



# STAGE CALL

IATSE 205 PO BOX 142 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

Volume III, Number 1

STAGECALL@IATSE205.ORG

January 2008

## International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 205

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Stage Call Newsletter

stagecall@IATSE205.org

Editors Rachel Magee & Jeff Ellinger

## Message From The President

January 2008 brings with it a new year and a new Executive Board for Local 205. I thank all of you who showed their support for me and helped me be re-elected. You have given me another three years to work on expanding and improving our Local.

I believe that one of the ways to get things done is by committee. The few hours devoted to our regular meeting once a month just is not enough time to delve deeply into the solutions to the problems Local 205 faces. Our contract committees have been very effective and I will continue to appoint committees as the need arises.

Committee meetings are open to all interested members, not just those appointed to a particular committee. The best way to find out how to get involved is to contact the chairs of the respective committees. This information is contained right here in StageCall or in the minutes.

Speaking of the minutes, many of you have not yet registered for the Yahoo! Group. This is an area on the world wide web where you can access many important Local 205 documents. There are minutes going back several years, collective bargaining agreements, a member list and some photographs. You can navigate to the Yahoo! site through our web-site IATSE205.org. Just look for "Links". You must be a member of Local 205 to join this group.

For 2008, I will be giving IATSE205.org a new look with information useful to members and non-members alike. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see included, please feel free to contact me.

Another link you will find at IATSE205.org is to the IATSE Health and Welfare web-site. Here you can find information about your benefits including a work history and employer contributions. Unfortunately, many of you are thinking "So what?" as you do not receive enough contributions to qualify for even the minimum coverage. This brings me to one of my main goals for my term in office.

Health care is a national crisis that must be approached from several fronts. There is of course the political front. We must elect candidates that represent the interests of working men and women. Arguably though, the battle for health coverage must be fought here on the local level. We must fight for more representation and better benefits for those of us working in this craft in Austin, Texas.

The more we are able to organize our jurisdiction, the more contracts we will sign. With each contract will come benefit contributions (albeit modest at first). Eventually, every time you work, a contribution will be made on your behalf and all these contributions will add up to coverage.

The fight will not be easy. We will be told that "We would love to give you better benefits, but we just cannot afford it". Our answer should be "There is no price tag on doing the right thing".

That is exactly what it is about, doing the right thing.

# Did You Know?

## Health and Well Being: Fitness

★ **Did you know that the Union Plus Health Club program offers discounted access to over 1,500 health clubs nationwide?**

Get a pre-negotiated union-member-only discount of 20% - 60% off new health club memberships at popular gyms across the country including Bally's, Curves, and Gold's and World's gyms. To locate a participating gym in your area and get a free trial guest pass, call GlobalFit at **1-888-294-1500** or visit us online at **www.unionplus.org/healthclubs**.

★ **Did you know that the Health Club program makes membership SUPER convenient?**

The union membership discount is great, but there are many reasons to join a gym through the Union Plus Health Club program. Some of our convenient features include an online directory to find a gym near your home or your job; flexible month-to-month memberships; direct billing to your account; and the ability to check out a club for FREE before you join. Sign up today!

★ **Did you know that the Health Club program is as mobile as you are?**

Enjoy great *mobile* benefits like the GlobalFit Travel Program which let's you enjoy the use of any participating gym when you travel. And if that's not enough, now you don't have to worry about losing time on your gym membership if you move. Many of our participating clubs also let you freeze, transfer or cancel your membership. Don't forget to enroll through GlobalFit to enjoy these and other great union-member-only benefits!

★ **Did you know the fitness club discounts are available to union members and their extended families?**

Research shows that the growing waistlines of Americans are affecting family members of all ages. Eating right and living an active life help combat obesity and disease. But bringing your family along to the gym doesn't have to slim down



I joined Global Fit and Curves. With the help of a nutritious diet and exercise, I have lost 33 pounds! I never thought I was going to lose the weight until I joined your membership. But due to the low cost of your membership and Curves for moral support, I was able to do it. And I'm still losing!

**Dawn DeLano-Koch**  
Orange Park, FL

your wallet too. If you're a union member, your family can also enjoy the discounts of the Union Plus Health Club program.

★ **Did you know that BMI, not pounds, is the best weigh to tell if you're overweight?**

Your Body Mass Index (BMI) indicates whether you are considered overweight or obese. To find your BMI, you multiply your weight (in pounds) by 705, then divide twice by your height (in inches). A BMI under 18.5 is underweight and over 25 is overweight. If your BMI index is over 25, see your doctor to find the healthiest weight loss regimen for you.

For more information about Union Plus programs visit

**www.unionplus.org**

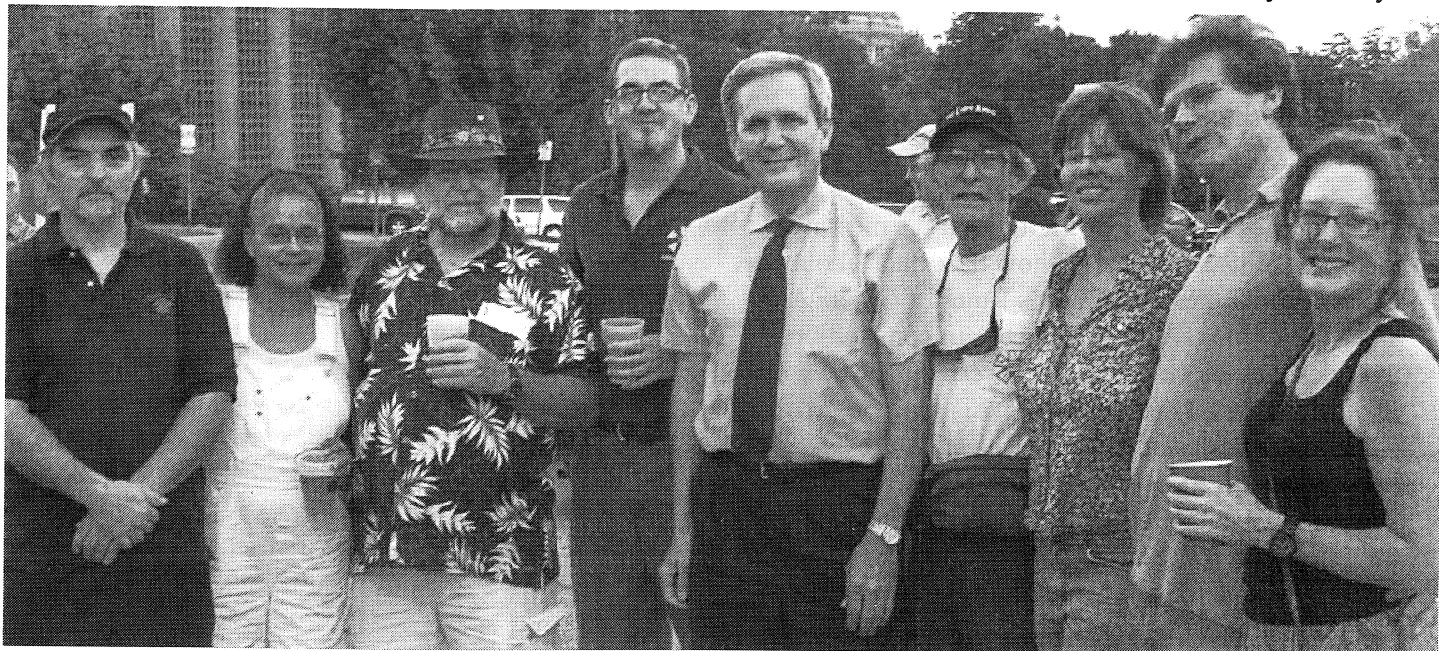
*Union Plus programs brought to you by:*

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202-293-5330 • [www.unionplus.org](http://www.unionplus.org)

DYKHWB-12/05

# Labor Day Solidarity

Local 205 members with the Honorable Lloyd Doggett, U.S. Congressman at the AFL-CIO Labor Day Fish Fry



Pictured from left to right: Bon Davis, Jennifer Roth, Glenn Dunn, Martin Blacker, Congressman Doggett, Jon Vickers, Michelle Lehman, Keith Harris, Rebecca Skelton

## Local News

- Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, per capita dues increase to \$64 per quarter.
- The AMT bankruptcy settlement finally came through and the awarded amount has been deposited in the Local's general fund!
- The Long Center will officially open on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Tours of the facility operate twice daily during the week.
- Local 205 has established a defense fund and a defense fund committee. The committee will define and manage this fund. Brother Brad Wilson is the Chair.
- Local 205 donated \$200 to the Capital Area Food Bank for Christmas. Brother John Przyborski and his wife, Pat volunteered their time over Christmas, helping to distribute donated food.
- Welcome new members, Blair Hurry and Steve Woods.
- Welcome back to Austin, Sister Laura Vilches.
- Congratulations to Brother Ethan Balmer on the birth of his baby boy!

## Election Results

### Officers:

**President - Keith Harris**  
**Vice President - Don Driscoll**  
**Business Agent - Jon Maloy**  
**Treasurer - Rita Kelso**  
**Secretary- Michelle Lehman**  
**Sergeant at Arms - Brad Wilson**

### Trustees:

**Death Fund - Rita Kelso**  
**Payroll - Michelle Lehman**  
**General Fund - Rachel Magee**

Get Info From Local 205  
On The Web  
[www.iatse205.org](http://www.iatse205.org)

# Steward's Corner

Brothers and Sisters,

First off, the Steward's Council wishes everyone a safe and happy and financially secure 2008!

As usual, I'm a little off topic in this issue, but since I joined the local I've noticed at the meetings that most of us don't really know that much about how to act according to the Robert's Rules of Order. And since these rules are, according to our constitution, the rules that we've chosen to govern ourselves with in most matters, I decided to use this space to go over some of the basics of Robert's Rules. We're a small enough organization that we usually don't need to be so formal all the time, but we're growing and we are affiliated with some larger groups where these rules are strictly adhered to. So I think we, the membership at large, should at least have a grasp of the basics, if for no other reason than self interest.

Before we get into the Rules themselves, here's a little background. Robert's Rules of Order is a book originally compiled and written by U.S. Brigadier General Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923), one time head of the Army Corps of Engineers. Now in its 10<sup>th</sup> edition, it was first published in 1876 as a manual for the many Societies and Fraternal Orders that then existed in our society. Thus, the Rules are pulled from many sources, including the writings of Thomas Jefferson, but, as Robert himself put it, they are "based, in ... general principles, upon the rules and practice of [the U.S.] Congress and adapted ... to the use of ordinary societies." (Robert, XXXVIII)

Robert's Rules are designed not only to provide the means of keeping order in a meeting, they also exist to protect the rights of the people having the meeting. In other words, if an individual member or group of members is opposed to a new idea being proposed they have the right, as well as the tools, to try and convince the majority of the members present to oppose it. Or, if they feel they can't get the votes they need that day, there are mechanisms for delaying any decision on the matter until another meeting.

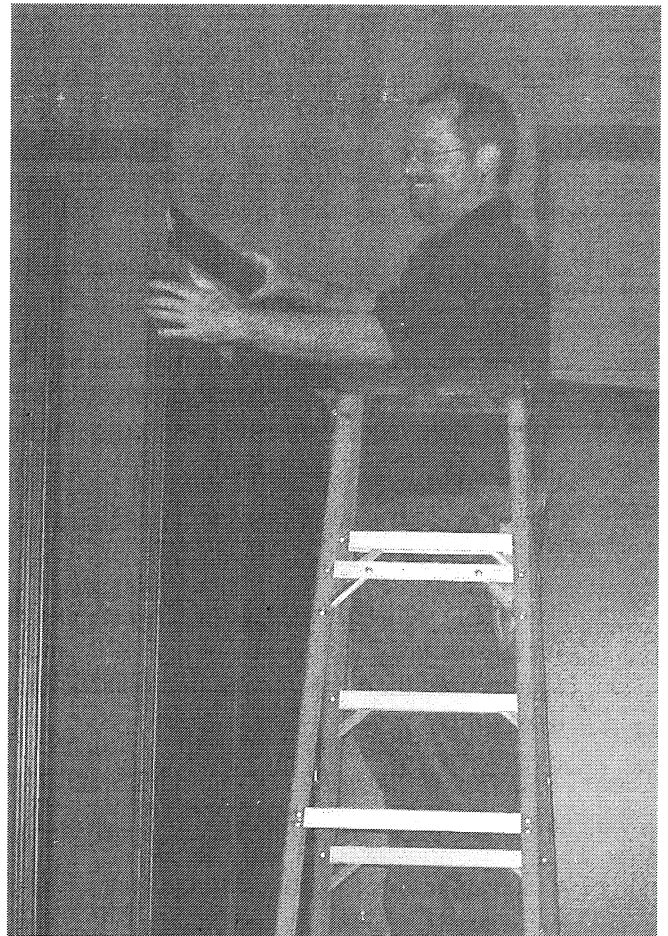
Another principle at the base of Robert's Rules is the idea of stability for the group as a whole, which is why it is harder to undo something than to do something. For instance, the usual rule of thumb is that if it took a simple majority to pass something, it takes 2/3 majority to rescind it. (Robert, 294-96)

To sum up, Robert's Rules of Order is a

manual for groups such as our local union on how to ensure the orderly and efficient conduct of the business of the organization. The Rules do this by providing various mechanisms for determining the will of the majority while simultaneously protecting the rights of the individual or minority. They also help promote efficiency, fairness and stability by ensuring that the group only deliberate on one issue at a time.

Next time we'll go into the mechanics of bringing a motion before the body. Until then, don't forget to call the B.A. with your availability each week, even if you can't work. It helps the local know what work is going on in and around Austin. And look for the next series of Steward Training Classes. Every member should take the course, even if you never plan on being a call steward. You should know your rights at work!

In solidarity,  
Brad Wilson

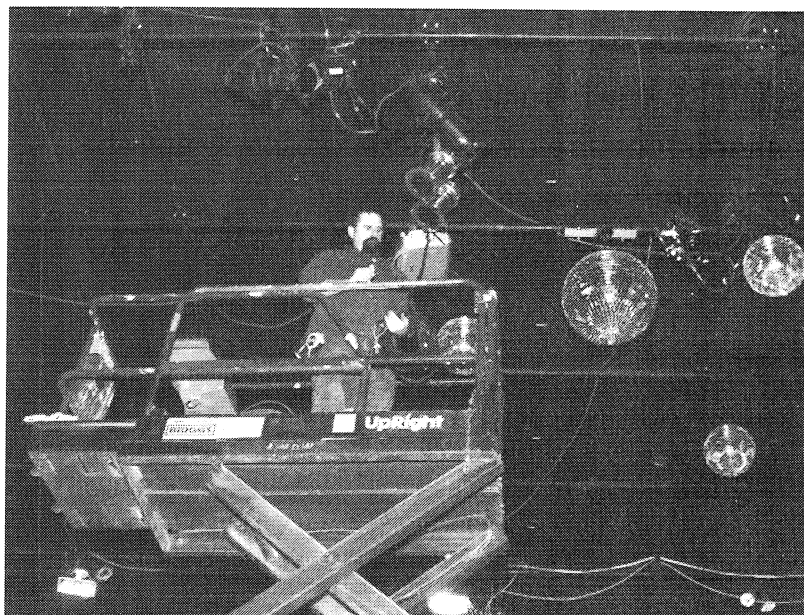


Brother Brad Wilson at GES Show Austin  
Convention Center September 2007  
Photo by Jim Willis



## Sponsor Spotlight-ACTION FIGURE

Action Figure is an East Austin based full service commercial production company. With its small, creative staff, Action Figure has an intimate feel, and is the hidden gem of East Austin. A typical day at Action Figure is anything but typical, with commercials, stage rentals, and photo shoots one second, to editing and post-production the next. Comprised of talented directors, editors, and cinematographers, Action Figure creates a unique body of award-winning work. Most recently, the Action Figure team wrapped HEB commercials, promotional material for Norwegian Cruise Line, and a project for BMW. In addition, Action Figure handled both production and post for the popular online talent competition, FameCast. With projects ranging from music videos and commercials to television series like "Downtown," and



Local 205 Member Sandy Gilzow Working with Action Figure

"Rollergirls," Action Figure has made a name for itself since its creation in 1997. The relationship between Action Figure and IATSE 205 developed when union members helped to install equipment for two sound and insert stages on the premises, known independently as East Side Stages. Action Figure continues to employ a number of skilled union members as crew on various productions, and is proud to be this month's sponsor of Stage Call. -Krystel Schley

### Death Fund Anniversary Approaching – Mark Your Calendars!

February 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 is the anniversary date of Local 205's death fund. This is the only date when changes can be made to this fund. Death fund trustee, Ric Vela is going to be proposing some important changes to this fund, including stopping the unnecessary, draining monthly contributions from the general fund to the death fund. To pass a change such as this, brother Vela will need a 'yes' vote from two thirds of the membership by the anniversary date. Brother Vela will be mailing out proxy forms for those who cannot attend the February meeting to vote in person. I strongly urge each and every member to participate in this important event. With a two thirds majority needed, your vote or lack thereof will count.

In solidarity,  
Rachel Magee

### Electronic Newsletter?

Would you prefer to receive your copy of Stage Call electronically? The newsletter committee is considering offering an electronic version of *Stage Call* that can be sent directly to your inbox, instead of your mailbox. If you are interested in receiving *Stage Call* electronically in the future, please e-mail us at [StageCall@IATSE205.org](mailto:StageCall@IATSE205.org) expressing your interest and the address you would like the issues e-mailed to.

### The Organizing Fund Needs You!

Membership contributions are needed. Please donate what you can. If you cannot donate money, please donate some time.

# Knowing The Ropes



President Keith Harris leads a fly rail class at the Paramount Theatre as Sister Michelle Lehman observes.

Photo by Brother Todd Drga

## Local 205 Trustees

<b>Death Fund</b>	<b>Trinka Withers to serve until 2/24/09</b> <b>Ric Vela to serve until 2/24/10</b> <b>Rita Kelso to serve until 2/24/11</b>
<b>Payroll Fund</b>	<b>Glenn Dunn to serve until 12/31/08</b> <b>Mary Nelson to serve until 12/31/09</b> <b>Michelle Lehman to serve until 12/31/10</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Jon Vickers to serve until 12/31/08</b> <b>Sanford Gilzow to serve until 12/31/09</b> <b>Rachel Magee to serve until 12/31/10</b>
<b>AFL/CIO CLC</b>	<b>Glenn Dunn</b> <b>Brad Wilson</b> <b>Martin Blacker</b>
<b>COPE Delegate</b>	<b>Keith Harris</b>

## *Health and Welfare Fund Questions?*

800-456-3863

212-897-3232

## Class Information

371-1217

Mailbox 3

## Current Committees Be Part of the Process!

**Volunteer Organizing:** Chair, Eric Miller  
**Purpose:** To facilitate the organization of Local 205's jurisdiction.

**Communications:** Chair, Bon Davis.  
**Purpose:** To improve communication within Local 205.

**Newsletter:** Chair, Rachel Magee.  
**Purpose:** To produce a tri-annual newsletter for the membership and the general public.

**Steward's:** Chair, Brad Wilson.  
**Purpose:** To assist the BA and improve solidarity in Local 205 through the use of qualified stewards.

**Long Center:** Chair, Rick Tatum.  
**Purpose:** To explore the possibility of obtaining a union contract with the Long Center.

**Contracts:** Chair, Jon Maloy.  
**Purpose:** To develop new contracts on behalf of 205.

**Defense Fund:** Chair, Brad Wilson.  
**Purpose:** To determine how best to use and manage defense fund monies.

Members wishing to serve on the above committees, or members who have opinions and suggestions about any of the issues concerning our current committees should contact the relevant committee chair.

## From The B.A.

Ray Chapman played shortstop for the Cleveland Indians baseball club from Aug. 20, 1912 to Aug. 16, 1920. He did everything but hit for power. He is 6<sup>th</sup> on baseballs lifetime sacrifice hit list and he only played 8 full seasons. He set a team stolen base record that stood for 63 years. He led the American League in runs, and walks and numerous fielding statistics. In August 1920 Cleveland and New York and Chicago were taking turns in first place, and Chapman was hitting .303 with 97 runs scored. Earlier in the year the Indians were in a losing streak and he announced to the team that the cause was that they were not singing enough so he led them in song on the train and subway. He was building a house for his new wife and considering retiring to join his father-in-laws business. In a game against the Yankees pitcher Carl Mays threw a pitch that struck Chapman in the head. He died 12 hours later, the only major leaguer to die from an injury. The Indians went on to win the pennant and their first world series. His replacement, rookie Joe Sewell would end up in the Baseball Hall Of Fame. Ray Chapman had in his wallet his union card from local #986 of the United Mine Workers from his days in the mines with his dad in Illinois.

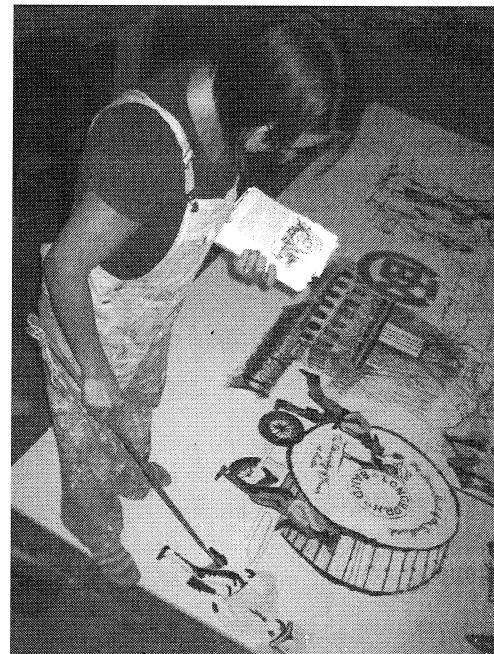
An example of how many small elements can come together and change a bigger picture. The spitball was banned from baseball. Earlier in the year owners had complained that umpires were throwing out too many balls so they were told to only discard dangerous ones. Now they were ordered to replace discolored balls with clean ones more often. The introduction of the batting helmet was credited to the accident. Pitchers can also be ejected from a game if an ump feels that a bean ball has been thrown.

Economic activity throughout history has migrated from one geographical area to another. Modern capitalism developed from the Italian city-states to Flanders to The Netherlands to Great Britain to America. In each area it followed the same pattern. Once established, the governments, the workers and the industrialist all insisted on increasing their share of the wealth. Securing cheap raw materials (and labor) fueled the imperialist drive of the European nations. When the cost becomes too great the train moves on. China and the rest of Asia are the next stop for the capitalism express. Although globalization makes world markets accessible the growth of the home market has been the basic fuel for economic expansion. China will be selling to the Chinese. Will an authoritarian government allow a billion workers to join unions? Be wise, organize. Happy New Year and congratulations to the Long Center.

-Business Agent Jon Maloy

## Local 205 Hiring Hall

Local 205 operates a hiring hall as part of our service to the community. We provide technicians with job opportunities through contracts and agreements with many employers including arts groups and theatres and business organizations. To be eligible for referral a person must register by phone every Monday 7am-5pm at 512-371-1217. You must leave your name, telephone number, and availability for the work week beginning that Wednesday through Tuesday. Subscribers may be required to fill out information forms and skills forms. Subscribers calling in after Monday will be eligible for positions still available. The hiring hall charges a 4% referral fee. Employees must be able to fill out w-4, I-9, dues check-off, time cards or other forms required by the employer or the local. It is the obligation of every employee to report to the steward ready to work with the required tools and to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the local and the employer. The required basic tools are: Crescent Wrench, Hammer, Phillips and Flathead Screwdrivers, Matte Knife, 20' Tape Measure, Pliers, Wire Cutters, and Gloves. Other tools may be required. The operation of the hiring hall is administered by the Business Agent and any questions or concerns may be addressed to the steward or the B. A. or the President of Local 205.



**Sister Rachel Magee Paints a Backdrop  
for Texas Ex-Students Association**



Austin, TX 78767  
P.O. Box 142  
STAGE CALL Newsletter

## ACTION FIGURE

This issue of Stage Call sponsored by

## Local 205 and KXAN



Brother Jim Ford and KXAN Chief Engineer Adam Garza.  
Local 205 built the KXAN set, designed by FX Group, Florida.

### IATSE Local 205

For ninety-seven years, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205, has been serving the Austin area as the labor union representing technicians, artisans and crafts persons in the entertainment industry, including live theatre, concert and convention events. We are the source for professional experienced personnel, including Stagehands, Scenic Carpenters, Properties Personnel, Projectionists, Riggers, Wardrobe Personnel, Lighting Technicians, Sound Technicians, Audio/Visual Technicians, Camera Operators, and Decorators. We can cover your stagecraft needs from corporate meeting to musical theatre. Contact the Business Representative of Local 205 for information on staffing your production.

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