



Kathy Connell

SAG Awards® Executive Producer

Assistant National Executive Director, Awards and National Programming, SAG-AFTRA

Kathy Connell has produced the Screen Actors Guild Awards® for the Screen Actors Guild since its inception. Additionally, in the first two years, she served as chair of the SAG Awards Committee. In 1996, she stepped down from her position on the SAG Board of Directors to become the first full-time producer of the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

In 2007, Connell was appointed executive producer of national programming for Screen Actors Guild and began overseeing the SAG Special Projects department and the SAG Conservatory, as well as many SAG initiatives. As the Assistant National Executive Director of Awards and National Programming in the newly merged SAG-AFTRA, she oversees SAG-AFTRA's Special Project Department, as well as serving as liaison to both the SAG and AFTRA Foundations.

In 2008 Connell produced Screen Actors Guild's yearlong celebration of its 75th Anniversary, which kicked off with SAG's receipt of the Hollywood Historic Trust's Award of Excellence Star on Hollywood Boulevard on Oct. 25, 2007. The commemoration of SAG's Diamond Jubilee continued with a series of tributes at the 14th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards on Jan. 27, 2008, and celebrations in Hollywood, New York and SAG's 20 other branches throughout the spring and summer, culminating in a special honor for SAG at the Hollywood Awards in October 2008. The concurrent "Actors United for 75 Years" multimedia campaign was awarded an International Labor Communications Association Special Performance Award in 2009.

An advocate for the environment, Connell has helped the union and the SAG Awards adopt green practices. This year marks the fifth consecutive year the SAG Awards have been honored with the Environmental Media Association's (EMA) Green Seal. Connell recently accepted EMA's prestigious 2013 Green Production Award honoring the SAG Award's multi-decade, overall commitment to implement sustainable initiatives and promote environmental awareness.

A strong supporter and activist for actors' rights, Connell served for many years on the Board of Directors of Screen Actors Guild, finishing her term of service as SAG's national recording secretary. While an elected official of the SAG Board, she spearheaded the idea for an awards show in which actors would honor actors for outstanding performances each year. Connell led the small group of SAG Board members who devised the entire awards program – from the categories, rules and design of the award to the sit-down dinner club ambiance – in 14 months, resulting in the highly successful 1995 debut of the very first Screen Actors Guild Awards on NBC.

In keeping with the international recognition the SAG Awards has achieved, Connell served as a member of the international jury panel of the 2011 Irish Film & Television Awards, presented by the Irish Film & Television Academy.

A second-generation actor, Connell has performed in film, television commercials and stage for more than 25 years. Among her numerous theater credits are the national tour of *The Royal Family*, with Eva La Gallienne, and appearances at the Syracuse Stage, the Pennsylvania Stage and off-Broadway.

In 1998, Connell co-produced Annie McGreevy's critically acclaimed *The Sheetcake* for the American Film Institute.

