

Stuntwomen were honored at the Diamond in the Raw awards on October 16. Back row, from left, Naomi Peters, National Stunt & Safety Committee; honoree and stuntwoman Glory Fioramonti; Conrad Palmisano, national chair of the Stunt & Safety Committee; Vanessa Vander Pluym, a member of the National Stunt & Safety Committee. Front row, from left, L. Scott Caldwell, national co-chair, SAG Women's Committee; SAG member Vivicca Whitsett; Glenn Hiraoka, national director of the SAG Stunt & Safety Department.



Stuntwomen Sparkle at Diamond in the Raw Awards

October 16 was a day to honor stuntwomen at the Diamond in the Raw awards luncheon at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The event brought together top members of Hollywood's stunt community, as well as other SAG members and staff, for the celebration. The event, hosted by Kevin Frazier and Brooke Anderson (*The Insider*), followed a three-day seminar from October 12 – 14 featuring workshops on performance capture, rigging, stunt coordinating and taking the Hollywood stuntwoman to the next level.

Among the 2011 honorees, Ashley Fiolek won the Dare2BDifferent Award, Glory Fioramonti won the Helen Gibson Award and Kym Washington took the Diamond in the Raw Award. Vivica A. Fox received the Action Icon Award for film and Daniela Ruah received the Action Icon Award for television. Conrad Palmisano, stunt coordinator/stuntman and chair of the SAG National Stunt & Safety Committee, received a surprise Humanitarian Award. The winners of the remaining awards were announced at the event: April Weeden won the Mentorship Award; Luci Romberg won the Jewel Award; stuntwoman Shauna Duggins, doubling Adrienne Palicki, won the Dynamic Duo Award; stunt coordinator Joel Kramer won the Gem Award; and Melissa Barker won the "WOW" Stuntwoman of the Year. Special presenters were Michael Cudlitz, Jazmin Lewis, Chad L. Coleman, Phil Morris and Cassie Scebro. Also on hand to announce the awards were Dallas Malloy, Rolonda Watts, Ronn Moss and Katherine Kelly Lang.

The event's honorary committee included Mary Albee, Jay Amor, Vic Armstrong, Wendy Armstrong, Vanessa Bell Calloway, Wally Crowder, Assemblyman Mike Davis, Glenn Hiraoka, Palmisano, Deborah Pratt, Ilyanne Morden Kichaven, Missy Reynolds, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and Jim Vickers.

The awards luncheon benefitted the Diamond in the Raw Foundation, which empowers and transforms the lives of at-risk girls between the ages of 12-18. The event is co-founded by stuntwomen La Faye Baker and Jadie David.

Help Our Troops Phone Home



Donate to the USO Operation Phone Home Program

Screen Actors Guild is proud of America's service members. For the second year in a row, we are throwing our support behind a program that allows America's men and women deployed overseas to make phone calls home. The opportunity to talk to a parent, sibling, child or partner can make a world of difference — and you can help.

As the holidays near, the number of troops wanting to call home will increase dramatically, and the USO Operation Phone Home Program helps connect service members with their loved ones. A tax-deductible gift of \$25 can provide a phone card giving a service member an average of three calls home, or it can allow 70 service members to call home using the satellite service.

SAG has a long history supporting the armed forces through projects big and small, from mobilizing the Hollywood Victory Committee shortly after the United States' entry into World War II to this year's partnership with First Lady Michelle Obama and the entertainment industry guilds on the Joining Forces initiative supporting military families.

"Screen Actors Guild is deeply grateful to the members of the military. These men and women have volunteered to leave the comfort of home and put themselves in harm's way for a higher ideal," SAG President Ken Howard said. "As we have for decades, Screen Actors Guild continues to stand with the USO to do our small part to improve the quality of life for service members and their families, and we ask that our members consider giving a gift to help this worthy cause."

Thank you for considering a gift to the USO Operation Phone Home Program. Visit sag.kintera.org to donate today and help a service member call home tomorrow.

Diversity

SAG members Jaisey Bates, Faran Tahir, Tamlyn Tomita and Lupe Ontiveros participate in a panel at the Get Your ACT Together: Careers in Focus Conference.



iActor, the online casting directory exclusively for SAG members.

"We were able to offer truly exceptional career and talent development workshops and seminars for a community of actors who are often underrepresented and underemployed," said Rebecca Yee, national director of Affirmative Action & Diversity and senior EEO counsel. "We are grateful to the many industry professionals who participated for their demonstrated commitment to diversity and equal employment."

The career conference was one of more than a dozen major events held in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. Among them:

Actor Danny Woodburn was honored October 8 with the Screen Actors Guild Harold Russell Award at the Media Access Awards in Beverly Hills. He received the recognition for his union advocacy on behalf of performers with disabilities.

Woodburn is one of the most successful Little People working in the entertainment industry today and perhaps best known for the recurring role he played as Mickey Abbott on *Seinfeld*. He has made more than 120 television appearances, on comedies and dramas alike, and had featured roles in such films as *Watchmen* and *Death to Smoochy*. He is also an accomplished stand-up comic.

In accepting the award, Woodburn said, "I was told, 'No—you can never be a truck driver, your arms won't reach around the wheel. No—you can never be a doctor; people won't take you seriously. No—you can never be a police officer.'

"I can be all of those things. I'm an actor. I can portray them in film and someone might be inspired to ignore those no's and live their own dream."

Harold Russell, the award's namesake, was the first actor with a disability to receive an Academy Award for 1946's *The Best Years of Our Lives*.

In the Big Apple, Screen Actors Guild kicked off the Blackhouse Foundation's 2011 film festival season. SAG Affirmative Action & Diversity and SAGIndie sponsored the event, which celebrates filmmakers of African descent who will be showcased at Sundance, Tribeca and the L.A. Film Festival.

In San Francisco, the SAG National LGBT Actors Committee and SAG New Media co-sponsored the New Media Film Festival, held November 5-7.

In Hollywood, SAG Dare to be Diverse screenings featured a wide variety of films that have utilized SAG's Diversity in Casting incentives, available for low budget and modified low budget films. Free to members, Dare to be Diverse screenings included post-screening Q&As with the filmmakers and actors of *Holy Rollers*, *Night Catches Us*, *The Taqwacores*, and *Hamill*. (See below for a wrap-up of events.)

The Guild has, since its inception, been an advocate for diversity and equal employment in the workplace and entertainment industry. In addition to protecting all members against discrimination and harassment, SAG Affirmative Action & Diversity works closely with members who are LGBT, performers of color, performers with disabilities, senior performers



Arnold Turner

Pam Grier, SAG Hollywood Board Member Conrad Palmisano, Diamond in the Raw Foundation co-founder La Faye Baker, and Lindsay Wagner at the Diamond in the Raw Foundation Awards.

and women to increase employment opportunities for these underemployed and underrepresented groups.

"SAG has chosen October to highlight our everyday advocacy and initiatives," said Yee, "but it is a 24/7, year-round effort to shift our media landscape toward desiring and developing more accurate and diverse portrayals of the American Scene in film and television."

SAG Diversity Get Your ACT Together: Careers in Focus Conference

Diamond in the Raw Foundation Awards for stuntwomen

19th Annual Access Awards Luncheon

HOLA Awards in New York City

SAG Dare to Be Diverse screening of *The Taqwacores*, hosted by the Arab Film Festival

SAG Dare To Be Diverse screening of *Hamill* at AFI FEST

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