NY Producers working on the safe and strategic relaunch of production in New York State in the wake of the COVID-19 VIRUS.
We are a coalition of highly experienced film and television producers committed to the safe and strategic relaunch of production in New York State in the wake of the COVID-19 VIRUS. Our goal is to liaise with our industry partners in government, labor and studio operations to help design uniform guidelines to ensure the safe return to work for all NY film and television employees. We think it is critical:

- to apply these agreed upon guidelines uniformly to all productions;
- to guide creative solutions that will help manage these safety standards;
- to inform the community and confirm to the industry that when NY production resumes work, we will be prepared, well informed and working within a cohesive process.

As producers, we believe we are uniquely positioned to organize and bring together the many moving parts needed to accomplish the above. With this in mind, we hope to invite insight, share feedback and create consensus on the timely relaunch of production in New York State.

Finally, we believe that the health of the film and television industry is integral to the growth of many other industries in our region, from restaurants to lumber yards to office supply companies and more. Our success in achieving these goals will serve as a support to individuals and entities throughout the region.
NEW YORK PRODUCERS
COVID RESPONSE ALLIANCE

safer.
stronger.
working.
together.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL: outreach.nycra@gmail.com
The New York Film and Television communities have always been a close-knit family. The onset of COVID-19 into our region may have stopped our shows and paused our jobs, but it didn’t stop our spirits and sense of community. The following news stories highlight some of the courageous and inspiring work from our colleagues, vendors and fellow crew-members we call family.
“Jennifer Lyne, a location scout for film and television, knows New York in an unusually granular way. Always on the lookout for the perfect spot, she is constantly schmoozing with property managers, gathering contact information and snapping photos. That is how she was able to find a period-perfect restaurant bar for the television series “Boardwalk Empire” and the alley where Harrison Ford’s detective investigates a murder in the movie “Random Hearts.” So late last month, when the coronavirus was gaining momentum and the Greater New York Hospital Association convened a task force to locate buildings for hospital overflow, Ms. Lyne, as well as other film scouts, volunteered.”
A team of film and television set builders are using their carpentry skills to build life-saving equipment for struggling hospitals.

Greenpoint set builder Bret Lehne learned about the need for intubation boxes — plexiglass containers that keep doctors safe during the most dangerous moments of operation — when a doctor friend contacted him a week into the pandemic asking if he knew anyone who could make them. After reviewing the schematics, Lehne came to a realization.

“This, both in material and in complexity, is an average blueprint that I might get in a workday,” he said to himself. “I know an entire industry that can build these.”
ARTISTS CREATE PPE FOR THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

ARTCUBE NATION

“Health care workers are thanking us? I can’t even accept it,” “No no, this is our gratitude towards you.”

Fortune Magazine -- April 22, 2020
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“Bednark’s day job may have stalled, but he hasn’t been idle. Instead, he’s been busy sourcing materials for ArtCube Army, a group of largely New York–based film, television, and theater art department freelancers and related businesses making personal protective equipment (or PPE) for medical workers facing a shortage. Bednark has been working closely with Eva Radke, a former art department coordinator, who is the CEO and cofounder of ArtCube Nation, a national networking organization for showbiz art professionals. The ArtCube Army emerged as a New York–based, pandemic-focused offshoot while unemployed film industry workers pivot in a time of crisis—a natural fit for people in their line of work, Radke and Bednark say. “It’s a community of people who already have to source weird things, already work under pressure when there’s zero room for error,” says Radke, who was inspired to hop into action as news of a slow supply chain began to spread.”
FILM INDUSTRY FEEDS THE FRONT LINE

ANDREW Saxe (producer) | PAUL BroZEN (sag/aftra) | MIKE KRIARIS (upm) | JOSH DORN (location manager) | Veronique Lee (production coordinator) | TEAMSTERS (817) | HENRY’S INTERNATIONAL | GOURMET TO U | CELEBRITY SPICE | WILSON RIVAS CRAFT | MARSHARK CRAFT

“By the end of this week we will have fed about 13,000 healthcare workers [at] thirteen different hospitals.”

Screen Comment -- April 29, 2020
READ MORE --
screencomment.com/2020/04/gofundme-saxebrozen/?fbclid=IwAR0pod8TsP2BGlUnVpDXvAfBVyuPnfZzGAtgOgOsR2Mdv8WKhYjJvrtll

“With the coronavirus pandemic having effectively shuttered production in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, some enterprising film industry veterans are redirecting the industry’s network and muscle to ensure that the populous area’s first responders are fed.

Hospital and EMS workers have been pulling incredibly long and taxing shifts amid the pandemic—many are so overworked they don’t even have time for a meal. Many hospitals have closed down their cafeterias as it wasn’t possible to practice social distancing in such close quarters.

Andrew Saxe and Paul Brozen, who saw a way for food companies that traditionally feed production stuff to pivot to feed healthcare workers during the entertainment industry’s forced hiatus.
The campaign kicked off April 7th seeking $100,000 for supplies and labor. With the Teamsters Local 817 volunteering to deliver food from one of our trucks to the various nearby hospitals, the mobile support kitchen operation was ready to roll.

“What’s different about our campaign is a lot of people are donating money and are paying restaurants to deliver food to hospitals, which helps restaurants and feeds the” medical workers, Saxe said, adding that the meals are prepared fresh onsite rather than trucked in from elsewhere. “From [one] hospital we serviced three or four other facilities, so that kept our cost down.

FILM INDUSTRY FEEDS THE FRONT LINE GOFUNDME
-www.gofundme.com/f/film-industry-feeds-the-front-line
LOCAL 600 MEMBER GARETH MANWARING CONVERTS COFFEE SHOP INTO FOOD PANTRY
CINEMATOGRAHPHER / CAMERA DEPT

“... My wife and I have been focusing on helping our neighborhood and our great city. We transformed our coffee shop into a food pantry/soup kitchen.”

BKLYNER-- APRIL 17, 2020

“In the beginning of March, it was just very scary. Nobody knew what was going on. It was so nerve wracking business-wise, watching the numbers and seeing a third of our normal business. As I would be making coffee for people, [I was] just seeing how afraid everyone was. [When we] realized as a restaurant we were going to stay open, being essential, we thought ‘wow, if we now have the opportunity to stay open, how can we redesign ourselves for this moment to be more helpful?’ It’s funny to be a small coffee shop and to be under the umbrella of essential,” Manwaring said.

They decided to give away free soup and sandwiches to anyone who needed them, no questions asked, and turned their once-busy tables into stations for food, diapers, and other home necessities. The money they’ve raised goes towards helping keep these programs afloat, as well as providing assistance to the shop’s laid-off employees. The shop is still functioning as a cafe as well for now, offering their full menu for purchase in addition to their free offerings.”
BROADWAY STAGES LEASES SPACE TO CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER, PRO-BONO

NEW YORK CITY SOUND STAGES
“*Our Hunger operations have become so robust, that without Broadway Stages, a lot of what we’re doing wouldn’t be possible.*” -- Campaign Against Hunger

BROOKLYN PAPER -- MAY 8, 2020

A Greenpoint-based production studio is stepping up to help out during the pandemic — offering help to both their Brooklyn neighbors and the entire city.

Broadway Stages, which operates television and film production stages throughout the borough, has leased its East New York space to the Campaign Against Hunger on a pro-bono lease, allowing the hunger-fighting group to harness the resources it needs to feed thousands of New Yorkers each week.

At the Broadway Stages space, the campaign is able to repackage thousands of meals a week for distribution across the city, at a time when more and more New Yorkers find themselves unemployed due to the coronavirus pandemic, and food pantry demand is at an all-time-high.
“Isabella Olaguera was beginning to feel "useless" and without purpose when she found herself out of work in March for the first time in four years. Like many crewmembers in Hollywood, the New York City-based assistant director saw her employment plans obliterated due to the novel coronavirus and subsequent entertainment production shutdowns. It was a tough blow for someone who usually faces a dry work period in the winter, followed by a busy spring.

Then, while cleaning out her garage one day, the filmmaker saw another Facebook post, from the House of Good Deeds. The charity was asking if another organization might be able to take a pallet of perishable foods it had just received and distribute the food to those in need. "I was like, 'I have a group of people, let's make that happen,'" Olaguera says.
She called up Adam Richlin, the rental manager at Lightbulb Grip & Electric Co. in Brooklyn, who offered her space in his warehouse and recruited friends to handle processing the pallet. As they organized, the group missed the food’s 48-hour deadline, but the seed of an idea was planted: "I just started looking for ways to get groceries to people and wound up creating a budget and forming a team," Olaguera says. So began Feed the Freelancers, an expanding initiative operated largely by out-of-work and furloughed entertainment workers that delivers free food to independent contractors and self-employed individuals who have lost income due to the coronavirus crisis. Fueled half by food donations from local organizations and wholesale distributors and half by financial donations via GoFundMe, the initiative has now fed more than 1,000 individuals.

FEED THE FREELANCERS GO FUND ME
www.gofundme.com/f/feed-the-freelancers
OTHER NOTABLE STORIES SUBMITTED BY CREW AND VENDORS IN OUR NEW YORK FILM & TELEVISION COMMUNITY

HADDAD’S FILM & TV EQUIPMENT COMPANY

- Coordinated help with pickup and delivery of 20 boxes of donated medical supplies, at a time when medical supplies were at a critical shortage
- John Ford and Ryder Washburn of Local 52 had graciously collected medical supplies in their office to donate as part of the Governor’s office outreach to the production industry.
- Tom O’Donnell Local 817 President and Gene O’Neil, a NYC Local Teamster Captain, coordinated with local teamster drivers to have the medical supplies delivered to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center Emergency Room.
- A special THANK YOU to NYC Teamsters, IATSE Local 52, Tom O’Donnell, and John Ford for all your hard work to help the first responders.

FACE GEAR FRIDAY

- Local 52, Zach Badalucco and Briar Rossell partnering with Quantum Visual Imaging Corp has produced over 11,500 face shields.