquired a lot of knowledge and wisdom.

When casting a project, what are you looking for in a young actor?

It's interesting. When working on a particular show, looking for a particular character, somebody walks in and just gets it. Sometimes, if we're lucky, at least five people will walk in who fit the role.

Do you have any recent examples?

This [Jamie Lynn Spears] project has been a particularly hard show. It's very well written. The creator of the show, Dan Schneider, is a brilliant guy. He's an amazing writer and needs actors to come in and make what he wrote work!

Are there different interpretations of a character that could make it work for Dan?

Yes. But if you're gonna do something creative, stick to it 100%.

When an actor is creatively interpreting a character, how close should they stay to the breakdown?

The breakdown is really the creator's idea. But, there is a place you can go and I'd rather have you take a chance. Keep in mind, when I cast a pilot I see between 300-500 kids per role. If you stand out that's what I need.

You've mentioned some do's and don'ts. Do you have any others that you've come across in your experience?

1. Don't go into an audition and start talking and telling stories. By the time you're done I might not want to do the audition anymore. Go in, be professional and do what you're supposed to be doing. Then, if the casting director starts chatting - chat. 2. Don't ask casting directors when callbacks are. If you get one, your agent will let you know. The other trick is when actors ask, "Should I take these [sides] or do you want them back?" In other words, "Do I need them any longer?" My thought is you can hold onto them and frame them for all I care. No tricks. 3. The most important things about the audition are: be prepared and confident, be respectful, and take direction. You should be able to do a cold read, and it is very important that when a casting director asks if you have any questions, be prepared to ask one to three.

Can you tell us about your experience on the Looking Ahead Advisory Committee?

I love Looking Ahead. I was reading Variety one day and it mentioned the program. I contacted Tami Krichiver, Career Counselor, and we started chatting about it. I was thinking, "Oh my God, it's about time." It's the most amazing program and I wish it was around when I was a kid. It's about getting together and being kids.

Yes, next week I'm going to play Laser Tag with them.

How cool is that!

Tonight we're putting together gift baskets for people living with HIV/AIDS.

That's amazing. So, they're working in the community and teaching young people it's OK to be young. Those are things you can forget in this business. Especially when you start working a lot.

I get to meet a lot of people.

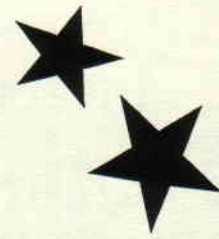
That's great. You get to meet a lot of people who are in the business too, but you're not meeting them in a waiting room. You can just hang and have a good time.

(Continued on page 7)



Meet Tami and Heather!

By Raymond Braun



In addition to working as a professional young performer and proud participant in Looking Ahead, Raymond Braun is an accomplished writer. He has won various writing competitions and contributed articles and interviews to many publications geared for teens including Curiosity, The Blade, Kid Zone, CW, and Time for Kids (An AOL Time Warner and Time Magazine Affiliate). When Raymond, 14, isn't performing or writing, he enjoys many sports, reading, computers, being with friends and family, and traveling. He is excited to be a contributing writer for the Looking Ahead Newsletter, and he looks forward to bringing readers many interesting and fun interviews and coverage of entertainment events! You can contact Raymond through e-mail at RaymondBraunLSS@aol.com.

Raymond Braun: Where were you born?

Tami Krichiver: I was born in Denver, Colorado, and that's where I grew up.

Heather Vanian: I was born and raised in Newport Beach, California.

RB: What were some of your interests and hobbies as a child?

TK: I loved to play sports! I played soccer, ice skated, and I loved music!

HV: I really liked gymnastics when I was younger. I also played volleyball, and I really liked being with friends.

RB: What did you want to be when you grew up?

TK: There were tons of things I wanted to be: an astronaut, broadcast journalist, gold medalist ice skater, and psychologist. It all depended on what "stage" I was in.

HV: I wanted to be millions of different things like a teacher or doctor. I also thought of really creative and fun jobs like editing commercials. Of course, counseling was always in the back of my mind.

RB: Tell me about your family. What do they think of your job?

TK: I have an older sister and an older brother. My family thinks my job is very exciting and they're intrigued by and interested in what the entertainment industry is like.

HV: I have two sisters, and I'm the middle child. My family also thinks I have a very interesting and unique job for a social worker.

RB: Tell me about the origin of Looking Ahead. How was it started?

TK: In addition to The Actors' Fund, there are several people in the entertainment community who really care about young performers. Several years ago, these people decided there needed to be a program just for young performers because nothing like it existed in Hollywood. The Actors' Fund and some of the "big players" from SAG, AFTRA, and A Minor Consideration envisioned the program and worked hard to get the funding. Heather and I were hired to get it going!

RB: Were you involved in the entertainment industry when you were younger?

TK: Not on ANY level that [the Looking Ahead teens] are! When I was eight, I was an orphan in a community theatre production of Oliver...that's the extent of my acting experience! [laughs]

HV: I had absolutely no experience with the entertainment population until now. Except I have to admit that in college I was a contestant on The Price Is Right.

RB: What is your favorite part of your job?

TK: The favorite parts are too numerous to mention! Being with the people and interacting with teens and parents is so much fun! Entertainment kids are a unique population with great energy and aspirations!

HV: The interaction with the young performers and their families at any of our programs is great!

RB: Least favorite?

TK: My least favorite part of the job is the mass mailings!

HV: Tracking down photo releases!

RB: What advice do you offer to kids in the entertainment industry to help maintain "normal" lives?

TK: I think we've heard a lot of good advice from the people who came to speak on our panels. Kids in the entertainment industry need to know that you are more than what you do. This time in your lives is about developing who you are, finding out what you love to do in the world, and doing it!

HV: You're not just your job! When I look at a child actor, the fact that they act is just one component, one piece of that person.

RB: Let's talk about your education. Did you like school?

TK: I always liked school! It's fun for me to learn, so whether that happened in school or someplace else, I just enjoyed learning!

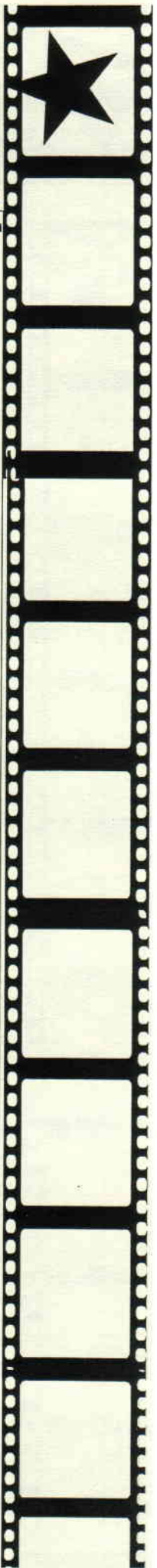
HV: I felt the same way! I really love to learn.

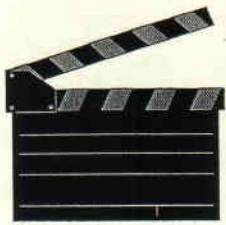
RB: Did you attend college? Post-graduate school?

TK: I went to college in Chicago at Northwestern University. I earned my masters degree in Counseling Psychology back home at the University of Denver.

HV: I attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and I earned my masters at the University of Southern California (USC) in Social Work.

(Continued on page 5)





MEET TAMI AND HEATHER

(Continued from page 4)

B: How do you feel education has helped you in your life?

K: I think education tops the list of the most important things in the world. It expands who you are, and you have it with you forever. Education is the greatest gift we can give ourselves, and I love that it varies each setting. I learned a lot in each of my classes, but then going to college was also about growing up and becoming independent. Graduate school was about how to balance school work with the rest of my life. Education has helped me expand myself in different ways at different times in my life.

V: Exactly. And I also think that sometimes the best places to learn are outside the classroom. Some of my best learning experiences have been in extracurricular programs.

B: What are some of your hobbies? What do you like to do in your spare time?

K: I play the guitar for fun! I LOVE to see movies!

V: I love hanging out with people! I like traveling when I'm able, and I love going to restaurants and eating!

K: Heather likes her food crispy! [laughs]

V: It has to be burnt! [laughs]

RB: What is your favorite movie?

TK: When I was a kid I loved The Goonies!

HV: That was my favorite, too! And Back to the Future!

RB: TV show?

HV & TK: Oprah! [laughs]

RB: What types of music do you like?

TK: I like all types of music, but I think folk is my favorite.

HV: I love almost all types of music... except country!

RB: Do you have any phobias?

HV: SNAILS! If I step on a snail, I'll throw my shoes away. It has happened...twice! [laughs]

TK: My insect phobia is bees. I am so scared of bees.

RB: If you could have any super power, what would it be?

TK: I'd love to fly!

HV: Yeah! I'd love to fly through walls.

LOOKING AHEAD

by Samantha Macisso, age 13



As one of the kids who goes to the Looking Ahead events, I say this is one of the best programs for children who have dreams of success, and like to do extremely fun things with other kids. I can see that Tami and Heather put a lot of hard work into making these experiences as memorable as possible! We've done things such as bowling, miniature golfing, ice skating, and a lot more! I've met so many nice new friends, and gotten answers to my career questions. We also help others by doing community volunteering. Last month we went to the Ronald McDonald house to bake and decorate cookies with the residents to spread cheer! These are the reasons why I feel lucky to be one of the kids involved in the Looking Ahead Program.

- Samantha Macisso

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW COOGAN LAW (SB 210) AND THE ROLE OF

THE ACTORS' FUND OF AMERICA - For more information, call (323) 933-9266 ext. 40.

1. What is the New Coogan Law, or SB210

California SB 210, introduced by Senator John Burton on April 21, 2003, and signed by Governor Gray Davis on October 3, 2003, amends Sections 6750, 6752, and 6753 of California's Family Code and adds Section 1308.9 to California's Labor Code. The bill:

- Defines a minor's gross earnings as it relates to the establishment of a minors set aside trust, i.e., Coogan Trust Account;
- Requires that all Coogan Trust Accounts be opened in financial institutions located in the State of California;
- Requires employers to forward funds set aside to The Actors' Fund of America ("The Actors' Fund") if the parent or guardian fails to open a Coogan Trust Account and provide proper documents for such accounts to the employer in a timely manner.
- Specifies the rights and duties of The Actors' Fund, including:
 - Naming The Actors' Fund as custodian (trustee) of unclaimed funds;
 - Identifying The Actors' Fund's authority to collect management, administrative and investment expenses;
 - Providing exemption from the Unclaimed Property Law with respect to unclaimed Coogan funds;
 - Giving The Actors' Fund responsibility for the disbursement of unclaimed funds to a minor beneficiary's Coogan Trust Account, a beneficiary who has reached the age of 18, or the estate of a deceased beneficiary.
- Provides that an entertainment industry work permit will be void after 10 days unless the minor's Coogan Trust Account information is attached to the permit. Therefore, parents/guardians should ensure that a copy of the Coogan Trust Account information is attached to every work permit.

2. What is the Purpose of SB 210?

On January 1, 2000, SB 1162 became law. This law requires that 15% of the earnings of an unemancipated minor rendering artistic or creative services be transferred to a set aside trust. In "the business" this has become known as a Coogan Account. A year after the law was passed, employers were still holding some set-aside funds, awaiting trust information from parents/guardians. Both SAG and the MPAA wanted to find a way to ensure these funds were transferred to their rightful owners, and to have the money protected until that time. SAG and the MPAA asked The Actors' Fund if they would accept the role of custodian of unclaimed funds. This role would include becoming the trustee of these funds, transferring funds to Coogan Accounts after receiving proper documentation, paying funds to beneficiaries who reach the age of maturity or become emancipated, and paying funds to the estates of beneficiaries. The Actors' Fund agreed to partner in this endeavor, and all three parties worked with Senator John Burton's offices and the California legislature to craft SB 210.

3. When and How Will The Actors' Fund Obtain Unclaimed Funds?

The law has provisions for two categories of unclaimed funds: those that employers have been holding prior to January 1, 2004, and those that are earned after the January 1 implementation date. Employers have *180 days* after January 1, 2004, to transfer unclaimed funds earned prior to January 1, 2004 to The Actors' Fund. Beginning January 1, 2004, *180 days* after commencement of employment, if a parent/guardian fails to provide a "true and accurate photocopy of the trustee's statement" the employer will forward the unclaimed funds to The Actors' Fund.

4. How Else Can One Find Out If The Actors' Fund is Holding a Young Performers Set-aside Funds?

The Actors' Fund has created a Website, unclaimedcoogan.org. One can go directly to this Website, or find its link through the Websites of the following organizations: The Actors' Fund (www.actorsfund.org), the Screen Actors Guild (www.sag.org) or AFTRA (www.aftra.com). unclaimedcoogan.org will have a list of the names of all individuals for whom The Actors' Fund is the custodian/trustee of the set-aside funds. The site will also have both instructions and an application for claiming funds.

5. How Will People Know to Look at the Website? Besides the Initial Notification of the Transfer of Funds from the Employer, Will Parents/Guardians be Notified?

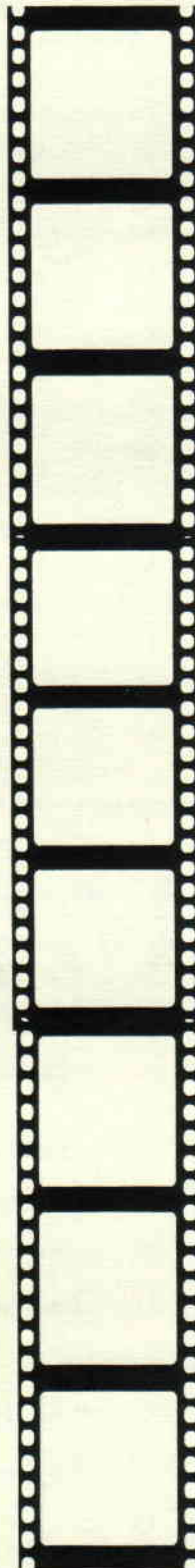
SB 210 requires The Actors' Fund to make best efforts to notify beneficiaries. Ads will be placed in California newspapers, and linkages will be made to both the SAG and AFTRA Websites. The SAG/AFTRA Young Performers' Committee and employers will also be provided with information to distribute. Since The Actors' Fund is the trustee, and not the owner of the money, a 1099 will be mailed to each beneficiary once a year.

6. What Happens to the Rest of the Money?

After December 31, 2004, SB 210 allows The Actors' Fund to use the difference between earned income and imputed interest to administer the funds. There are a number of expenses that include but are not limited to bank charges, website administration, and advertising.

7. What if There is Still Money Left Over?

It is both the belief and intention of The Actors' Fund to transfer the funds to their rightful owners as quickly as possible. Further, at present, it is not likely that the difference between earned income and imputed interest will cover the administrative costs. If, in the future, there is an excess of earned income, SB 210 allows these excess funds to be used to run programs that will benefit young performers. In this case, funds will be used to support The Actors' Fund's Looking Ahead Program.





INTERVIEW WITH SHARON CHAZIN LIEBLEIN

7



(Continued from page 3)

Are there any other reasons why you think Looking Ahead is important for young actors and their families?

They have fabulous panel discussions for parents and kids. You can learn great insights into various aspects of the industry. They bring in speakers from all different areas of the industry.

I've gone to presentations by managers, agents, Coogan account specialists, and former young actors.

The more you learn the better off you are. Looking Ahead is great! I love teaching and giving to young actors. And, if I can tell you something that makes you kinda go, "huh, maybe I shouldn't be doing this." Then you know what, don't do it. This is a tough business so you better have a passion for acting.

What is the most important advice you would like to share with the parents of young actors?

Make sure your kids want to do it and they're having fun. If they're not having fun it's time to get out. Listen to your kids, listen to what they need.

If you were at a movie theater, and could step through the screen and into the world of the movie, what movie would that be and why?

Definitely Willy Wonka. It's my favorite movie of all time. I just love that world. And I might not eat all the candy, but I'd have some. Love it.

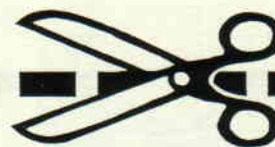
If you could do anything for one week in your life, what would it be?

Nap! I have a 2-1/2 year old, I'm pregnant, have a husband and I work. I'd like to sleep for a week. A cruise to Alaska, sleeping on a deck, looking out over the ocean, hanging out. That's it. I'm lazy.

Want to Contribute Your Time?

If you are interested in contributing to future Looking Ahead newsletters, please send your ideas/articles to Tami Krichiver by email at: tkrichiv@actorsfund.org or by fax at: (323) 933-7615. We welcome articles, editorials, interviews, or other submissions. Please include your name, age, and a short bio about yourself with your submission. THANK YOU!

ATTENTION PARENTS:



We are looking for parent volunteers to serve on The Actors' Fund of America's Looking Ahead committees. Please place a check next to any committees that interest you and mail this coupon to Heather Vanian at: The Actors' Fund of America, 5757 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90036 or call (323) 933-9244 ext. 22.

Community Service Planning/Chaperoning _____

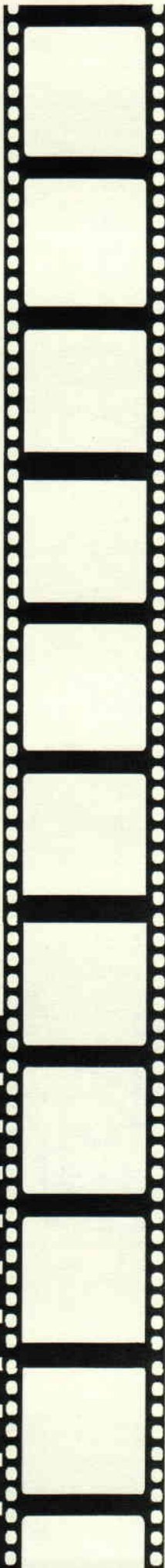
Newsletter (editing, planning, writing) _____

Program Administration (mailings, photocopying, office) _____

Name (parent) _____ Phone Number _____

Professional Young Performer(s) _____

THANK YOU!!



To learn more about Looking Ahead or make an individual appointment, contact Heather Vaniam, Looking Ahead Social Worker or Tamli Xritshver, Looking Ahead Career Counselor at (323) 933-9244, or hrw@actorsfund.org

- Richard Thomas, Chair, Looking Ahead Advisory Committee, Former Young Performer
 Chrs M. Allport, National Chair SAG/AFTA Young Performers Committee, Former Young Performer
 Jenn Berman, Psy D, Marriage & Family Child Counselor
 Polly Businger, Business Agent, Local 884 IATSE
 John Connolly, President, AFTA
 Melissa Gilbert, President, SAG, Former Young Performer
 Michael Harrah, Manager
 Darby Hinton, Professional Life Coach, Former Young Performer
 James Konantz, Director of Schools, California Virtual Academies
 Sharon Lieblein, Director of Casting, Nickelodeon, Former Young Performer
 Bonnie Liedtke, Agent, Gold/Liedtke & Associates
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LOOKING AHEAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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