



Kathy Connell

*SAG Awards® Executive Producer
Executive Producer, Awards and National Programming, SAG-AFTRA*

Kathy Connell has produced the Screen Actors Guild Awards® since its inception. In the Awards' 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 SAG Awards, which is celebrating its 21st year.

As Executive Producer, Awards and National Programming for SAG-AFTRA, Connell serves as liaison to both the SAG and AFTRA Foundation and oversees SAG-AFTRA's Special Projects Department as well as many SAG-AFTRA initiatives.

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. The SAG Awards has been honored with the Environmental Media Association's Green Seal for six consecutive years and in 2013 received EMA's prestigious Green Production Award.

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.

Connell is a member of the Producers Guild of America. 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.

