



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**WOMEN IN FILM CHAPTERS OPEN APPLICATIONS
FOR THE HIRE HER BACK FUND**

**Grants Will Support Women Whose Careers in Entertainment
Were Adversely Impacted by COVID-19**

October 21, 2020, Los Angeles – Applications are now open for the Hire Her Back Fund, providing grants to members of WIF (Women In Film, Los Angeles), New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT), and Women in Film and Television Atlanta (WIFTA), whose careers in the screen industries have been adversely affected by the pandemic. The Fund is a key part of the [Hire Her Back initiative](#) launched in June, which urges employers to actively combat gender inequality as plans to return to film and television production are developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Generous support has been provided by Netflix, with seed funding from Shivani Rawat, Founder and CEO of ShivHans Pictures. Additional funds have been provided by members of the community who have rallied together to offer support during this time. [Contributions to the Fund can still be made at https://womeninfilm.org/advocacy/hireherback.](https://womeninfilm.org/advocacy/hireherback)

The grants will be administered by The Actors Fund. [Click here to apply to the Fund on The Actors Fund website.](#) Membership is open to industry professionals; women and people of marginalized genders whose livelihoods in the screen industries have been negatively affected by the pandemic can become members by clicking on these links for their local chapters: [WIF](#) in Los Angeles, [NYWIFT](#) in New York, or [WIFTA](#) in Atlanta.

Kirsten Schaffer, WIF Los Angeles Executive Director, said, “We are grateful to all who have answered the call to support this Fund so that we, along with our sister chapters in New York and Atlanta, can provide some relief to the women whose work in our industry has suffered. We hope that the Fund can buoy these women and make it more possible to sustain their careers in entertainment.”

“We at New York Women in Film & Television believe that in every tragedy there is opportunity to work creatively to unite our community. We know that the Latinx and Black communities and women over 50 were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. As production finally resumes after this devastating crisis, we don’t want to take a step backward or lose sight of

what progress still needs to be made. We must always continue to move forward. We look forward to work with our sisters in Women In Film Los Angeles on this important initiative,” said NYWIFT Executive Director Cynthia López.

WIFTA Board President LaRonda M. Sutton said, “Women in Film & Television Atlanta supports women intent on living and working their worth. We joined forces with our sister chapters WIF and NYWIFT to be a resource for women in screen industries across the nation.” Sutton is also Board Vice President for Women in Film & Television U.S.

About WIF

Founded in 1973 as Women In Film, Los Angeles, WIF advocates for and advances the careers of women working in the screen industries, to achieve parity and transform culture. We support women and people of marginalized genders in front of and behind the camera and across all levels of experience. We work to change culture through our distinguished pipeline programs; we advocate for gender parity through research, education, and media campaigns; and we build a community centered around these goals. Membership is open to all screen industry professionals, and more information can be found on our website: wif.org. Follow WIF on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [YouTube](#).

About New York Women in Film & Television

New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) advocates for equality in the moving image industry and supports women in every stage of their careers. As the preeminent entertainment industry association for women in New York, NYWIFT energizes women by illuminating their achievements, presenting training and professional development programs, awarding scholarships and grants, and providing access to a supportive community of peers. NYWIFT brings together nearly 2,500 women and men working both above and below the line. NYWIFT is part of a network of 50 women in film chapters worldwide, representing more than 15,000 members. NYWIFT is a nonprofit 501c3 public charity. Learn more at www.nywift.org. Follow on all social media platforms @NYWIFT / #NYWIFT

About Women in Film and Television Atlanta

Women in Film and Television Atlanta (WIFTA), a 501c-3 Georgia non-profit, is a member-based organization for creative media professionals. It is the second oldest Women in Film chapter worldwide. With a focus on driving the advancement of women in the TV/Film industry, WIFTA provides a dynamic network for facilitating the exchange of ideas, sharing opportunities, and accelerating the professional development of our members. Since its inception in 1974, WIFTA has proudly had a membership community of multi-generational and culturally diverse professionals—women and men. Our membership is comprised of professionals who work as (or strive to be) producers, directors, actors, entertainment attorneys, camera and sound technicians.

About The Actors Fund

The Actors Fund is a national human services organization that fosters stability and resiliency and provides a safety net for performing arts and entertainment professionals over their lifespan. Through offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, The Fund serves everyone in film, theater, television, music, opera, radio and dance with programs including social services and emergency financial assistance, health care and insurance counseling, housing, and secondary employment and training services. Visit www.actorsfund.org.

About Netflix

Netflix is the world's leading streaming entertainment service with 193 million paid memberships in over 190 countries enjoying TV series, documentaries and feature films across a wide variety of genres and languages. Members can watch as much as they want, anytime, anywhere, on any internet-connected screen. Members can play, pause and resume watching, all without commercials or commitments.

About ShivHans Pictures

ShivHans Pictures, founded by producer Shivani Rawat, is a production and finance company creating unique and compelling feature films outside the Hollywood studio model. The company strives to streamline the financing process in an effort to fully support the visions of independent filmmakers while collaborating with top-tier talent. Upcoming ShivHans Pictures projects include Wander Darkly, written and directed by Tara Miele and starring Sienna Miller and Diego Luna, which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival and was acquired by Lionsgate and will be released in select theaters and on VOD December 11, 2020; The Water Man, which recently premiered at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival, produced alongside Oprah Winfrey's Harpo Films, starring and featuring the directorial debut of David Oyelowo; and The Ice Road starring Liam Neeson and Laurence Fishburne, written and directed by Jonathan Hensleigh, produced and co-financed alongside CODE Entertainment. Shivani also served as an Executive Producer on The Trial of Chicago 7, written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, now available on Netflix. ShivHans is also partnering with actress Issa Rae's production company ColorCreative to develop Badmash, a Bollywood-meets-mafia story from writer Sneha Koorse. Previous films from ShivHans Pictures include Danny Collins, the Academy Award-nominated Trumbo, the Academy Award-nominated Captain Fantastic, and Beirut, all distributed by Bleecker Street and The Polka King, released by Netflix worldwide. In 2019, ShivHans Pictures expanded into distribution with Bleecker Street, releasing films including Hotel Mumbai and Brian Banks, which ShivHans also produced. For information about ShivHans Pictures and its upcoming slate of films, please visit www.ShivHans.com and follow the company on Instagram/Facebook/Twitter @ShivHansPics.

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