



The Actors' Fund of Canada
The lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry

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Dear Fellow Equity Member:

As President of the Actors' Fund Canada, I am writing to invite your participation in the benefit performance for the Fund your engager has scheduled.

For more than 50 years now, financial help from the Actors' Fund has helped professionals in theatre, film and television, music and dance to turn their lives around after an illness, injury or other serious setback. The Fund provided over \$600,000 in rent and mortgage payments, utility payments, grocery money and other emergency financial aid last year alone, and demand on the Fund has doubled in the last five years. I'm sure you will agree that in a business largely without safeguards like Employment Insurance, it is imperative to ensure that the Fund is always in a position to help our colleagues who are in need. And who knows when that need will arise, even for ourselves?

The Fund raises money in a variety of ways, and Benefit Performances are an extremely important part of the financial picture. Indeed, the Canadian Theatre Agreement asks engagers of Equity artists to undertake an annual benefit performance for the Fund. While not every theatre can schedule a benefit every year, your engager has committed to doing its part this year, an event to which I hope you will give your full support. If the Benefit Performance is a ninth show added to the regular performance week, the CTA permits artists to participate in such a performance without remuneration (with advance notice to Equity).

Since joining the Board of the Actors' Fund of Canada a few years ago, I have come to appreciate just how vigorously the Fund contributes to the ongoing health of the professional entertainment community in this country, and how much all of us benefit from its existence. By helping to raise money for the Fund, you will be playing your important part in this valuable and necessary process, for which we are all deeply grateful.

Please don't hesitate to contact our office if you would like any further information about the Actors' Fund or to find out how you can help in other ways.

Sincerely,

Barry Flatman
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President

Barry Flatman

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