



**American Federation of Television and Radio Artists
and
International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees
*JOINT NEWS RELEASE***

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**AFTRA and IATSE Conclude First Meeting
of Joint Strategic Alliance Committee**

LOS ANGELES (October 24, 2007) – The special Strategic Alliance Committees of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, which included elected and staff leaders of the two unions, held two days of discussions as part of its inaugural meeting that concluded Tuesday.

IA and AFTRA issued a joint statement following the meeting:

“The AFTRA/IA Strategic Alliance Committee conducted enlightening and productive discussions on how members of our two unions can work together to further the interests of our members who work across all of our areas of common interest in the entertainment and media workplace. We shared information on our respective organizational structures, governing documents, collective bargaining agreements, and communications tools to better understand the workings of each union. We also examined our common areas of employment, and challenges and opportunities for organizing new work and maintaining a stable union presence in the media and entertainment sectors.

“We each have much to learn from each other, and see tremendous potential for this strategic alliance to turn non-union work into unionized work opportunities for members of AFTRA and IA. These initial discussions confirmed the optimism expressed by IA International President Thomas C. Short and AFTRA National President Roberta Reardon when they announced the formation of this Strategic Alliance Committee in July. Our work during these two days is just the beginning of the development and implementation of exciting joint programs and projects that will bring positive results to all workers in the entertainment and media industry.”

Fields of work covered by both IA and AFTRA include television news, sports, and entertainment programming, music video and television commercial production, basic cable programming, internet, and new media, among others.

The next meeting of the committees is scheduled for December 3 and 4, 2007.

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About AFTRA:

The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, AFL-CIO, are the people who entertain and inform America. More than 70,000 professional performers, broadcasters, and recording artists are moving forward together through AFTRA to protect and improve our jobs, lives, and communities. AFTRA members embrace change in society—from new culture to new technology—and incorporate change in our work and craft. AFTRA celebrates and thrives on the diversity of our members and the work we do. AFTRA opens a whole new world of opportunities for success for professional performers, broadcasters, and recording artists. In 32 Locals across the country, AFTRA members work as actors, journalists, dancers, singers, announcers, hosts, comedians, disc jockeys, and other performers across the media industries including television, radio, cable, sound recordings, music videos, commercials, audio books, non-broadcast industrials, interactive games, the Internet, and other digital media. Visit AFTRA at www.aftra.com.

About IA:

Established in 1893, the IA is an International Union with 400 locals that represent approximately 110,000 members employed in the stagecraft, motion picture and television production, and trade shows industries throughout the United States, its Territories, and Canada. The IA, which has doubled its membership through organizing efforts in the past 12 years in both countries, has kept up with rapidly changing technologies and established the groundwork for representation in new media across all disciplines. The IA also concluded successful negotiations with the Association of Motion Picture and Television Producers for a new three-year contract that went into effect August 1, 2006, governing all major film and TV production in the US and Canada. The goals of the IA continue to be the protection of working families through better working conditions, protection of health and pension benefits, and safer working environments. For background information on the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees: www.iatse-intl.org.

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