

NEWS REEL

IATSE LOCAL 44'S QUARTERLY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

025



SPRING 2025

YOUR LOCAL 44 OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES WORKING HARD FOR YOU AND THE UNION

NEWS REEL

VOL 36 ISSUE 2

JAN/FEB/MAR/APR 2025

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Elder Lopez
Paramount Studios
Matthew Redoglia
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Sony Pictures Studios
Rodney Wright
Spellman Desk
Alex Hernandez
Universal Studios
Michael Cappello
Ray Schrefel, Jr.
Warner Bros.
John Barton Jr.
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Sam Post

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Local 44 Newsreel accepts submissions in person, by mail, or by email (preferred). All submissions are subject to review and approval.

Written submissions should be checked for accuracy and spelling by the author. Local 44 Newsreel takes no responsibility for errors in member submitted content.

Please include names of all persons pictured in submitted digital and print pictures to be eligible for publication.

Submissions are subject to revision and editing when necessary.

Local 44 Newsreel offers no guarantee that any submission will make it to print.

NEXT DEADLINE:
JULY 11th

E-mail
newsreel@local44.org

Mail
Newsreel Submissions
c/o IATSE Local 44
12021 Riverside Drive North
Hollywood, CA 91607

Questions? Comments?
Call 818-769-2500

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LOCAL 44'S WEBSITE
WWW.LOCAL44.ORG

FOR ACCESS TO THESE GREAT FEATURES:

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- Update Your Work History
- Check the Current & Future Show Lists
- Pay Your Dues Electronically

- Stay Current with Local 44 Events & Deadlines
- Post Ads in the Online Toolcrib
- List Your Work Resume for FREE!
- Download Retiree & Beneficiary Forms



TOBEY BAYS

BUSINESS AGENT

IG: BAYS_TOBEY

“Through their dedicated efforts, they provided essential furniture and delivery services to over 1,000 families in temporary housing”

When disaster struck during the recent wildfires, the surrounding members of the IATSE, Teamsters, and Basic Crafts displayed an extraordinary spirit of unionism, resilience, and compassion, rallying together to support those impacted by the devastation. Hundreds of Local 44 members, alongside colleagues from sister locals, came together to bring relief and support to families facing unimaginable loss.

The collaborative efforts, spearheaded by the ‘behind the scenes’ union and guild members, resulted in a meaningful and effective response. Volunteers supported the distribution of essential supplies that filled Local 80’s sound stage. At Local 892 the Costume Designers Guild, thousands of clothes were donated from studio productions, costume warehouses, industry retailers and generous donation from members. Volunteers sorted and displayed these donations, transforming the local’s interior and parking lot into a full-fledged relief center with over two hundred racks of clothing, shoes, and makeup. Furnishing homes with the organization Zello Support showcased the compassion and community spirit of Local 44 members. Through their dedicated efforts, they provided essential furniture and delivery services to over

1,000 families in temporary housing. But their impact went beyond just furnishings—they brought comfort and a sense of home to those displaced families.

This commitment went far beyond simple supply drives. Volunteers poured their energy into every effort, from organizing donations to assisting families in rebuilding their lives, exemplifying the union’s core values of compassion, solidarity, and mutual support. What I saw wasn’t about seeking personal recognition but about the exceptional power of collective action.

To all the volunteers who made this possible: **thank you.** I am honored to have worked alongside such an extraordinary group. To everyone who contributed, whether hands-on, behind the scenes, or financially, your efforts made a lasting impact. I want to recognize the incredible service of every volunteer—your hard work not only kept these efforts running but showed the true power of solidarity and compassion. Thank you for reminding us of what it means to come together in times of need.

In solidarity,
Tobey Bays

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

JANUARY 2025

OVER 50 YEARS

Linda Barber - Draper (59)
Walter Binkley - Property Master (59)
Bradley Blasdel - Property Master (51)
Nigel Boucher - Property (52)
Frank Brown - Property (58)
Michael Bruner - Property Master (51)
Audrey Blasdel-Goddard - Set Decorator (59)
Philip Calhoun - Property Master (58)
James Camomile - Special Effects (51)
Chris Chichotka - Propmaker (51)
Richard Chirco - Property (52)

Miguel Garcia - Property (54)
Rick Gentz - Gentz (59)
Charlene Gerhardt - Sewing Person (51)
David Goldman - Property Master (58)
Richard Gonzales - Property (51)
Robert Gould - Set Decorator (58)
Richard Greene - Greens (66)
Gary Kieldrup - Property Master (58)
Gary Kudroff - Property (51)
Joann May - Sewing Person (51)
Anne McCulley - Set Decorator (51)

Roger Montesano - Property Master (59)
David Quick - Property Master (51)
Terry Rittmiller - Draper (52)
James Reedy II - Special Effects (53)
Bruce Rubins - Propmaker (59)
Thomas Shaw Jr. - Property Master (51)
Norman Skinner - Property (53)
Frank Toro - Special Effects (58)
James Walker - Propmaker (59)
Dean Wilson - Property Master (51)

50 YEARS

Lyle Carolus - Propshop
Allen Hall - Special Effects

Roger Janson - Coordinator
John Rutchland III - Coordinator

David Wood - Propshop

35 YEARS

Greg Bengé - Property
Adam Braff - Property
Craig Gadsby - Property

Sara Gardner-Gail - Property
Patrick Marchese - Property

Anthony Samona - Property
Drew Williams - Property

25 YEARS

Dorit Hurst - Set Decorator

10 YEARS

Eddie Jimenez - Propmaker

Ryan Thomas - Propmaker

FEBRUARY 2025

OVER 50 YEARS

Ira Anderson Jr. - Special Effects (62)
Fritz Bahn - Propmaker (51)
John Barton - Property Master (61)
Danie Bentley - Property Master (59)
Gregg Bilson - Property Master (59)
Clifford Bernay - Property Master (56)
Alfred Broussard - Special Effects (56)
Nick Caprarelli - Property Master (59)
Albert Delgado - Special Effects (58)
Joseph DeRosa - Property (53)
Joseph DiGaetano III - Special Effects (51)
Lawrence Dolan - Property Master (51)
Lawrence Ferritto - Propmaker (56)
Michael Gannon - Property Master (56)
Richard Goddard - Set Decorator (59)

David Gordon - Draper (51)
Jay Hirsch - Coordinator (51)
Frank Irving - Property Master (51)
David Jimenez - Propmaker (53)
Robert King - Special Effects (56)
Walter Kroesser - Property (51)
Roger Lifsey - Special Effects (51)
Michael Mackey - Propmaker (51)
Richard Manalia - Property (51)
Joseph Marchese - Property (51)
Larry McGuire - Property Master (59)
William McLaughlin - Set Decorator (56)
Joe Mendoza - Draper (53)
Marc Meyer Jr. - Set Decorator (51)

Michael "Duff" Miller - Property (51)
David Moll - Property Master (56)
Gary Monak - Special Effects (51)
Thomas Nelson - Draper (51)
Lambert Powell - Special Effects (56)
Craig Raiche - Property Master (51)
John Rozman - Property (56)
Glenn Ryan - Property (51)
Arthur Shippee Jr. - Property Master (56)
Alexander Smutko - Coordinator (58)
Robert Southall - Property (53)
Charles Stewart - Coordinator (61)
Bruce Walters - Property (59)
Milton Wilson Jr. - Property (59)

OPT-OUT NOTICE

To prevent your name from appearing in future anniversary milestone rolls,
please email your request with your full name and Union card number to newsreel@local44.org



ED McCARTHY

SECRETARY-TREASURER

“Committees create a path for future leaders and allow all members an opportunity to affect their union.”

My fellow members,

The past few years have been hard, but it wasn't all bad news. We won a ground-breaking contract that will help fund the pension and health plans in ways that will be sustainable and have changed our local in ways that will ripple long into the future.

We rewrote our CBL's to increase participation in meetings and elections and provide for the long-term financial stability of Local 44. We increased our passive income and simultaneously restructured the office staff to better serve the membership. A financially weak union cannot serve anyone, and we made sure that 44 will remain, able to keep providing, even expanding what it offers to its members.

44 utilized its resources and its dedicated staff to aid members in their time of need. We provided aid to those who struggled with the lack of opportunities for work. We helped members who lost belongings, who lost homes in the fires. We helped our members navigate the resources available to help get them back on their feet. Our Social Services

Department is better than ever.

Flexibility was built into the withdrawal system for 2025 to allow members in arrears to pause their dues. A fund was established with MPTF to let those who needed assistance once again get financial aid with even fewer restrictions.

The push to create and financially support new committees is bearing fruit, and hopefully that momentum will not be lost. Committees create a path for future leaders and allow all members an opportunity to affect their union.

Those who show up are the ones who make the decisions. Show up to meetings, vote in elections and always, always, put your fellow members at the core of any decisions.

It has been an honor to serve you these past years and I wish the incoming administration the best.

In Solidarity,
Ed McCarthy

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

FEBRUARY 2025

35 YEARS

Scott Bailey - Property
John Bryant - Propmaker
Jesse Dutchover - Property
Alan Erpenbach - Propmaker
Joanna Venezky - Property
Ellen Freund - Property Master

Armando Gonzalez - Propmaker
Mats Holmberg - Propmaker
Anne Kuljian - Set Decorator
John Moore - Propmaker
Michael Quero - Propmaker

Patrick Reyes - Coordinator
Eric Senate - Propmaker
Bobby Vaughn - Propmaker
Joanna Venezky - Property
Timothy Wiles - Property Master

25 YEARS

Jaime Castellanos - Greens
Brian Hahn - Coordinator
Michael Klingerman - Property

Mark Knightley - Coordinator
Christopher Schultz - Property Master
Jordan Steinberg - Property

Mark Tuttle - Property
Daniel Yates - Propshop
Douglas Ziegler - Special Effects

10 YEARS

Matthew Davila - Greens
Emmanuel Garcia - Propmaker
Katherine Gauvin - Property

Adam Keily - Propmaker
Sean Lee - Property
Drew McCamley - Coordinator

Dominic Scamaldo - Propmaker
Armen Seranian - Propmaker

MARCH 2025

OVER 50 YEARS

Steven Baer - Draper (51)

Michael Elmer - Floorcover (52)

Randall Martens - Greens (52)

50 YEARS

Kevin Grimsley - Propshop

Ronald Nary - Special Effects

35 YEARS

Jerry Casillas - Propmaker
Bart Dion - Special Effects
Dawna Hammond - Propshop

Steve Hagberg - Coordinator
Erin Hennessey - Propmaker
Humberto Jimenez - Propmaker

Craig Pittman - Property
Louis Terry III - Property

25 YEARS

Scott Bauer - Property Master
Allen Brostowicz - Property
Heather Chamberlain - Property
Jack Cornelius - Property
Elizabeth Fowler-Beach - Set Decorator

Kennith Gorrell - Propshop
Michael Johnson - Property Master
Scott Johnson - Propshop
Andre Martin - Property Master

Bruce Purcell - Property
Jonathan Robertson - Propmaker
Eric Rood - Property
Robert Vanasco - Property

10 YEARS

Mehmet Alper - Property
Fay Davis-Jeffers - Property
Matthew Donaldson - Property
Malorie Folino - Property Master

Jennifer Haybach - Set Decorator
Lauren Hrehovcik - Property
Charles Jaramillo - Greens

Bruce Leonhart - Propmaker
James Manhart - Greens
Tayelor Nifong - Property

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RAY SCHREFEL JR.

PRESIDENT

IG: RSCHREFEL

“This 2025 voting cycle had a voter turnout of 41% in the general and 37% participation in the run-off.”

I want to thank everyone who participated in our General Membership Meeting this past February. Thanks to your engagement, we reached quorum and, more importantly, members had a chance to have their voices heard in an official capacity. Let's keep that participation for the upcoming craft meetings on June 21st and June 22nd. If you're planning to attend virtually, please make sure to check your email inbox to register in the upcoming weeks.

I want to acknowledge the solidarity our Local 44 members showed during the LA wildfires. Many stepped up and volunteered with Zello Support, proving once again the strength of our union family. If you haven't yet checked in with your fellow brothers, sisters, and kin, let this serve as a reminder to do so. Member to member support should be a daily practice but it's especially important in times of need.

Over the past several months, the Entertainment Union Coalition has been hard at work in Sacramento, ensuring that any increase to California's film and TV tax credit program is aimed at creating and sustaining good, middle-class jobs. Their efforts have led to 200,000 letters sent

by Union/Guild members to carry our fight for jobs. Thank you to all our Entertainment Union/Guild Sisters, Brothers, and Kin who helped elevate our fight this past month to expand and modernize our California Film and Television Jobs Program! Key committee hearings for bills #AB1138 and #SB630 were successful because members took the time to share their stories about why we might fight to preserve and grow our industry throughout the state.

Lastly, the Local 44 election cycle has finished, if you haven't already had the chance to review the results, you can view them on the Local 44 website by logging into your account and looking at the home page or by simply navigating to the dedicated election page. This 2025 voting cycle had a voter turnout of 41% in the general and 37% participation in the run-off.

In solidarity,
Ray Schrefel Jr.

ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP WITH LOCAL 44.

APRIL 2025

OVER 50 YEARS

Ramiro Arredondo - Property (51)
Barry Bernson - Propshop (51)
Ernest Bishop - Set Decorator (56)
David DeGaetano - Coordinator (51)

Thomas Furginson - Property (51)
Harlan Johnson - Special Effects (60)
Edward Kennedy - Special Effects (51)
Gary King - Special Effects (51)

David Needham - Property (51)
Stephen Nelson - Property (53)
Lee Riggin - Propmaker (55)

50 YEARS

Steven Purcell - Special Effects

Charles Stewart - Propmaker

35 YEARS

Michael Adams - Propmaker
Russell Anderson - Property
Tony Aranda - Propmaker
Bruce Bellamy - Property
Thomas Callinicos - Property
Christopher Casey - Property
Debra Combs - Set Decorator
Amy Feldman - Set Decorator

James Imfeld - Draper
Mauricio Jimenez - Propmaker
Roger Knight - Property
Richard Lemeus - Propmaker
Robert Maisto - Coordinator
Caryn Marcus - Property
Harold Mauck - Propshop
David Mitchell - Property

Jose Olmos - Propmaker
Shawn Poston - Propmaker
David Potter - Property
Leonard Ricci - Propmaker
Melinda Ritz - Set Decorator
Paul Picerni - Property Master
Aaron Sisk - Propmaker
Shannon Wetklow - Propmaker

25 YEARS

Jared Baker - Propshop
Anne-Marie Hamill - Draper

Roland Hathaway - Propshop

Halina Siwolop - Set Decorator

10 YEARS

Anthony Bruno IV - Draper
Luke Borgese - Greens
Derek Crimmel - Property
Cade Fall - Propshop

German Llamas - Propmaker
Adam Maier - Property
Anthony Martinez - Property

Nic Santaella - Property
Brendan Sharkey - Property Master
Cristian Torres - Propshop

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

WE RECOGNIZE AND CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR JOINING LOCAL 44.

Erich Schaffer - Property Master
Joshua Duffy - Property
Brittany Brenner - Property Master

Justin Capebianco - Propmaker
Jose Castro - Greens

Samuel Chavoya - Property
Jacqueline Aquino - Property

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KEEP CALIFORNIA ROLLING

In October, Governor Gavin Newsom announced his intention to expand California's film and television tax credit from \$330 million to \$750 million annually. This proposal is more than a budget adjustment — it's a powerful commitment to California's working class, to good union jobs with strong benefits, and to keeping our industry rooted in the place where it began.

Since the announcement, Local 44—together with the California IATSE Council (CIC) and the Entertainment Union Coalition (EUC)—has been working tirelessly to advocate for SB 630 and AB 1138. These bills are essential to turning that proposed expansion into reality and protecting the livelihoods of tens of thousands of entertainment workers here in California.

In March, Local 44 sent a delegation of officers and members to Sacramento to advocate for the budget bill. Karen Higgins, Sarai Sosa, Krystal Donyes, Renata Ray, and Tobey Bays spoke at a budget subcommittee hearing, describing firsthand how the slowdown in production has impacted their lives. They underscored the broader economic ripple effect of losing these jobs, and the urgent need to keep film and television production in-state. The following day, they met with California Assembly Members and State Senators, distributing materials and emphasizing how deeply these bills matter to working families.

In April, Local 44 met with the office of State Senator Suzette Valladares, who co-sponsors both SB 630 and AB 1138. Members Don Foster, Bryan Turk, and Raquel Olivo, along with Business Representative Krystal Donyes and Business Agent Tobey Bays, shared personal

We are not rich; we are not famous. We are not Tom Cruise.

We are middleclass workers fighting to keep our industry in California.

Everyday across this country, people work for corporations run by billionaires. They don't share in the corporation's wealth, and they aren't advantaged by the corporation's fame. They earn a wage and are just trying to make a living. We are no different.

Passing this California Film and Television Tax Incentive will not serve billionaire corporations. THIS bill will preserve and replenish middle class jobs. It's a long-game, JOBS program with quantifiable return on investment that, passed, will serve the thousands of California-based, working-class union members who AREN'T Tom Cruise but who work in the modest unfamous crafts up and down the credit roll who help make the "Tom Cruises" of my industry.

I am definitively Renata Ray. I thank you for your time and attention.

On April 28, Renata Ray and Krystal Donyes returned to Sacramento to participate in a press conference hosted by Assemblymember Rick Zbur, author of AB 1138. You can view the press conference here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AsmRickChavezZbur/videos/546339601848138/>



stories of how the lack of work is affecting them and their communities. They spoke candidly about the threat of losing healthcare, the emotional strain of not being able to help friends who are also out of work, and the fear that small businesses they've relied on for years—some for decades—may not make it. Senator Valladares office reiterated her unwavering support for the legislation.

On April 22, Renata Ray addressed the California Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports and Tourism. With 29 years in the craft and her experience as a Business Representative at Local 44, Renata delivered a powerful statement on what's at stake for working-class entertainment professionals. Her full remarks are below:

Good morning, to all. Thank you to the Chair and Committee members for the opportunity to appear before you today.

My name is Renata Ray.

For the past 28 years I have been a Property Craft member of IATSE Local 44 in Los Angeles. But a surprising number of people think that I must be rich and famous like ... Tom Cruise. I am neither rich nor famous. I am NOT Tom Cruise.

I am here today representing both the 6000-plus members of my Local and the 165,000 thousand in the Entertainment Union Coalition. They are also not rich, not famous.

We ARE the thousands of artisans whose names whip by in the credit roll at the END of the movie, not those that appear in huge letters and fade slowly at the beginning of the movie.

We don't go to award shows; we work the awards shows.

We don't walk the red carpet; we lay the red carpet.

We are the middle-class workers tryin' to keep a 9-year-old car runnin'.

We are parents tryin' to navigate the cost of childcare.

We are renters concerned that we soon will be priced out of our modest apartments in our modest neighborhoods.

We are the sandwich generation, caretakers tryin' to balance the maze of healthcare with the rising cost of food in one of the most expensive cities in this country.

Later that day, Local 44 was back in the Capitol for the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee hearing, where AB 1138 was one of ten bills up for discussion. Rebecca Rhine of the DGA and Alex Aguilar of LIUNA 724 offered formal testimony in support of the bill. Then came public comment — and our solidarity was undeniable. The majority of people in the room were union members who had taken the time to be there, to speak, and to advocate for the bill. The final vote: 6–1 in favor.

Thanks to your efforts, AB 1138 and SB 630 have made real progress — but we're not done. June will be a critical month. We need your voice, your story, your presence.

Here's how you can help:

1. Sign the pledge and let us know you're ready to get involved: <https://bit.ly/UniteToSecureOurFuture>
2. Record a short (30–60 second) video telling us who you are, what you do, and why this industry matters to you. Post it to Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, Threads, Bluesky — wherever you connect with your community. Tag your union, tag @IATSE, and use the hashtag **#KeepCaliforniaRolling**.
3. Reach out to your Assemblymember and State Senator. Tell them why this legislation matters to your family, your career, and the future of California's middle class.

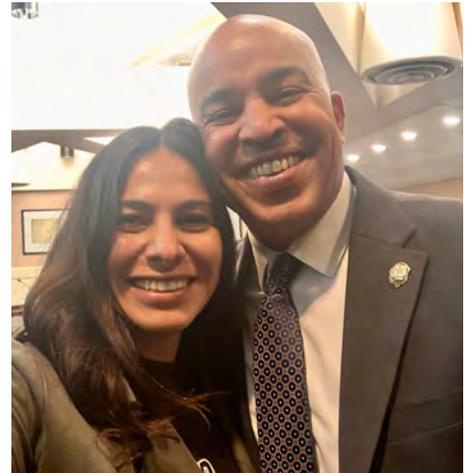
You can also help build momentum by resharing the press conference and hearing videos linked above, and by encouraging others to share their stories. Let's make sure lawmakers and the public hear directly from the real people who keep this industry alive.

To everyone who has already called, emailed, testified, or stood with us in Sacramento — thank you. Your voice matters, and your effort is making a difference. But we can't stop now. We need all of us — every crew member, every craftsman, every union sibling — to keep showing up.

We're at a turning point. What we do now will determine whether California remains a place where middle-class entertainment workers can thrive. This is about so much more than a tax credit. It's about protecting the communities we've built, the careers we've fought for, and the future we deserve. If we don't speak for ourselves, no one will.

Together, we can Keep California Rolling.

KEEP CALIFORNIA ROLLING





UNIVERSAL STUDIOS METAL SHOP

BY CORINA SANDRU

To walk into the Universal Studios Metal Shop is to walk into a cacophony of sounds created by welders, laser machines and hammering of various metals. Handling hundreds of jobs a month, the shop is a beehive of activity that covers television and feature productions, all the Hollywood Universal Studios tours, venues, facilities around the world, and 3rd party construction projects.

In charge of the team is Department Head and Local 44 member Robert Hansmann who started in the shop 29 years ago and has run the shop for the past eight years. The team is comprised of Local 44 members Eric Hellie (welding Foreman), Clayton Saiger (sheet metal Foreman), Julio Reyna, Chris Gonzales, Mike Sasgen, Travis Nunez, John Hernandez, Daniel Salas, Armando (Grande) Gonzales, Jesse Orozco, William Garcia, Rob Garcia, John Kelso, Mathew Gilmore,



Michael Sagerman, Joseph Judd, Roy Cancino, Local 700 Evan Whitt and Local 724 Anthony Barton, Andrew Caceroes and Francisco Reynoso.

When brother Hansmann took over the shop, work on the park venues and facilities was mostly done by outside contractors and over the years they have absorbed all that work inhouse. He has grown

the revenue of the shop exponentially, and under his leadership the team has expanded to include certified welders and fabricators who can pivot on a dime depending on the job. No job is too small or too big and the team takes pride in the shop's unofficial motto "If we can't make it, you don't need it."



While many of the metal shops have closed over the years, this shop has thrived and is an important support for all production needs. Equipped with the latest state of the art technology and years of experience, they can create a small widget that would have taken days to design and construct now takes minutes. Even projects such as large scale framing are a breeze. The shop holds fabricating certifications in HSS, LG, RB and USS unlimited through LA City and the welders are certified in all different processes of welding up to 6G. The welders can weld everything: park rides and venues, all aspects of construction, television and feature needs from construction to SPFX and 3rd party private requests.

The Metal Shop is equipped with a 3K CNC Laser Machine capable of cutting all metal types from 30ga sheet metal up to 3/4" thick steel holding tight tolerances for any requests. As the laser has the ability to cut quickly the shop can offer 'same

day' turnarounds in most cases for any last-minute requests or emergencies. The shop also offers a rolling machine to handle up to 4" round or square materials for all of your rolling needs. The full sheet metal shop is equipped with 10' break capable of bending well over 1" thick steel plate and a 10' shear capable of cutting up to ¼" steel plate, while producing quality control parts for any engineered projects as well as functional air ducting, copper roofs, fireboxes, cladding, flashing, anything the industry needs that involves sheet metal. Machines alone are not enough, and the artistry and skills of the team shines through and in some cases even keeps alive a dying art like working with sheet metal. An example of that work was on display as a stainless-steel kitchen counter for the show "The Burbs" was taking shape.

"If they can't make it, you don't need it."

The Machine Shop is equipped with 4 lathes and 3 mills including a CNC mill. The team can fabricate one-offs and prototypes, high-tolerance quality control parts, and can manufacture parts for virtually any needs. They also offer CAD drawings for projects as well as shop drawings for any city/state project needs.

Production projects can be completed in as little as 24 hours, or weeks depending on size and complexity



and then packed and shipped to local studios or on location in the US or internationally. Even a job as big as working on the newest rollercoaster on the Universal lot is just another day at the office. Progress is the name of the game, and the team is constantly looking for new ways innovative.

The team works on some of the most iconic rides in the park: Jaws, Harry Potter, The Simpsons, Jurassic Park, King Kong, the Mummy, Nintendo and

Water World. When something breaks on a ride, they work closely with the engineers and quality control inspectors to fix the problem or even create a new piece for the intricate machinery of the ride. The venue rehab on some of the rides can take months to complete, so the shop runs 24/7 to keep up with park maintenance, with most of the work done from midnight to 8 am. Besides the rides, projects range from something as simple as patching up the baskets holding the 3D glasses used by the visitors to upgrading the cold storage of the park's food distribution center.

With a rapidly shifting landscape in the entertainment industry and constantly evolving technologies, the team is ready to embrace the future and is working hard to deliver elite level quality parts to all industries worldwide.

NewsReel would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to the shop and the informative tour of their fascinating machines and intricate skills.



Local 44

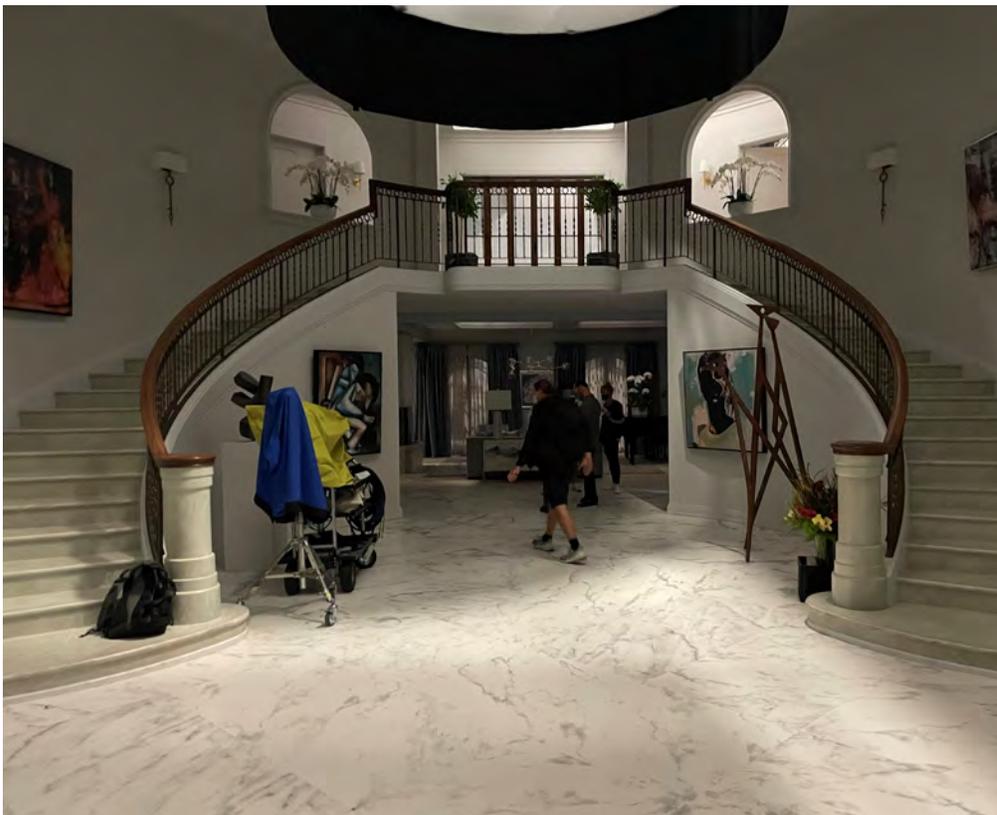
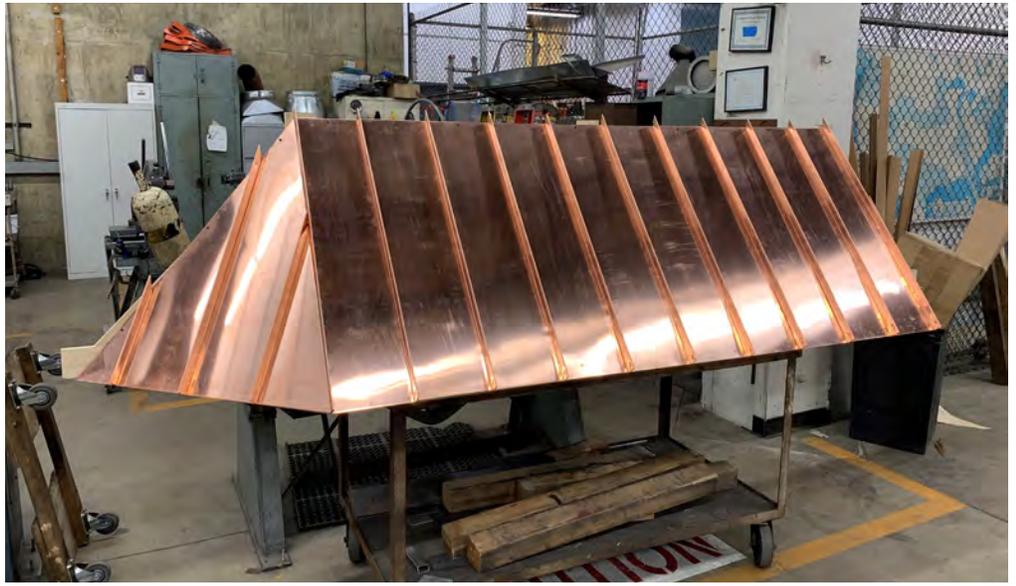
Rob Hansmann - DEPT HEAD
 Eric Hellie - WELDING FORMAN
 Clayton Saiger - SHEET METAL FORMAN
 Julio Reyna, Chris Gonzales, Travis Nunez,
 John Hernandez, Daniel Salas, Armando
 (Grande) Gonzales, Jesse Orozco, William
 Garcia, Rob Garcia, John Kelso, Mathew
 Gilmore, Michael Sagerman, Joseph Judd,
 and Roy Cancino

Local 700

Evan Whitt

Local 724

Anthony Barton, Andrew Cacerces, and
 Francisco Reynso



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

IATSE Local 44, Teamsters & Friends!



We want to recognize and thank our Local 44 members who donated their time, resources, and items to help those impacted by the LA wildfires. Zello Support has been a vital resource over the past few months, helping nearly 1,000 families furnish their interim housing and begin to rebuild their lives.



Frank Schaefer, Local 600



1. Marc Meisels 2. Ashlyn Mangandi 3. John Pollack 4. Mauricio Gomez 5. Breanna Tsai 6. 7. Jeff Myron 8. Monica Bell 9. Shane Patterson 10. Miss Beth 11. Chuck McSorley 12. Christina Giovacchini 13. Lintz Hadley 14. Sandy Skora 15. Raul Contreras 16. Elizabeth Marfori 17. Michael Ioomer 18. Heidi Briggs 19. Keith Aleshire-Rezendez 20. Dustin Blankenship 21. Noe Welch 22. Tobey Bays 23. Louis Dargenzio 24. Martin Viola 25. Chewbecca Jones



Zello Volunteers on Final Day
1. Rhonda Elliott 2. Brian Chapman 3. Effney Gardia 4. James Dean 5. Traci Spadorcia 6. Donald Kraft 7. Beth Rosenbaum 8. Marlene Hajdu 9. Sandy Skora 10. Dorit Hurst 11. Shane Patterson 12. Karen Minerio 13. Chuck McSorley 14. Christina Giovacchini 15. Russell Kromash 16. Kaila Marfori 7. Richard Owen 18. Liz Schindler 19. Chase McSorley 20. Amy Wallenberg 21. Nancy Lowry 22. Melissa McSorley 23. Lauree James 24. Emma Diamond 25. Andrew Shute 26. Lauren James 27. Elizabeth Marfori 28. Chewie Darsow 29. Kelli Parsons



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR 2025 AWARDS
WINNERS & NOMINEES

2024 ADG AWARD WINNERS

MULTI-CAMERA SERIES

FRASIER

Amy Feldman - Set Decorator

VARIETY SPECIAL

DICK VAN DYKE : 98 YEARS OF MAGIC

John Sparano - Set Decorator

COMMERCIALS

APPLE PAY

Jill Crawford - Set Decorator

SHORT FORMAT & MUSIC VIDEOS

KENDRICK LAMAR

Deedee Cheriell - Set Decorator

TELEVISION MOVIE

UNFROSTED

Amy Wells - Set Decorator

Jill Rolie-December - Set Decorator



IN MEMORIAM

Hand in hand, we recall the laughter and tears,
The shared journeys through the passing years.
United, hearts intertwined; in memoriam,
Our brothers and sisters, we find.

Richard J. Bayard
Coordinator

Born: October 17, 1942
Joined: March 16, 1964
Died: July 30, 2024

Steve Vizzi
Property

Born: May 2, 1962
Joined: December 5, 2016
Died: August 5, 2024

Scott L. London
Property Master

Born: January 18, 1955
Joined: December 6, 1979
Died: August 23, 2024

Max K. Bozeman
Property Master

Born: April 10, 1968
Joined: October 10, 1995
Died: October 20, 2024

Stanley B. Blackwell
Propshop

Born: January 25, 1954
Joined: April 16, 1995
Died: November 19, 2024

Rodd Boggio
Property

Born: November 12, 1969
Joined: April 14, 2010
Died: November 22, 2024

Michael Cody
Propmaker

Born: May 1, 1947
Joined: November 21, 1977
Died: November 25, 2024

Michael R. Barrett Jr.
Propshop

Born: February 17, 1951
Joined: February 26, 1979
Died: December 13, 2024

Eugene Rizzardi Jr.
Special Effects/Propshop

Born: November 24, 1952
Joined: February 21, 1985
Died: December 25, 2024

Saverio Cavezza
Propmaker

Born: July 29, 1939
Joined: May 15, 1990
Died: December 31, 2024

Jack Marino
Property Master

Born: November 23, 1945
Joined: November 30, 1964
Died: January 9, 2025

Jerome Stolley
Property Master

Born: June 19, 1939
Joined: January 16, 1978
Died: January 12, 2025

Louis Whitlock
Propmaker

Born: January 26, 1959
Joined: November 29, 1990
Died: February 23, 2025

Mark Sparks
Coordinator

Born: November 26, 1954
Joined: May 29, 1979
Died: March 11, 2025

Charles Conway
Propmaker

Born: May 13, 1949
Joined: June 26, 1979
Died: March 12, 2025

LOCAL 44 VISITS WONDERCON AND THE PMG

PROP TALK PODCAST

If you didn't get a chance to attend WonderCon this year you can listen to the panel recording of 'How Props Become Icons' available for streaming on Prop Talk Podcast.



Prop Talk Podcast Link:

www.propertymastersguild.org/podcasts

Scan here for Prop Talk Podcast



FOLLOW PMG

Instagram:
@_thepmg

Website:
www.propertymastersguild.org

Day One WonderCon

The Property Masters Guild kicked off WonderCon 2025 weekend in Anaheim with an exciting booth that featured the Movie Prop Museum, where attendees could get up close with screen-used props from Iron Man, Guardians of the Galaxy, Thor: Ragnarok, Man of Steel, Batman Forever, The Matrix Reloaded, Joker 2, Nosferatu, Death Note, and many more.

Visitors to the booth had the opportunity to chat with Property Masters Guild members about how these iconic props were brought to life, from concept to completion. The PMG booth also featured a fun photo opportunity where fans could pose in front of the Slim Pickens' bomb from Dr. Strangelove and interact with various handheld props.

Several display cases showcased an impressive collection of props, including: Mjolnir (Thor's



hammer), Batman's Batarangs, Riddler's Bat Bombs, the Death Note notebook, Star-Lord's Sony Walkman, Tony Stark's Arc Reactor, a Joker clown mask, an Arkham Asylum hand towel, the Codex from Man of Steel, lightning guns from The Matrix Reloaded, missiles from The Matrix Revolutions, and the Nosferatu wedding contract, mallet, and stake.

These props were loaned by a range of studios, global archives, and preservation services, giving people a rare and immersive look into the world of cinematic prop-making.



Left to right: Amanda Hart, Frederick Foote, Olivia Dom, PMG, Michael Trudel Jr. PMG, Robert Duncan, PMG and Alejandro Rengel, volunteer

Day Two WonderCon

'How Props Become Icons' Panel

"You have to be able to spin on a dime." Members of the Property Master Guild attended and spoke on a panel called How Props Become Icons on the second day of WonderCon. This panel featured Property Masters James "Skip" Torvinen, John Harrington, and Michael Corrie, who moderated. The panel offered an in-depth look into the art and science of crafting props that transcend the screen. Torvinen and Harrington also highlighted the creative problem-solving and strategic approaches they have developed and refined throughout their careers as Property Masters. How Props Become Icons was a great introduction for attendees to learn about the Property Masters Guild and to better understand the wide range of responsibilities that fall under the Property Master department in production.

From Concept to Prop

The discussion began with what elevates a prop to iconic status or even to the role of MacGuffin. The panelists emphasized that iconic props are not just visually compelling but also narratively significant, rooted in the story and authentic to the world of characters. Achieving that level of impact requires extensive research, whether it's ensuring historical accuracy, customizing a prop for a specific character, or meeting the following criteria: era-specific, legally cleared, and actor-safe. In order to tackle these complexities, the Prop Master's toolkit has to continue to evolve, incorporating new techniques and technologies to meet the ever-changing needs of production.

Script Breakdown Process



Left to right: Moderator, Michael Corrie PMG Associate Member, Property Master, Skip Torvinen PMG, and Property Master, John Harrington PMG



Preparation continues with script breakdowns and Torvinen and Harrington described combing through scripts to flag everything an actor touches or references in dialogue. These initial breakdowns help identify period-specific items, hard-to-source pieces, or fragile props that may need multiples. In large-scale scenes, such as those set in public spaces or involving crowds, they need to be able to anticipate prop needs upfront, so they can account for multiples. The panelists shared that when they find themselves in situations of needing multiples, they're reminded of the golden rule, "when you have one, you have none."

Hero vs. Stunt Props

Lastly, the panel also clarified terminology for the attendees who might not be familiar with the difference between a hero and a stunt prop. They explained that Hero props are any props that are very significant to the story and will be seen repeatedly in close-ups throughout the movie or series. Stunt props, on the other hand, are designed specifically for use in action-heavy scenes. These are made from soft or rubber materials to ensure actor safety and help performers maintain endurance during long, physically demanding sequences.

By sharing insight into the different creative approaches required for various types of props, the panel highlighted just how essential research and script breakdowns are to the Property Master's process. These early stages are foundational to how props

are conceptualized, executed, and ultimately brought to life on screen. Overall, How Props Become Icons offered a compelling look at the creativity, precision, and adaptability that define the work of today's Property Masters.

Day Three WonderCon

The third and final day of WonderCon there was a Prop Master Class Q&A with members of the Property Master guild as panelist speakers. After a brief introductory Q&A session, the panelists invited con attendees to bring their questions about building, repairing and designing props to the floor. Questions ranged from the specific (how to build a light up headpiece), to the theoretical (what would be a dream movie to have worked on).



PMG Members: Olivia Dom, Brad Elliott, Andy Siegel



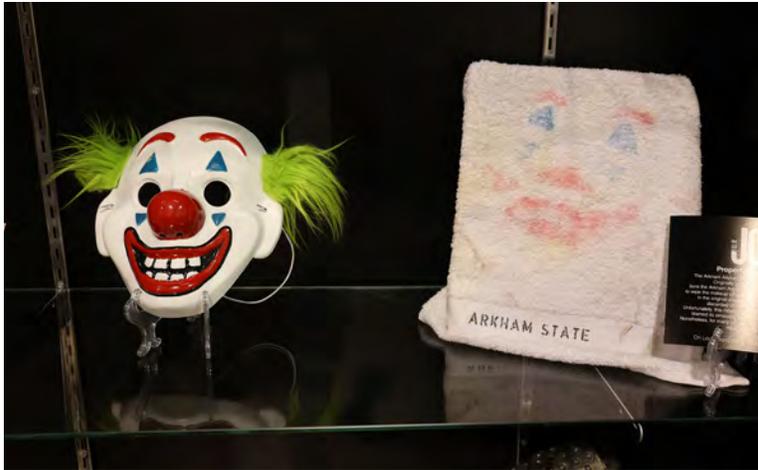
NewsReel would like to thank PMG members for showing us their props in real-life action.



PROPS FROM
THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

Property Masters: John Allen & Michael Blaze

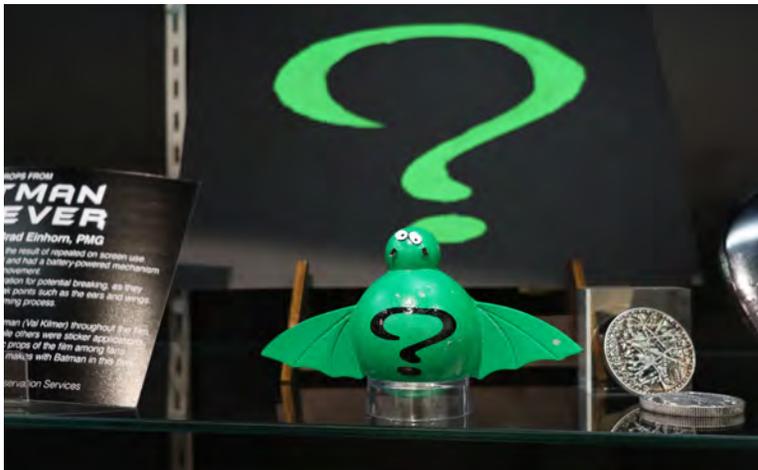
The missiles you see here are forms of Zion weapons used in the final battle against the Sentinels. The prop team wanted them to be able to be handled easily in fast-paced scenes. In order to achieve this battle-worn look, multiple foam missiles were made, painted, and distressed. Representing the last line of defense for Zion, they can be seen being loaded into rocket launchers and fired manually, or also seen coming out of missile turrets throughout the battle sequence.



PROPS FROM
THE JOKER

Property Master: J.P. Jones, PMG

The Arkham Asylum Hand Towel you see here is a prop cut from the film. Originally conceived as a pivotal "hero prop," this towel bore the Arkham Asylum logo and was used by Brendan Gleeson's character to wipe the makeup off Joker's face, signaling a symbolic end to Joker's persona. In the original shoot, the camera lingered on the towel that had been discarded on the floor, demonstrating the persona's downfall. Unfortunately, this moment never made it into the final cut, and some have jokingly blamed its omission for the film's perceived shortcomings at the box office. Nonetheless, for many on set, this unassuming cloth with makeup remains one of the most powerful items that might have been.



PROPS FROM
BATMAN FOREVER

Property Master: Brad Einhorn, PMG

The Riddler Bat Bombs you see here are the result of repeated on-screen use. Some versions of the bombs were mechanical and had a battery-powered mechanism to simulate wing movement. Many different examples were made in preparation for potential breaking, as they were made with a plastic shell and had easy break points such as the ears and wings. Many did not survive the filming process.

The Riddler Envelopes housed the riddles left for Batman (Val Kilmer) throughout the film. Some of the question marks were applied via paint, while others were sticker applications. These props have become some of the most iconic props of the film among fans as they mark the initial contact The Riddler (Jim Carrey) makes with Batman in this film.



PROPS FROM
DEATH NOTE

Property Master: Dan Sissons, PMG

For the iconic Death Note prop, director Adam Wingard wanted a historic feel. In order to make it feel like the book was old and added to over time, the book contains parchment sourced from England along with a fine Japanese rice paper, and a pulpy paper. The spine of the book was molded to appear like knuckles on a clenched fist. All book covers were handcrafted with leather and all the writing styles in the book were done through calligraphy. Once all pieces were created, the prop team worked on different aging processes for all the different materials utilized. What you see here is the finished product from the long and team-driven process.

LOCAL 44 VISITS WONDERCON AND THE SDSA

SDSA PRESENTS: SET DECORATORS OF THE MARVEL CINEMATIC UNIVERSE



Left to right: Rae Deslich SDSA, Ellen Totleben SDSA, Michelle Hall SDSA, Melisa Jusufi SDSA, Karuna Karmarkar SDSA

On Friday, March 28th, WonderCon attendees were treated to a peek behind the scenes of three Marvel shows decorated by the talented Melisa Jusufi, Ellen Totleben, and Karuna Karmarkar (pictured above). Thank you to the Set Decorators Society of America for organizing this panel and sharing the

delights of set decoration with the WonderCon community!

The Local 44 Set Decorators who organized the presentation are: Lizzie Boyle, Michelle Hall, Rae Deslich, and Prerna Chawla.

NewsReel would like to thank SDSA members for letting us participate in the WonderCon experience.



Left to right: Linda Dahlem, Rae Deslich SDSA, Ellen Totleben SDSA, Michelle Hall SDSA, Melisa Jusufi SDSA, Karuna Karmarkar SDSA, Lizzie Boyle SDSA, Joel Newton Set Dresser, Kelsey Fowler SDSA, Prerna Chawla SDSA

FOLLOW SDSA

Instagram:
@officialsdsa
@hollywoodsetdecorators

Website:
www.setdecorators.org

or Scan QR code here:



Left to right: Co-Moderator Rae Deslich SDSA, Co-Moderator Michelle Hall SDSA, Melisa Jusufi, Ellen Totleben, and Karuna Karmarkar SDSA.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL 44 SIGNATORY COMPANIES

KEEP YOUR BROTHERS, SISTERS, AND KIN WORKING!

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ANA SPECIAL EFFECTS
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EVENTPOPDDESIGN, INC.
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FXPERTSGOODNIGHT & CO.
GREEN SET

HPR CUSTOM
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SET MASTERS
SHOW MOTION 44
SONY PICTURES STUDIOS
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WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

FIRST ENTERTAINMENT CREDIT UNION PRESENTS UNION DUES SWEEPSTAKES

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE WINNER!

ROBERT BALOGH
LOCAL 44 PROPMAKER



CHECK OUT ROBERT'S REACTION HERE:



2025 LOCAL 44 TRIENNIAL ELECTION RESULTS

NewsReel would like to thank the Election Committee for providing the participation results of the 2025 Local 44 election.



41%

IN THE GENERAL

38%

PARTICIPATION IN THE RUN OFF

THANK YOU!

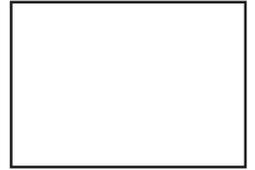
Bridge Props and all the Local 44 and Teamster 399 volunteers

We want to recognize donors, Bridge Props and all the Local 44 and Teamster 399 volunteers who helped load the truck at Bridge Props. They helped those affected by the fires.





IATSE Local 44
12021 Riverside Drive
North Hollywood, CA 91607



IATSE LOCAL 44 CRAFT MEETINGS

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2025 — **SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2025**

SPECIAL EFFECTS
9:00AM-11:00AM

PROPERTY MASTERS
9:00AM -12:00PM

PROPMAKERS
11:15AM - 1:15PM

PROPERTY
12:15PM - 2:15PM

COORDINATORS
1:30PM - 3:30PM

SET DECORATORS
2:30PM - 4:30PM

IATSE LOCAL 44
12021 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91607

PER LOCAL 44'S CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS, MEMBERS MUST HAVE THEIR QUARTERLY OBLIGATION MET THROUGH THE 2ND QUARTER 2025 FOR ADMITTANCE. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD.