

Hello

As the year draws to a close I'm sending out one more update before the holidays.

### Return to Work and Production Volumes.

Now that Actors have ratified their new Collective Agreement some work has started to return and there will be more productions starting up in the New Year. While some members are back at work, many of us are not and, and I don't have any additional insight on when production volumes really will pick up. What I would recommend is keeping your availability up to date and consider applying for Second Category Membership in other departments for which you qualify. The Construction, Greens, Set Decorating, and Lighting Departments all have comparable skills, and Construction in particular is likely to see an increase in work before shooting starts as productions start preparation. It can also be beneficial to make sure that your profile is up to date with regards to which classification you are able to work in.

Second Category Applications are available here, and to have Classification Requests processed please email [departments@iatse.com](mailto:departments@iatse.com).

### Support for Members

As I'm sure many of you are aware the Actors Fund, recently paused processing new applications for financial support while they process the applications that they already have. They are scheduled to resume accepting new applications on 8th January, 2024 and in the meantime they are accepting applications from members in urgent need of assistance.

Details on AFC Emergency Aid can be found here, and details of our counselling and other services are available here.

Over recent months I'm aware that some members have had their Extended Health Benefits stopped which I know is a very upsetting thing to have happen. I've spoken to a number of our Health and Benefits Trustees over the course of the year, and they really do have an incredibly difficult job at this time. With a near total shutdown of our industry the Trust's income has been severely impacted presenting some very difficult circumstances. The Trustees' role is to manage the trust in a way that it can provide benefits to members now, while also managing the funds in a way that will protect it in the future. They also have an obligation to consider the interests of the maximum

number of members in all decisions that they make. And for those reasons, some difficult decisions had to be made. I understand that this is no comfort to those members impacted by this, and I truly wish that the situation were different, but I'm afraid that this is the only answer I have at this time.

### Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to 2024 I'm sure we're all hopeful that it will be a better year, and I believe that it will be. Our contract extension will give us a year of stability that most cities will not have. It also means that we will have additional time to prepare for our next round of negotiations, which I certainly am grateful for. I'm also hopeful the Pilot Training Policy that was adopted on a trial basis in the summer is retained as I believe that there are many advantages in the increased range of courses available. With that in mind, if you have any comments or feedback on the Training Policy please let me know and I'll forward them to be included in the review of the Pilot Program. Also, we have our final Department Meeting on Sunday 17th December at 11:00 and invites have already been sent out.

### In Closing

As we enter the holiday period I really do wish you all the best for the holidays and for the new year ahead. I also understand that this can be a difficult time of year at the best of times for some, so please keep in mind the services and support that are available. The phone number for our free and confidential counselling service is 1.800.667-0993, and I recommend saving it in your phone because even though you may not need it, you may encounter someone that does. At the same time, if you are having a tough time, please don't be afraid to reach to your friends, and if you are doing OK and you are able to, please check in on each other.

With sincere best wishes  
Matt

Yours in Solidarity  
Matt Williams  
Chair - Grip Department, IATSE Local 891  
604-679-1571  
matt@blackflaggrips.com

A Rising Tide Floats All Boats

Please do not feel obligated to respond to this message outside of your normal working hours.

If you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please email the sender.