



Associated Musicians of Greater New York

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Dear Commissioner del Castillo,

Local 802 AFM is excited to see that the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment is bringing attention to the diversity and richness of our city's live theater industry through its ALL NEW YORK'S A STAGE campaign. Union musicians are an integral part of bringing these stories to the stage, and our members are privileged to work alongside countless talented unionized colleagues, from actors and stage managers to stagehands, choreographers, and directors, to production staff working behind the scenes on wardrobe and make-up, to ticket-sellers and ushers. MOME is right in the assertion that "New York City has been a cornerstone of the global theater industry for almost a century." However, the very reason that our city has remained such a mecca of the arts for so many decades is because artists came together and unionized to ensure they could afford to live and raise families in the same communities in which they work.

To that end, we are concerned that the ALL NEW YORK'S A STAGE website, localtheater.nyc, promotes production companies and venues that do not uphold fair labor standards for the artists who create their live theater productions. Musicians, alongside the many working artists we mentioned above, deserve fair wages, health and pension contributions, proper workplace protections, and job security – protections that employers are only legally obligated to uphold under a union contract. In recent years, as the theater industry has boomed in New York City, artists have not always shared in those profits. Often, musicians are left behind, making substandard wages and working in untenable conditions on non-union productions simply because they must do so to make ends meet. As the official governing body for our city's arts industry, we feel it is important that MOME lead the way in ensuring that we celebrate unionized arts productions that value their cultural workers.

As MOME seeks to highlight local theatre in New York City in the month of October, we expect that care will be taken to only feature theatres who act as responsible employers to the many artists and workers who deliver quality productions night after night by negotiating union contracts that guarantee fair wages, safe working conditions, and access to benefits.

Thank you for your consideration, and for all that you do to uplift the arts industry in the five boroughs. We consider you a valuable partner in our work to ensure that all musicians in this city are paid and treated fairly for their labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Adam Krauthamer".

Adam Krauthamer

President, Associated Musicians of Greater New York, Local 802 AFM