

## Resource-Full

It galls me when people describe actors as children, as emotionally fragile, rather irresponsible beings who must be "directed" by someone as to what to do and how & where to do it. Sometimes they even lump in stage managers (who are frequently in loco parentis of these so-called children) because they operate under the guidance, rules and instruction of others and because, as is true for all of us, their "work" is a "play."

Actors and stage managers in my experience are not child-like creatures waiting to be told what to do: they are problem-solvers, they are resourceful. The very nature of our work is problem-solving: How can I convince the other character to give me what I want? How can I cue all the elements of this transition so it completes with the button of the number?

I tend to think of our "work," whether stage manager or actor, as being not so much the joining together with fellow Equity members to tell a story as the hunt for such opportunities. The real work is ferreting out a likely role in a propitious environment; creating/setting up the chance to be seen for the project; preparing for the audition/interview; and then presenting oneself in the best, most creative, most employable way. Rinse; repeat.

Equity members are resourceful, which my dictionary defines as "able to act effectively or imaginatively, especially in difficult situations." That seems like a dead-on description of the requirements to be an actor or stage manager. To keep you resource-full, Equity provides resources -- "things that can be used for support or help" -- on our website for discovering and accessing work opportunities ("Casting Call" and the EPA's and Chorus Calls listed there.)

There are many other resources on our website: every agreement, code or contract under which we work; four years of Nick Wyman's columns; our Constitution and By-Laws; "About Equity;" a member handbook, and of course the Equity News.

Our Communication goes both ways. Some members are most comfortable with long-hand letters and an Equity News that is delivered by a mail-carrier once a month. Some members can't believe that all Equity meetings are not live-streamed onto their smartphone. To reach all members and to allow all members to reach Equity, AEA has a Facebook page, a Twitter feed (@actorsequity), and an Instagram account as well as e-mail, snail mail and telephone. I recommend this last device (a recent invention by Equity Membership Candidate A. Graham Bell) as an excellent choice for getting a speedy answer from an AEA business rep.

We are certainly not complacently resting on our laurels. We are developing plans to reinvigorate the Equity News, to revamp our website, and to expand our social media footprint -- all in an effort to get you the resources you need. Equity is Resource-Full. The staff and leadership are determined to be as resourceful as the members and to provide the members with all the tools and support they need to do the work -- the work of getting work.