

Paris, July 15, 2023

The Syndicat Français des Artistes Interprètes (SFA), the principal French performers' union, proclaims its total solidarity with our comrades in the USA, who have gone on strike July 13th at the call of our sister union, SAG AFTRA, an active member with us of the International Federation of Actors (FIA).

SAG AFTRA's demands are just, and reflect the problems facing performers and their unions the world over : reasonable wages for their work, in a context of inflation that is devastating for all workers, continuing remunerations that appropriately reflect the value their performances contribute to the exploitation of their work on streaming platforms, and protections against the unauthorized and abusive use of their voices, likenesses and performances by generative artificial intelligence.

The same situation exists in France ; producers and broadcasters are just as obtuse and stingy here. The speech by the President of SAG-AFTRA , Fran Drescher, on the eve of Bastille Day, made it abundantly clear that things must change, and quickly !

The courageous strike action taken by US performers and their union must succeed. SFA is convinced that the strength of this strike, waged by actors and extras of all levels of fame, will force the studios and streamers to recognize at last that the paradigm shifts brought about by streaming, and the threats posed by artificial intelligence, require them to take into account the needs of the artists at the center of the creative process and the source of the revenues of their businesses.

American comrades and colleagues, performers in France stand by you in your difficult, brave, and justified combat. SFA is ready to offer any assistance needed by our sister union, SAG-AFTRA.