



Origins of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation

The Screen Actors Guild Foundation, formed in 1985, is an educational, humanitarian and philanthropic 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the lives of actors by investing in programs which help them in their professional endeavors and the communities in which they live. Its programs reflect the concerns and interests of SAG-AFTRA performers, as well as their desire to give back to their communities. The Foundation relies solely on the support of grants, corporate sponsorships, and individual contributions to maintain its programs and create new ones in its mission to assist, educate and inspire actors.

The SAG Foundation is independent from SAG-AFTRA but offers substantive services to SAG-AFTRA performers, free of charge. These include casting workshops, career-building seminars, scholarships, emergency financial assistance and catastrophic health care assistance as well as its public children's literacy initiatives. During its history, the SAG Foundation has distributed more than \$20 million to actors facing financial and medical hardship.

The Foundation's John L. Dales Scholarship Fund has awarded more than \$6 million in scholarships to SAG-AFTRA performers and their dependents. The Foundation's ongoing professional development programs, LifeRaft, Conversations and Casting Access, are major sources of continuing education for actors to help them enhance their craft and business skills.

The SAG Foundation operates two Actors Centers in Los Angeles and New York City where performers can hone their craft and develop their skills all at no cost. The Actors Center – Los Angeles offers a screening room, computer lab, classroom and the Don LaFontaine Voiceover Lab, a state-of-the-art recording facility and workshop space providing professional instruction to actors pursuing voiceover careers. The brand new Actors Center – New York opened in May 2014 and includes a cutting edge computer lab offering weekly classes, a classroom for workshops and the state-of-the-art Entertainment Industry Foundation Voiceover Lab of the SAG Foundation.

The SAG Foundation's signature children's literacy programs, [BookPALS](#) (Performing Artists for Literacy in Schools) and [Storyline Online](#), bring the magic of books and reading alive to children worldwide. The SAG Foundation's award-winning children's literacy initiative BookPALS places volunteer union performers in public schools, hospitals and shelters where they read to over 60,000 children every week nationwide. The Foundation's interactive children's literacy website, [Storyline Online](#), streams dozens of creatively produced videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books aloud. Storyline Online exceeds 4 million global views every month.

To find out more about the Screen Actors Guild Foundation, please visit sagfoundation.org. Donations to the SAG Foundation are tax-deductible and welcome at any time of the year. The Foundation also hosts annual fundraising events, including golf tournaments and a poker tournament, which offer performers and other supporters additional opportunities to support the SAG Foundation.

