

in this issue

"In the Spotlight"Pg 1
Looking AheadPg 1

Views from Exec. Director.....Pg 2
Tea Garden Patio at The Homes..Pg 2
100 Years YoungPg 2

Special PerformancesPg 3

Special EventsPg 4

AHIRCPg 5
Staff Profile: Jim BrownPg 5

Lillian Booth DonationPg 6
\$1 Million Check.....Pg 6
Donor ProfilePg 6
Revlun Run/WalkPg 6

artist committee

(list in formation)

Elizabeth Ashley
Jim Barbour
Brent Barrett
David Alan Basche
Shoshanna Bean
Gary Beach
Len Cariou
Carolee Carmello
Kathleen Chalfant
Barbara Cook
John Cullum
Alan Cumming
Jonathan Dokuchitz
Jason Danieley
Blythe Danner
Taye Diggs
Raúl Esparza
Darius de Haas
André de Shields
Fred Ebb
Tovah Feldshuh
Harvey Fierstein
Sutton Foster
Peter Gallagher
Ana Gasteyer
Deidre Goodwin
Frank Gorshin
Josh Groban
January Jones
Richard Kind
Ricki Lake
Robert Sean Leonard
Norm Lewis
Brad Little
Andrea Martin
Marin Mazzie
Idina Menzel
Stephanie Mills
Brian Stokes Mitchell
Alfred Molina
Julia Murney
Donna Murphy
Bebe Neuwirth
Orfeh
Brad Oscar
Adam Pascal
Billy Porter
Jane Powell
Heather Randall
Lynn Redgrave
Alice Ripley
Chita Rivera
Tony Roberts
Seth Rudetsky
Sherie René Scott
Kate Shindle
Lewis J. Stadlen
Frances Sternhagen
James Stovall
Tamara Tunie
Leslie Uggams
Bruce Vilanch
Sam Waterston
Lillias White
B.D. Wong

as of 10/20/03

"IN THE SPOTLIGHT"

Debuts



The Actors' Fund of America is pleased to announce the launch of *In the Spotlight*, The Fund's exciting new major donor program. When you are *In the Spotlight*, you play an essential role in making The Fund's critical programs possible. In recognition of your generous support, *Spotlight* donors will receive an array of new benefits and privileges.

Spotlight donors will experience the new program firsthand through personalized service by Fund staff. Benefits begin with special priority access to House Seats and tickets to The Fund's Special Performances and Events. In addition, *Spotlight* donors will enjoy new benefits including invitations to movie screenings and complimentary tickets to a series of "insider luncheons" with guest artists, an invitation for two to the annual *In the Spotlight* dinner celebration, and at the highest level, invitations to our star-studded, one-time-only Special Event dress rehearsals.

"Members of our *In the Spotlight* program are crucial to our efforts to serve our colleagues in the entertainment community well into the next century," says Tom Dillon, President of The Actors' Fund. "We are thrilled to have an opportunity to express our gratitude to our loyal supporters through this groundbreaking new program."

As Trustees and passionate supporters of The Actors' Fund, we are delighted to be co-chairing the new In the Spotlight program.

From exclusive luncheons and dinners with prominent people in the entertainment world, to the highest priority ticket service, each Spotlight level offers you something unique and exciting.



Bebe Neuwirth
Chair



Brian Stokes Mitchell
Chair



Lynn Redgrave
Chair

By joining us, you will gain valuable privileges and a behind-the-scenes involvement with The Fund. Most of all, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your generosity is making a difference in the lives of friends and colleagues in need.

*We look forward to thanking each of you in person for joining us **In the Spotlight**.*

The Actors' Fund Announces **Looking Ahead**

A Program for Young Performers

With a dedicated, hands-on Advisory Committee, The Actors' Fund has inaugurated its new **Looking Ahead** program to provide services to young performers in Southern California that will help them develop the skills, values and confidence they need to make a successful transition to fulfilling adult lives. With funding from the SAG-Producers Industry Advancement and Cooperative Fund and the AFTRA-Industry Cooperative Fund, the program offers counseling, seminars, group activities and individual mentoring for industry members between the ages of 12 and 18.

Looking Ahead benefits from the diverse perspectives Advisory Committee members bring to the issues facing young performers. Committee members include parents, agents, educators, union and corporate leadership and mental health experts – as well as former young performers such as Richard Thomas, Darby Hinton, Paul Petersen and SAG President Melissa

Gilbert, who have unique firsthand awareness of the program's importance. With their leadership, *Looking Ahead* seeks to focus attention on appropriate peer and adult interaction that they miss because of not attending "regular" schools. As Advisory Committee Chairman Richard Thomas says, "*Looking Ahead* is a great resource for young performers and their families. I'm excited for the kids, and I only wish the program had been looking after me when I was a child actor."

On November 15, Nickelodeon will host a special *Looking Ahead* event, "Pic' at Nick," at their Los Angeles studios, which will include recreational and group activities for young performers and their families. A panel presentation will focus on finding a proper balance among work, school, social and family roles, and will feature speakers Kellie Martin, and Malcolm Jamal-Warner.

The Actors' Fund mission is "to advance, foster and benefit the welfare of all professionals in the entertainment community who are in need of help, ensuring that these efforts are accomplished with compassion, confidentiality and preservation of dignity for the individuals concerned."

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Visit our website at
www.actorsfund.org

To become a member, purchase tickets to Special Performances and Events, discuss planned giving opportunities or find out more about The Actors' Fund of America, please call 212.221.7300.

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The Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic
475 West 57th Street, 2nd floor
New York, NY 10019
212.489.1939

The Aurora Residence
New York, NY
212.489.2020

The Palm View
West Hollywood, CA
323.933.9244

The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of
The Actors' Fund of America
Englewood, NJ
201.871.8882

The Actors' Work Program – NY
729 Seventh Avenue, 11th floor
New York, NY 10019
212.354.5480
Fax: 212.921.4295

The Actors' Work Program – LA
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Los Angeles, CA 90036
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views



From Tom Dillon, President and Joseph Benincasa, Executive Director

As the busy fall season accelerates at The Actors' Fund, we are reminded of the many implications of the current economic recovery our nation is undergoing. Our colleagues in the entertainment industry are on the front lines in this struggle, living without the security of a single steady income source and experiencing firsthand the impact of a declining job market. Presently, our colleagues are finding that even traditional "survival" work in the hospitality and temp fields has declined. As one actor told us, "In the past when I needed money, I could always climb a tree and shake down a coconut" — meaning that "survival work" was always there when she was between entertainment gigs. But now many in our community are finding that survival work is not there. Consequently, our Actors' Work Program has helped over 850 more industry members or 72% more industry members over the past two years, helping them strengthen their skills and their competitive edge in a challenging job market.

It is the support of many generous friends — inside and outside the industry — that gives The Actors' Fund the flexibility to respond to the changing needs of our constituents. For this reason, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our *In the Spotlight* program, which will enable us to recognize the generosity of our highest level donors. For years, The Fund's individual members have been the backbone of all of our programs and services, as contributions to our Inner Circle membership programs have grown to over \$2 million a year. Now, *In the Spotlight* offers a whole array of exclusive benefits to friends who choose to support our work with an annual gift of \$2,500 or more.

We offer our thanks to all our friends who give of their time, talent and treasury to advance the mission of The Actors' Fund. We extend special gratitude to those friends who join us *In the Spotlight*.

the homes

Thanks to Actors' Fund Trustee **Frances Gaar**, the residents of The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors' Fund of America



have something new to smile about — a Tea Garden Patio. Ms. Gaar generously donated and personally oversaw the design and construction of the handicapped accessible patio which now graces the front lawn entrance of The Homes in Englewood, New Jersey.

The Tea Garden Patio, a 75-foot long area, features decora-

Tea Garden Patio Provides an Oasis for Residents of The Homes

tive garden pavers, a colorful marble centerpiece, sitting wall, ceramic birds that rest on high perches, statues of exotic animals, and electric lanterns that illuminate the patio at night. A tri-level botanical waterfall with several ponds is a highlight of the patio and offers residents the melodic sounds of nature. The lawn at The Homes was regraded to accommodate the new patio and has dramatically changed the look of the entrance to The Homes. The patio is a beautiful addition to the Japanese tea house structure that Ms. Gaar brought to The Homes several years ago after seeing it at a Rockefeller Center flower show.

"I loved that tea house from the first moment I saw it!" says Ms. Gaar, who is Co-Chair of the Committee for The Homes. "After the flower show was over, the tea house moved to the Chelsea Garden Center. I eventually arranged to have it permanently installed at The Homes for the residents. The idea for the patio began as a pathway

for residents to access the tea house, and it has developed into this wonderful sitting area. I hope to add a bamboo forest next spring and some goldfish to the ponds. It's been quite an experience!"

"Ms. Gaar was on the telephone every day with contractors to make sure that everything was perfect," says Alvan Small, Administrator of The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors' Fund. "She put her own talent into the project and designed the patio with such flair."

"The reaction from the residents has been overwhelmingly favorable," he continues. "They are able to have picnic lunches in the shade and stroll to the tea house to relax. They absolutely love the new patio and spend their time enjoying the fresh air." A standing ovation for Frances Gaar for her wonderful imagination and her dedication to the residents' quality of life!



Pianist Paul McCoo and Betty Lord, wife of the late performer Philip Lord, have achieved milestones in their extraordinary lives — 100th birthdays at The Actors' Fund Homes in Englewood, New Jersey.

Paul McCoo's love of music began as a

young child, while singing in his neighborhood church in Illinois. When his father brought home a piano for the family, Paul decided that he always wanted to be surrounded by beautiful music. Paul worked toward his goal of becoming "the greatest American pianist" by taking music lessons and setting up local recitals. Paul's dream was advanced by spending a decade in Europe performing, studying and traveling with the leading musicians of the time. Upon his return to the United States, Paul was in great demand as an

100 years young...

Two Residents at The Homes Celebrate their 100th Year!

accompanist for classical singers. In the late 1980s, he relocated to New Jersey from the West Coast. Paul passed away on October 5, 2003.

Betty Lord was an avid theatregoer, often attending with her mother. As a young adult, she saw a performance featuring Philip Lord, and she was eventually introduced to him at the Orpheum Theatre in Pennsylvania. In 1929, Betty and Philip were married. The day after their wedding, they traveled to Europe where Philip was scheduled to perform. While in Europe, they toured England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and then returned to America to settle in Chicago, Illinois. Philip was well-known from his summer stock performances, radio and television appearances, and Broadway shows, such as *LIGHTS OUT*, *WHEN YOU SMILE*, and *MARCHING BY*. Philip passed away in 1968, and the following year, Betty moved into The Actors' Fund Homes.

Betty is currently the longest residing occupant of The Actors' Fund Homes, and she maintains an active social life with her peers.



REFRESHING BRAVOS

Special



Applause, applause for the talented cast of the wildly-popular HAIRSPRAY.

hairspray

Showing your support for The Actors' Fund can be as simple as purchasing a ticket to an Actors' Fund Special Performance. Special Performances, a 76-year-old tradition, are among the most incredible theatrical experiences for everyone involved, and the hottest tickets in town for those "in the know." Once a year, every Broadway show company, on the Great White Way and on the road, graciously adds an extra performance to their regular schedule as a benefit for The Actors' Fund.

The cast of LA BOHEME takes a bow after a Special Performance.

La Bohème



The haunting cast of LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT

THE PRODUCERS

Congratulations to the absolutely fabulous cast of THE PRODUCERS for their Special Performance to benefit The Fund.



MOVIN' OUT "wowed" the crowd – they were dancing in the aisles – at a very Special Performance.

MOVIN' OUT

nine THE MUSICAL



The sizzling cast of NINE enjoys a triumphant Special Performance.



(Left to right) NINE superstar Antonio Banderas celebrates backstage with wife Melanie Griffith and John Stamos.



(Left to right) Ernie Sabella, Actors' Fund Trustee Brian Stokes Mitchell, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Stephen Bogardus are all smiles after an incredible Special Performance of MAN OF LA MANCHA.

MAN OF LA MANCHA

Actors' Fund Special Performances are truly remarkable and the excitement of these performances often surpasses that of Opening Night, a feeling felt on both sides of the curtain.

Hats off to all the entertainment professionals, on stage, in the pit, behind the scenes, and in front of the house who gave their time and talent to perform in Special Performances so far in 2003: MOVIN' OUT, MAN OF LA MANCHA, LA BOHEME, THE PRODUCERS, LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, HAIRSPRAY, ZANNA DON'T and NINE. For a schedule of upcoming Special Performances, to purchase tickets or for additional information please call 212.221.7300 ext. 133 or 800.386.3849 ext. 133 or go to www.actorsfund.org.

chess

On September 22, 2003, The New Amsterdam Theatre was once again the scene for The Actors' Fund's annual benefit concert. Now in its third year, this one-night-only event has become one of the most highly-anticipated nights of the year. Following in the footsteps of the now legendary 20th anniversary concert of DREAMGIRLS and last year's unforgettable FUNNY GIRL, The Actors' Fund presented a spectacular production of the popular cult musical CHESSE. With an amazing cast of close to 100 performers, CHESSE depicted a political love triangle played against the backdrop of the Cold War era in the early 1980's.

This stunning production featured the Broadway debut of the incredible Josh Groban. The international singing sensation sang the role of Anatoly Sergievsky, the Soviet Chess Master. Groban was surrounded by a dazzling company that included Julia Murney as Florence,

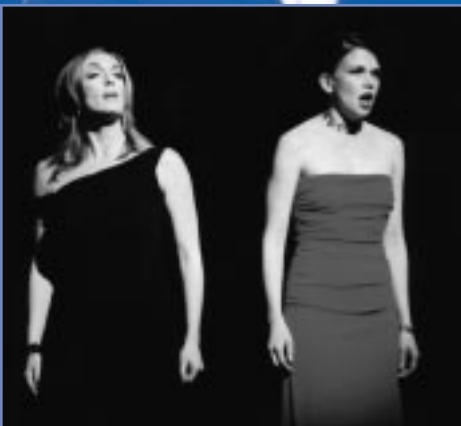
Adam Pascal as Freddie Trumper (the American Chess Master), Sutton Foster as Svetlana Sergievsky, Raúl Esparza as The Arbiter, Norm Lewis as Molokov, and Jonathan Dokuchitz as Walter de Courcey. This astonishing group was supported by a 16-member featured chorus, 16 dancers and a choir of over 50 voices, with cast members from almost every show on Broadway.

The evening was artfully directed by Peter Flynn and choreographed by Christopher Gattelli. With Musical Director/Artistic Producer Seth Rudetsky conducting the 27-piece CHESSE orchestra, the haunting and memorable score was performed beautifully. The sold-out performance began with a welcome from a luminous Barbara Cook who spoke affectionately about The Actors' Fund, graciously acknowledging that she had been helped by The Fund during a difficult period in her life.

The cast was rewarded with a richly-deserved standing ovation. CHESSE creators Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus and Tim Rice were brought onstage and given an enormous ovation of their own.

Sponsors for the evening included *The New York Times*, John's Pizzeria-Times Square, MAC, Target, Kenneth Cole, Disney Theatricals and Tony Dellasalla. A pre-show cocktail party for high-end ticket buyers and sponsors was held in the rotunda of The Ford Center for the Performing Arts, with wine provided by The Wine Emporium, and hors d'oeuvres by The Party Box and Martini's Restaurant and Bar. After the show, the entire cast was invited to John's Pizzeria-Times Square for a congratulatory cast party.

Julia Murney and Sutton Foster light up the stage at CHESSE.



The incredible Chess stars! (Left to right) Adam Pascal, Julia Murney, Josh Groban, Sutton Foster, Norm Lewis and Jonathan Dokuchitz.



The brilliant Musical Director/Artistic Producer Seth Rudetsky (center) receives a standing ovation, along with the fantastic cast including Adam Pascal, Josh Groban and Julia Murney.



CHESSE creators Benny Andersson, Tim Rice and Björn Ulvaeus congratulate Josh Groban (second from right) on a sensational performance.



Raul Esparza as The Arbiter made sure the Chess match was played by the rules.



CHESSE creator Tim Rice, the incomparable Barbara Cook and Gerald Schoenfeld enjoy the spectacular performance.



all about eve

On Sunday, March 30, 2003, The Actors' Fund produced an all-star reading of ALL ABOUT EVE, starring Calista Flockhart as Eve Harrington and Stockard Channing as Margo Channing, and directed by Gordon Davidson. Held at the Ahmanson Theatre/Music Center of Los Angeles County, David Rambo adapted Joseph Mankiewicz's screenplay for this staged reading. Other cast members included Lauren Ambrose, Jillian Armenante, Robby Benson, Tim Curry, Blythe Danner, Kirk Douglas, Victor Garber, Angela Lansbury, Melissa Manchester, Carl Reiner, the late John Ritter and Jennifer Tilly. Actors' Fund Trustee Celeste Holm served as Benefit Chair, Actors' Fund Trustee Kate Edelman Johnson as the Event Chair, and Tom Mankiewicz as the Honorary Chair for the event.

The wonderful cast of ALL ABOUT EVE take a bow. (Left to right) Jeff Scott Bass, Jillian Armenante, Robby Benson, Melissa Manchester, Victor Garber, Blythe Danner, Tim Curry, Calista Flockhart, Stockard Channing, the late John Ritter, Angela Lansbury, Kirk Douglas, Carl Reiner, and Jennifer Tilly.



Blythe Danner, who read the part of Karen Richards with Gordon Davidson, and the original Karen Richards, the one-and-only Celeste Holm, Actors' Fund Trustee.



Randal Kleiser toasts Stockard Channing on her marvelous performance.



Jennifer Tilly hosted The Actors' Fund and Aid For AIDS annual Tony® Awards Party. Held this year at the Skirball Center in LA, Stephanie Powers graciously presented Rita Moreno with The Actors' Fund's Julie Harris Award at the fantastic party.



Our enchanting Eve Harrington, Calista Flockhart with Harrison Ford.

Special

STINE



The ACTORS' FUND
OF AMERICA

ABOUT THE ACTORS' FUND
HUMAN SERVICES
ARTISTS' HEALTH INSURANCE RESOURCE CENTER
HOW YOU CAN HELP
TICKETS FOR SPECIAL PERFORMANCES & EVENTS

Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center

The Actors' Fund of America Addresses Issue of Quality Health Insurance for Entertainment Professionals Nationwide

More than 30% of entertainment professionals do not have health insurance, The Actors' Fund has responded to this crisis through several strategies: emergency financial assistance for premium payments; information and resources on its Access to Health Insurance/Resources for Care (AHIRC) website; a direct enrollment and counseling center in New York and new health insurance assistance center in Los Angeles; a free health care clinic in New York; and advocacy for government programs that meet the special needs of entertainment industry members.

Because the health insurance system in the United States is largely employer-based, most Americans access health insurance through their jobs. For people in the arts and entertainment, with incomes that often depend on episodic employment, with work that is project-based, or who are self-employed, finding affordable health insurance is increasingly difficult. For more information on getting and keeping health insurance, or finding and paying for health care if you are uninsured, visit the AHIRC database at The Fund's website at www.actorsfund.org.

The Fund Launches Revised Online Access to Health Insurance/Resources for Care (AHIRC)

Central Source for Finding Affordable Health Insurance and Health Care

Artists across the country are twice as likely to be uninsured as the general population, which means that almost one in every three artists does not have health insurance. The Actors' Fund addresses this critical issue through its newly-expanded Access to Health Insurance/Resources for Care website. (The site was formerly known as the Artists' Health

Insurance Resource Center.) With the number of uninsured still increasing, The Fund tackles the challenges entertainment professionals and other self-employed individuals face in obtaining quality health insurance. AHIRC is accessible through The Actors'

T. works in theatre cleaning and maintenance, and she has two young children. She came to AHIRC to find an alternative to her union plan, which was inadequate for her needs. Because her monthly income was below \$1,908, she was eligible for Family Health Plus, a free health insurance program for low-income New Yorkers. In addition, her children were eligible for the Child Health Plus program, using the same network of doctors and hospitals.

K., an actor who recently became ineligible for his union plan, was unable to afford the COBRA payment. He attended one of the AHIRC monthly health insurance workshops at The Fund, and he found out that he was eligible for the subsidized Healthy NY program. He was able to get a comprehensive plan that included a full prescription benefit for \$186 per month, half the cost of the union's COBRA plan.

Fund website, www.actorsfund.org, and through its own address at www.ahirc.org.

The Fund's upgraded AHIRC website database provides:

- much-needed information on local health care for the uninsured and underinsured
- links to all government-subsidized programs
- guides to using health insurance and gaining disease-specific assistance
- sources of emergency financial aid for medical and hospital bills
- news about grassroots and legislative efforts to expand access to health care
- faster access and more intuitive searching

Established in 1998 in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, and recently expanded and redesigned with funding from The Commonwealth Fund, the AHIRC website is one of the most comprehensive sources of health insurance information available on the Internet. For the past five years, AHIRC has been the central resource for artists nationwide in finding affordable health insurance, with more than 700 visitors a day accessing the website.

Profile: Jim Brown

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center



(AHIRC) newly-expanded website. AHIRC is accessible through www.actorsfund.org or www.ahirc.org.

A Harvard graduate, Jim Brown has worked in the performing arts, social services and the insurance industry. After 13 years as Assistant Professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, he worked for 10 years in the health insurance field, then was recruited to be a state regulator for managed care plans. He has been Managing Director of The Fund's Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center since 1999. Jim was the project supervisor for the revision and expansion of the online Access to Health Insurance/Resources for Care

Q. What attracted you to The Actors' Fund position?

A. When I found out about this job, it sounded perfect for me. It gave me the opportunity to work with a great organization combining my two professions – entertainment and health insurance. I also had a website development background and experience in adult education. I particularly enjoy the part of my job where I have the chance to directly counsel people in the entertainment industry. They're just interesting people to spend time with. Also, I knew I'd be working with social workers. You really can't have better colleagues than social workers, and the ones at The Actors' Fund are smart and caring people.

Q. What do you want to offer entertainment professionals who use the website?

A. I would like them to waste as little time as possible on health insurance issues. AHIRC helps them navigate the system. I say let them spend their time creating art and entertainment.

Artists and entertainment professionals are in an unusual position. Many people are very well-educated, but they have low incomes. They don't realize that their income may be low enough to qualify for government-subsidized health insurance plans. For example, the Healthy NY program is available to individuals who earn under \$22,500 per year. It is also about finding access to affordable health care, assistance in paying medical bills, and advocacy in changing the health care system in the United States. Half the site is purely health insurance, and the other half deals with a wide range of critical health care delivery and advocacy issues.

Q. What are the major concerns you encounter in one-on-one counseling sessions?

A. The most common concern of individuals we counsel is money. People need *affordable* health insurance. The second concern is understanding how health insurance works. Most people call when they are diagnosed or suspect they have a health problem, and they have no insurance. They need information on issues such as pre-existing condition waiting periods and their rights and protections in purchasing health insurance. Third is the ever more frequent problem of individuals becoming ineligible for their union insurance. Most entertainment industry unions have just recently set a higher eligibility requirement for health insurance. And fourth, more people are simply losing their health insurance, because they go through a divorce, lose a job, or are facing some other significant life-changing event.

Q. What would you like to see in the future for AHIRC?

A. Well, we just hosted the future of AHIRC: a group of twelve graduate students and professors from six of the leading health care policy schools in the country. With a grant from The Commonwealth Fund, they'll be spending the next academic year adding literally thousands of useful state and local resources to the website, and we were fortunate to get Brigid Sweeney, who has run programs at HealthPages and the Medicare Rights Center, to coordinate the project. I've come to think of it as "AHIRC: The Next Generation." I would also like to see us offering direct solutions for people who remain uninsured. For example, The Actors' Fund and the coalition of entertainment industry unions might become involved in directly negotiating fee schedules with health care providers for uninsured industry members. I would like to start a volunteer program using the expertise of people who have retired from the insurance industry to counsel entertainment professionals. And, of course, we need to continue our focus on advocacy and changing laws regarding access to health insurance and health care.

save these dates

UPCOMING INSURANCE WORKSHOPS IN LOS ANGELES AND NEW YORK

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	PLACE
Wed, Nov 5, 2003	1-3pm	Getting and keeping health insurance	SAG – LA, Cagney Room
Tue, Nov 11, 2003	5:30-7pm	Health Insurance Workshop	Actors' Fund offices, NY
Wed, Dec 3, 2003	1-3pm	Getting and keeping health insurance	SAG – LA, Cagney Room
Mon, Dec 15, 2003	5:30-7pm	Health Insurance Workshop	Actors' Fund offices, NY

To speak with a counselor or to obtain information on monthly workshops, please call the resource center at 212.221.7300, ext. 265 or 323.933.9244 ext. 32.

Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center Opens on West Coast

Supported by a \$150,000 grant from Screen Actors Guild-Producers Industry Advancement & Cooperative Fund

In January 2003, The Actors' Fund was awarded a grant of \$150,000 from the Screen Actors Guild-Producers Industry Advancement & Cooperative Fund to establish a West Coast division of the Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center (AHIRC) at The Fund's Los Angeles office. The grant for AHIRC strengthened The Fund's continuing efforts to address the issue of quality health insurance and affordable health care for members of the entertainment industry nationwide.

The West Coast office of the Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center conducts workshops for the uninsured and underinsured, provides in-person and telephone counseling for individuals and families, facilitates enrollment in private and government-subsidized health plans, and organizes industry advocacy for expansion of access to health insurance and health care. The staff also researches and updates Internet resources for the Western states on the AHIRC website database.

"We are thrilled with the Screen Actors Guild-Producers Industry Advancement & Cooperative Fund grant. We look forward to intensifying our efforts to serve entertainment pro-

professionals on the West Coast, for whom health insurance is an immediate and growing concern," says Joseph Benincasa, Executive Director of The Actors' Fund of America. "California presents particular difficulties in obtaining health insurance since state law does not mandate that insurers accept all applicants, as is the case in New York. In addition, premiums in California can be extremely high for anyone middle-aged or older or who has any type of pre-existing health problem."

Simon Abou-Fadel has been named the new Manager of the Artists' Health Insurance Resource Center on the West Coast. He is responsible for informing union members of their current health insurance options in California, including union plans, association plans, direct purchase and government-subsidized programs, in addition to researching new options for members as they become available. For individuals who find themselves temporarily uninsured, he directs them to income-based care through

"Securing quality health insurance is a critical issue that deeply affects the lives of our colleagues, their families and artists of all disciplines, for whom lack of insurance can lead to inferior health care and ruinous debt. By expanding our AHIRC program with the new West Coast office, we will work to substantially increase the number of insured among entertainment professionals there."

Joseph Benincasa
The Fund's Executive Director
Daily Variety, January 30, 2003

clinics and local health programs. He also works with other advocates in California to promote legislation that makes health insurance more accessible and affordable to industry workers who are ineligible for their union plans.

Simon Abou-Fadel is a licensed California insurance broker and a NASD-registered Investment Advisor and General Securities Representative. He has worked as an employee benefits advisor for Allied Consulting Group and a financial advisor for American Express. Mr. Abou-Fadel brings over five years of experience and a unique understanding of the financial and health insurance problems faced by people in the entertainment industry. He holds a MFA in theatre from Western Illinois University, and was a performer and administrator for The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis.

In-person counseling is now available for individuals and families at The Fund's West Coast Office at 5757 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 400, or by telephone at 323.933.9244 ext. 32. Health insurance seminars will be held on a regular basis, both at Fund offices and at entertainment industry union offices upon request.

\$1,000,000!!



(Left to right) Larry Cook, Finance Director at BC/EFA; Skip Mooney, Director of Development at BC/EFA; Joe Benincasa, Executive Director of The Actors' Fund and BC/EFA Trustee; Fred Vogel, BC/EFA Trustee; Maria DiDia, BC/EFA Trustee; Philip Birsh, Treasurer of BC/EFA and Actors' Fund Trustee; Judy Rice, BC/EFA Trustee; Scott Barnes, BC/EFA; Paul Libin, President of BC/EFA and Actors' Fund Trustee; Tom Viola, Executive Director BC/EFA and Actors' Fund Trustee.

Following the success of the 17th Annual EASTER BONNET Competition this past April, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS Executive Committee presented Joe Benincasa a check for \$1,000,000 - just part of over \$2.7 million in support for The Actors' Fund's AIDS Initiative, Phyllis Newman Women's Health Initiative, Al Hirschfeld Free Health Clinic and Actors' Work Program.



Actors' Fund Trustees Fran Gaar and B.D. Wong join long time supporter Fredi Herlihy in congratulating Lillian Booth on the unveiling of her caricature at Sardi's.

PHILANTHROPIST LILLIAN BOOTH DONATES \$2 MILLION TO THE ACTORS' FUND HOMES

The Actors' Fund received the single largest contribution from an individual in our history when Lillian Booth made an extraordinary \$2 million gift in support of the Nursing Home and Assisted Living Care Facility in Englewood. In recognition of Ms. Booth's extraordinary generosity, The Homes have been renamed in her honor.

To celebrate this remarkable gift, The Fund held a special reception at Sardi's in Ms. Booth's honor on April 22, where a caricature of Ms. Booth was unveiled which will hang on Sardi's walls alongside her fellow luminaries. The following day, her gift was formally announced at The Fund's annual celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, Edwin Forrest Day, at The Homes. In May, Ms. Booth was elected to the Board of Trustees at The Fund's Annual Membership Meeting at the Little Shubert Theatre.

A noted philanthropist who has made major contributions to northern New Jersey organizations (Pascack Valley



Revlon Run/Walk

On May 4, 2003, an Actors' Fund team of over 100 people walked, ran and cheered their way from Times Square to Central Park for the Fifth Annual Revlon Run/Walk for Women presented by The Entertainment Industry Foundation and *The New York Times*. With the additional support of numerous volunteers, The Actors' Fund far exceeded its goal for participation in this annual event. The Actors' Fund's Phyllis Newman

Women's Health Initiative was, once again, proud to be a beneficiary of the Revlon Run/Walk with money raised in the fight to eradicate women's cancers, thanks to the tremendous efforts of the tens of thousands who were involved.

script

DONOR PROFILE: Aaron Frankel



Aaron and Abetha Frankel

Aaron Frankel is a rare commodity. Unlike many entertainment professionals in New York, he is actually a native New Yorker. Aaron is known by almost everyone in the business, and those who don't know him personally are well aware of his many accomplishments.

Aaron was born in Washington Heights, where the base of the George Washington Bridge now stands. After graduating from Columbia College with a Phi Beta Kappa key and a degree in philosophy (a degree he jokingly says his wife Abetha would later cure him of), Aaron entered the Army during World War II. He was offered one of two jobs, either in the Economic Office of the Occupation Forces or soldier shows with Josh Logan. He chose soldier shows and began working as a stage manager.

After the war, Aaron continued working as a stage manager for such icons as the Lunts, Garson Kanin, Harold Clurman and Louis Jouvet. When he began directing, noted teacher and friend Sanford Meisner sent one of his students to him to audition for BERNADINE. That student was Abetha Aayer. She didn't get the part, but six months later she married Aaron. Abetha's career spanned five decades. She starred in 100 national, regional and USO

productions. Some of her notable stage performances included GREASE, HAMLET, MEDEA, BORN YESTERDAY and THE WAY OF THE WORLD. She also appeared in numerous TV commercials and soaps. Aaron credits his wife as the financial whiz in the family. They were married for 48 years, until Abetha's death in May 2002.

Aaron Frankel directed over 100 plays and musicals both on and off-Broadway and in summer stock and university theatre. He has worked with such stars as Zero Mostel, Walter Matthau, Robert Redford, Mae West and Buddy Hackett. He is a Fulbright Scholar in French theatre. Aaron is an internationally-known theatre teacher, having taught at 10 universities, including Carnegie-Mellon, Washington, Iowa, Boston and in New York at Columbia, HB Studio and The New School. He is the author of the industry staple, *Writing the Broadway Musical*. Aaron has also served as Chairman and President of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation and 1st Vice President of The Players.

According to Aaron, the most fulfilling part of his life, other than his marriage, has been the professional encouragement of his students, many of whom have happily developed into dear friends. Among Aaron's accomplishments is his philanthropic support of the entertainment community. His recent gift annuity to The Actors' Fund will help many of his colleagues in the future. Aaron says, "Giving is giving back. Thank heaven for The Actors' Fund!"



Celebrating the naming of The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors' Fund of America and Shakespeare's birthday are Actors' Fund Trustees Kitty Minehart, Lynn Redgrave, Celeste Holm, Lillian Booth and Frances Gaar with long time friend of The Fund, Joyce Randolph.

Hospital has named both the Lillian Booth Radiation Oncology Pavilion and the Lillian Booth Dialysis Center in her honor), Ms. Booth has an avid interest in the performing arts. Through her support of The Actors' Fund over the past 13 years, this exceptional woman has demonstrated her dedication to people in the entertainment profession, and her generosity is making a tremendous impact on the care to men and women who have dedicated their lives to the performing arts.

Actors' Fund Trustee Lynn Redgrave unveils the caricature of Lillian Booth at The Fund's Edwin Forrest Day celebration honoring the naming of The Lillian Booth Actors' Home of The Actors' Fund of America.

