

# BACKSTAGE

THE ACTOR'S RESOURCE

## Readers' Choice Los Angeles

May 14, 2009

### Favorite Hangouts: The Actors Center, SAG Foundation

As a young actor in New York City, Marcia Smith spent her downtime at Equity relaxing, networking, and building friendships. "After a day of making rounds, auditioning, etc., it was a wonderful place to go and chill out," says Smith. After moving to Los Angeles, she began to realize that, although the city was full of actors, there weren't many places available for them to hang out.



For the past 15 years, Smith has served as the executive director of the Screen Actors Guild Foundation, and on Aug. 25, 2008, the foundation opened the Actors Center as a place where Los Angeles actors could hang out. The center boasts a beautiful screening room, a lounge, a computer lab, and a conference room. Nearly every night it houses one of the foundation's programs, including Casting Access Project, Conversations, and LifeRaft, each designed to help actors further their careers.

With its state-of-the-art equipment and welcoming environment, Back Stage readers chose it as their favorite hangout. As convenient local coffee shops may be, they won't have Wi-Fi, free parking, friendly staff, editing software, entertainment-industry trade publications -- including Back Stage -- and more, available in one place.

**The Actors Center**, 5757 Wilshire Blvd., L.A., CA 90036; (323) 549-6081; [www.sagfoundation.org](http://www.sagfoundation.org).

#### *Runners-Up:*

-- **The Actors' Network**, 4370 Coldwater Canyon, 2nd floor, Studio City, CA 91604; (818) 509-1010; [www.actors-network.com](http://www.actors-network.com).

-- **Aroma Coffee & Tea Co.**, 4360 Tujunga Ave., Studio City, CA 91604; (310) 836-2919; [www.aromacoffeeandtea.com](http://www.aromacoffeeandtea.com).

-- **Samuel French Bookshop**, 7623 Sunset Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90046, (323) 876-0570; 11963 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, CA 91604, (818) 762-0535; [www.samuel french.com](http://www.samuel french.com).

-- **IO West Theatre**, 6366 Hollywood Blvd., L.A., CA 90028; (323) 962-7560; <http://west.ioimprov.com>.

-- *Jessyca Dewey*