



SPOTLIGHT

Theatrical Protective
Union Local No. One
IATSE, AFL-CIO, CLC
Organized 1886

SPRING 2010

SOUND ASSOCIATES HAS IT ALL!



The Sound Associates Crew at the Yonkers, NY shop

by Mary Wills-Schulherr

***The trade union
movement represents
the organized economic
power of the workers.
It is in reality the most
potent and the most
direct social insurance
the workers can
establish.***

— Samuel Gompers

Sound Associates has come a long way from its humble beginnings as a small sound shop in the theatre district purchased by Thomas Fitzgerald from the Green Brothers in 1946. His work on Broadway earned him two stage technician Tony nominations in 1957 and 1959. Thomas Fitzgerald also served as a Local One Trustee from 1945 to

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we near the end of the first quarter of 2010, I must commend our rank and file and in particular our Heads of Departments for their efforts in coming together in a difficult time. Our Special Meetings outlined the Local's objectives to persevere through a downturn in employment and the need to maintain our membership's healthcare have been productive.

The Executive Board and in particular Secretary Score, Treasurer McDonough and I continue to monitor the Union's financial status of our Welfare Fund. The Board's weekly review of Shop Steward reports reveals that our Department Heads are answering the call of the Union and prioritizing the hiring of those most appropriate and in need. I must commend the efforts of Brothers Bob Weiss, Joe Beck, Ken McDonough and Dan Gilloon for the appropriate crewing of several of the Local's larger special events. Brother Dennis White at Madison Square Garden, Brother John Powers at The Beacon Theater are commended as well as the above and beyond effort provided by Brothers Steve Diaz (Master Carpenter), Paul Donahue (Head Electrician) and Jim Blumenfeld (Head Props) at The Metropolitan Opera House, where employment was made available when most needed.

For those who were requested to attend the Special Meetings and did, I thank you on behalf of our Union. Your concern for the importance of the vital information provided is appreciated. For those in the minority who did not attend as requested and even worse did not contact "Your Union" with a reason why, I can only suggest that you owe more to your Brothers and Sisters who deserve your leadership and participation necessary to maintain our position as the Premiere Stagecraft Local. We must come together when the call is made.

Our Pension, Welfare and Annuity meeting scheduled for April 7th with Management Trustees will be a difficult one for Brothers Score, McDonough and me. We appreciate the efforts of the Business Agents to pursue and capture more work this first quarter and are counting on a significant upturn in employment beginning in April to bolster our ammunition in fighting off Management's demands to reduce our medical coverage and increase our out of pocket costs. Specific efforts of note include both Television Business Agents Nimmo and McMahon's success, with the assistance of the Board, in achieving a contract with *The Emeril Lagasse* TV show. This television production had every intention of going non-union until the threat of Local One membership's willingness to exercise their legal rights in the protection of our jurisdiction was made clear. I was in attendance at the close of the deal with Management where Business Manager Bob Nimmo's effort to secure the final deal was brilliant. The Theatre Business Managers also should be commended for their efforts in achieving a productive agreement for *The Allman Brothers* first ever concert at The United Palace Theatre on

Continued on page 5

FROM THE DESK OF THE RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we move into the spring season, I thought it appropriate to remind you of a few items that could be meaningful to you and you families.

The **Summary Plan Description (SPD)** booklet of the **Union Benefits Plan** is an important document to keep in a safe place and to refer to for all your questions pertaining to the Doctor Visit Plan, the Vision Plan, the Dental Plan, Premium Reimbursements, the Burial Allowance, Long Term Disability, the Life Insurance Plan, NYS Disability and the Disability Inactive Benefit in addition to Surviving Spouses Benefits. All those benefits are explained in detail in the booklet. If you need one, please contact the Union office and we will mail you an additional copy.

The **Union Benefits** are paid out of the General Fund. It is because of all your hard work and the monitoring of the benefit expenses by the officers and committees that we are able to maintain and enjoy the wide array of benefits.

The Local also produced an **Officers & Staff Directory** containing the direct phone numbers, cell phone numbers, fax numbers, email addresses, telephone extension numbers, the automated telephone service numbers and the main phone and fax number for your ease in contacting any officer or staff member. If you do not have a copy of the directory, please feel free to contact the Secretary's Office to obtain however many you need.

Local One is very fortunate to have such a close working relationship with **The Actors Fund**. President James J. Claffey, Jr, is the first Local One President to serve on their Board of Trustees. Please consider joining **The Actors Fund**. Their main telephone number is 212-221-7300. The Union recently produced, along with **The Actors Fund**, a wallet card containing contact information and a listing of all their social services. Again, if you need one, please contact the Secretary's Office and we will mail the card to you.

Finally, it is very important for the office to have all **up-to-date contact information** from you including any email addresses, cell phone numbers, work phone numbers and, of course, your correct home telephone and mailing address.

I thank you for your attention and wish you all the best for a fruitful spring season.

Fraternally,

Robert C. Score
Recording-Corresponding Secretary

TREASURER'S UPDATE

“Imagine a world where victims of spinal cord injuries can walk, where there are no shortages of organs for those in need of an organ transplant, where diabetes is no longer treated with insulin shots but cured by implanting insulin producing pancreatic islets grown from the individual's own **stem cells**. Such is the promise of stem cell based regenerative medicine as envisioned by both the NIH (National Institutes of Health) and the HHS (Department of Health and Human Services).”

The above excerpt was taken from the Sele-Dent Winter newsletter. As all of you know, stem cell research is nothing new. What is new is that recent studies have shown that there are powerful stem cells in teeth, yes TEETH!

The best stem cells are found in baby teeth. Recovering stem cells from baby teeth ensures the stem cells are young, strong and vital. Wisdom teeth from young adults also present an excellent opportunity as well.

Saving your own stem cells from your teeth means that once they are introduced to the body during treatment, they will not be rejected as a foreign tissue. Sele-Dent has partnered with StemSave to offer stem cell banking to you the members. They have secured discounted retrieval and storage fees. Just use promo code “SeleDentMem” to receive your discounts. The costs are considerably less than the traditional new born cord blood retrieval and storage expenses. You can visit www.stemsave.com to get more information regarding the procedure. Sele-Dent can also answer any questions you may have. It's amazing that a trip to the dentist could potentially change or save a life!

You should have recently received a mailing from the Fund office to check or update your family's information in regard to who is covered under the **Welfare Fund**. The letter also lets you review your beneficiaries for the **Pension and Annuity Funds**. Please read through this information carefully and make any needed changes or updates.

By now, you all should have received your US Census form in the mail. I cannot stress enough how important it is to complete and return your Census forms. The Census serves as the basis for two very important functions:

- 1 – Rebalancing power at nearly every level of Government and;
- 2 – Distributing Federal and State taxpayer money

Each Congressional, State House and Senate, County Boards and City council representative's seat all must adjust to the new Census 2010 counts with new District maps. If Census forms are not filled out, the population in certain districts will decrease and therefore you could lose one or more of the above referenced political seats, which results in less power in our respective State and Washington, D.C. representatives. You also fall lower on the charts for appropriate Federal and State taxpayer dollars; monies that go to our schools, hospitals, infrastructure, Medicaid, lunch programs in our schools and such, just to name a few.

Please fill out your Census 2010 form and return them today.

Spring is here. It's been one hell of a winter. It's good to hear the birds chirping again. As always, I am at your service. If you have any questions regarding your benefits or the above information, do not hesitate to give me a call.

Respectfully,

Robert “Toby” McDonough
Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued from page 2

175th Street and Broadway. Brothers Andy O'Neill, Matt Maloney and John Woytas supported the effort on behalf of the contract and should also be commended.

Some of the current open or ongoing contract negotiations include NBC Television, Aaron Davis Hall, Mitzi Newhouse Theatre, Fox Network and the first ever negotiation with the newly organized Joyce Theatre.

At this time, I would like to thank those members of the Benefits Committee, Safety Committee, Spotlite newsletter Committee, the Budget Committee, the volunteer members of our Political Action Committee, all negotiating committees and our 125th Anniversary Gala Committee for all their services provided to the membership under my administration of the last three years. I would also like to particularly thank Brothers John M. Diaz, Sr. and Bill Nimmo for their terrific work on the Education/Technology Committees.

In closing, we approach our upcoming election of Officers this May. I would urge all members to attend our April 18th Membership Meeting to view Local One's democracy at its very best with the candidate nominations. As Local One's current President, I urge all members to participate in the election process and show up to vote on Sunday, May 2nd. I truly believe that the sophistication and wisdom of our 3,000 members will prevail in choosing those members that will represent the strength, influence and skills of the finest Labor Organization in the world.

It remains my honor to serve you.

James J. Claffey, Jr.
President
Local One, I.A.T.S.E.



THEATRICAL
PROTECTIVE UNION
LOCAL No. ONE,
IATSE, AFL-CIO, CLC



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**ALL QUESTIONS, COMMENTS
AND SUBMISSIONS GREATLY
APPRECIATED**

Upcoming Monthly Membership
Meeting dates are:

Apr. 18, 2010

with officer nominations

SPECIAL MEETING: May 2, Election Day
May 23, June 27

**COME TO YOUR
UNION MEETINGS!
IT'S INFORMATIVE AND
PART OF YOUR DUTY AS
A MEMBER.**

Organized in 1886, Local Number One has served the entertainment community in theatre, television, and other entertainment venues proudly and professionally. With over three thousand members covering an expanding jurisdiction throughout the greater New York metropolitan area, our experience and knowledge covers the range of expertise required for any application. From fabrication to installation to safe operation, we can do it.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT JAMES J. CLAFFEY, JR.; VICE PRESIDENT WILLIE WALTERS; TREASURER ROBERT (TOBY) McDONOUGH; RECORDING-CORRESPONDING SECRETARY ROBERT C. SCORE; CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES JOHN M. DIAZ, SR.; THEATRICAL BUSINESS MANAGERS MICHAEL WEKSELBLATT AND KEVIN MCGARTY; TELEVISION BUSINESS MANAGERS ROBERT NIMMO AND EDWARD McMAHON, III; TRUSTEES WILLIAM NGAI AND DANIEL DASHMAN; REPLACEMENT ROOM OFFICER DANIEL THORN; ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY EDMOND SUPPLE, SR.; AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY ANTHONY MANNO



Treasurer Toby McDonough and Financial Secretary Anthony Manno celebrated Retiree Alvin George's 89th Birthday and his 62nd year as a member with a lunch in his honor.

Author Ann Ferrar is writing a biography of theatrical actress-singer-comedienne-mimic Elsie Janis. Elsie Janis was a major star of the New York stage and vaudeville from the early 1900s up till 1929. She also entertained the soldiers of World War I. Some of her plays include "The Vanderbilt Cup" (1906), "The Century Girl" (1916-17, coproduced by Charles Dillingham and Florenze Ziegfeld) and "Elsie Janis and Her Gang" (1919 and 1922, a World War I revue). Janis made another appearance in a self-titled show in 1939; she coproduced "New Faces of 1934." Ferrar is seeking to speak with anyone or their descendants who remembers Elsie Janis and/or who has kept scrapbooks or other memorabilia of Janis. Ms. Ferrar is based in New Jersey and would so much appreciate hearing from you at 732-408-0267 or via email at ferrar1022@verizon.net.

Author Ferrar thanks you for your help.

BROTHER ROBERT JACOBI RETIRES



LEFT to RIGHT: Business Managers Bob Nimmo, Mike Wekselblatt, Jessica Wex and Retiree Robert Jacobi. After thirty-nine years at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, starting out first at Avery Fisher Hall and then as a Basic Crew member at Alice Tully Hall, Brother Robert Jacobi has decided to enjoy the fruits of his labor. His deep family roots in this Local and extensive historical knowledge will always remain an asset to our brotherhood. We wish him well.

**NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE BILL DE
BLASIO VISITS WITH PRESIDENT
CLAFFEY AND OUR NYS STAGEHANDS
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**NY STATE COMPTROLLER TOM DE
NAPOLI WITH SECRETARY BOB
SCORE AND FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ANTHONY MANNO**



TUBE TALK

By Bob Nimmo

Challenges = Opportunities...

As the first quarter of 2010 draws to a close, it is an appropriate time to look back at the challenges of 2009 and forward to the opportunities in 2010. In the world of network television, 2009 presented many challenges for Local One, the most serious being the loss of the soaps at both ABC and CBS.

ABC TV 23 is now open and operational again with *One Life to Live* having been relocated from TV 17 to 23. At this time the fate of TV 17 is not certain although the company contends that the studio space will be converted to offices for ESPN. We will wait to see what actually develops for that space in 2010.

At CBS the new Jerry Seinfeld *Marriage Ref* show is in the former studio home of *Guiding Light*. The great news at CBS for 2010 is that the company has made the financial commitment to upgrade to High Definition this facility which will attract new clients and lead to more employment for Local One members.

All Mobile Video, an employer who provides employment for Local One on five different stages at 26th Street, saw the end of the *Tyra Banks Show* in 2009 after a five year run. However there is definite interest in her studio, Studio B, and optimistically, by the time you are reading this, the studio will be occupied by another show.

Also at 26th St., *The Martha Stewart Show* will no longer be seen on NBC in this market. However the show will continue to be done at All Mobile and seen on

The Hallmark Channel. This change of carriers should create additional work in the studio with the Hallmark people now crunching the numbers to use the facility five days a week with sometimes a different host other than Martha.

Another positive note is that one of the pilot shows we did in 2009 for *Omnimedia* was picked up and developed into a series. The show is a new *Emeril Lagasse* cooking show. The show will be broadcast on Ion TV on Sunday evenings at 10:00PM. The show is now in production at the NEP 33rd St. Studios. After some education by the membership of Local One to After Five Productions, the production company, contract was signed. They are delighted to have Local One members doing our traditional, professional stagehand work on the show.

*The
second quarter
should mark a
dramatic increase
in event work.*

In the area of special events, the market factors and the feed back from the production companies indicate that the second quarter of 2010 should mark the beginning of a dramatic increase in the event work from 2009.

The year 2009 was difficult for the Local, from the challenges with employment to the challenge that our families continue to receive the best health care possible. We must stay united as the Local has been through two World Wars, a depression, and several recessions. The challenges create opportunities; opportunities that Local One members will seize, manage and prosper from.

SOUND ASSOCIATES, from page 1



Richie Fitzgerald, CEO, Sound Associates

1947, Vice President from 1955 to 1957, then President of Local One from 1964 to 1966. In 1976, Thomas Fitzgerald posthumously received a Special Tony Award “to the gifted lighting technician of countless Broadway shows and many Tony telecasts,” according to tonyawards.com. Sound Associates is now owned by his sons, T. Richard Fitzgerald, the CEO, and Peter Fitzgerald, its President.

Sound Associates has expanded from its small origins on 52nd Street to its current locales: an office on 45th Street, complete with full recording studio; a satellite office in Atlanta, GA; and its main shop in Yonkers. Twenty-five to thirty people now work for Sound Associates.

Peter Fitzgerald’s most recent Broadway sound designed shows are *Race, Looped* (Co-designed with Michael Hooker) and *All About Me*. Peter enjoys working with producers in the bidding process and, even after thirty years in the business, he still likes the hands-on aspects of shop work and studio work. Other current Broadway shows using Sound Associates sound equipment are *The Miracle Worker*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Fela!*

Brother Matt Maloney is the foreman at the 45th Street Studio. Brothers Mark Annunziato, Vice President of Operations; Matt Evra-Silver, former apprentice, now

technician; Scott Weeks, shop steward and technician; and Christopher Ramsden, apprentice; fill out the roster at 45th Street. Brother Carl Casella, Sound Engineer, tells us that the studio is perfectly situated: there is nothing above or below to interfere with any recording.

Christine Ebersole recently recorded her latest CD *Christine Ebersole Sings Noel Coward* at the 45th Street Studio, the only Local One sound studio in the jurisdiction. Peter Fitzgerald both produced the CD and helped mix it. In addition to the CD recording, the Studio is also used for theatrical purposes. For instance, all of the incidental music for *Blithe Spirit* was recorded here.

Brother Joe Maloney, the Yonkers shop foreman, gave us a tour of their headquarters. Brother Pete Ponga showed us the road boxes and racks that Sound Associates builds in-house. We watched Brother Bob Casey custom-make CQ speaker stands in the metal shop, and listened to Brothers Bill Stanton and Chad Lawrenz describe the fine-tuning of frequencies assigned for Broadway wireless needs. The recent purchase of the shop space next door has allowed Sound Associates to move the ‘building’ of shows into this new space. Brothers Jonathan Cohen, John ‘Rafe’ Carlotto, John Gibson, and Sister Valerie

Continued on page 10

SOUND ASSOCIATES continued from page 9

Spradling were busy building *Enron* in the new and comfortable work area. The expansion left room to create a new Video Department, headed by Brother Chris Cronin, who recently designed the video for *All About Me*. Brother Gregory Reif, Project Supervisor, named several recent Broadway shows that use Sound Associates Video: *Jersey Boys*, *Fela!*, *Billy Elliot*, and *Mary Poppins*.

The entire Yonkers shop spaces are light and airy thanks to many skylights. Brother Dave Burke showed us the solar panels that were recently added to the roof of the main shop area. The approximately 100 solar panels generate 25-33% of the shop's electrical use. A plan to install more solar panels on top of the newly acquired space next door broadens Sound Associates commitment to energy conservation and green planning. The electricity generated on the weekend is sold back to the power company. Kudos to Sound Associates for going green!

Sound Associates had continued to innovate. In 1980, Richard Fitzgerald received a Tony Award for his work in designing and developing the light-wave based infrared system which aids the hearing impaired in Broadway theaters. In addition to the infrared system, Richie Fitzgerald and Sound Associates have expanded their products to assist patrons with special needs.

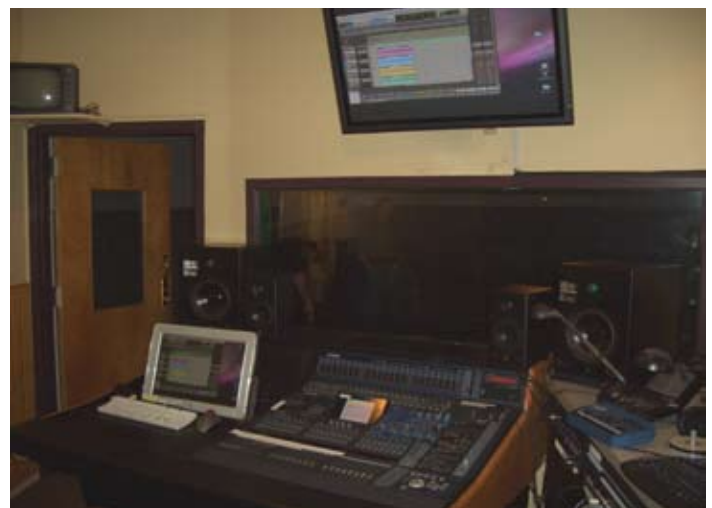
Their *I-Caption*® is a hand-held device which gives captions for a show, in real time, for the deaf. *D-Scriptive* is a hand-held device that gives an audio description of the movement and scenery on stage for the vision impaired. *ShowTrans* provides simultaneous translation of dialogue for non-English speaking patrons in one of six languages. Since all theaters already have infrared device distribution systems in



TOP: *D-Scriptive* (synchronized show descriptions) and *ShowTrans* (select from six languages) use the same convenient shirt pocket size shape.

ABOVE: *I-Caption*® is available for many different shows for special needs patrons.

BELOW: 45th Street Studio control room equipped with state of the art equipment.





Brother Bill Stanton busy testing wireless microphone dynamics.



ABOVE: Brother John Gibson carefully wiring an equipment rack in preparation for installation on "Enron."

BELOW: Brother Walter Yurgel's fun PEZ collection.



Apprentice Christopher Ramsden, Mark Annunziato, Matt Evra-Silver and Carl Casella at the 45th Street studio.

place, a patron can ask for the *I-Caption*[®], *D-Scriptive* or *ShowTrans* device when they purchase their ticket at the box office. One can call Sound Associates (212-582-7678) or check on line Infrared@soundassociates.com to see if a particular show carries these devices for audience members with special needs.

For the working professionals in our industry, Sound Associates designed and built a touch-screen listening station. Rather than having to keypad or dial up a transmitter, one can now use a touch screen. Nice! They also build an antennae distribution station so that one can assign any range of assigned frequencies rather than having the typical four fixed bandwidths in an install.

Sound Associates savvy was put to the test recently at the Princess of Wales Theater in Toronto for the production of *The Lord of the Rings*. Sixty-four Sennheiser Wireless transmitters and thirty-two wireless headsets were used without a glitch. Instead of checking frequencies on several battered pieces of paper listing which shows have specific assigned frequencies, wireless sound technicians can fine tune and filter in frequencies using Inter Mod software to monitor, check and safely assign wireless frequencies without overlapping another nearby show's wavelengths.

Thank you Richie and Peter Fitzgerald and all those at Sound Associates for taking the time to talk to us. Thank you also to Adrian Davis who reminded us to take a look at Brother Walter Yurgel's Pez collection. Sound Associates does indeed have it all.

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LOCAL ONE ARCHIVES



Singin' In The Rain stage crew, George Gershwin Theatre, circa 1985. When we were young.