

The Miami Herald

Posted on Mon, Mar. 07, 2011

South Dade actor honored for commitment to literacy

By Chris Mayo
The Miami Herald



handout

Actor Dan Fitzgerald was named a co-recipient of the Screen Actors Guild third annual Howard Keel Award. The honor is given for significant contributions to the Guild. Fitzgerald has made it a personal mission to help promote literacy through the SAG Foundation's BookPals literacy program, and was instrumental in bringing it to Florida.

Congratulations to Dan Fitzgerald of South Miami-Dade on being named a co-recipient of the Screen Actors Guild third annual Howard Keel Award. The honor is given for significant contributions to the Guild. Fitzgerald has made it a personal mission to help promote literacy through the SAG Foundation's BookPals, and was instrumental in bringing the program to Florida.

He has been a tireless volunteer since the inception of the program and reads to children in schools on a regular basis.

This is the highest honor given by the SAG Regional Branch Division, and will be presented in May at the annual conference in Orlando. Fitzgerald is sharing the accolade with Will Lyman of Boston. The award is named for legendary actor-singer Keel who was also president of the SAG from 1958-1959.

"I can't think of two finer examples of actor-activists serving in our Regional Branches today than Dan Fitzgerald and Will Lyman," said SAG 3rd Vice President David Hartley-Margolin, chairman of the Regional Branch Division. "Their service exemplifies the contributions Howard Keel envisioned in his championing of a national union."

Fitzgerald joined SAG in 1957, a year before Keel took the reins as national president. Fitzgerald is

also a member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, and a former Actors' Equity Association member. He has worked steadily in films, television shows and commercials while juggling board, SAG Foundation, and community service over the course of three decades.

As a performer, he had featured roles in the television series *Wiseguy*, and *Miami Vice*, as well as theatrical films *In Her Shoes*, *Mean Season*, and *The Greatest*, to name a few.

His co-honoree, Lyman, is the nationally known voice of PBS' *Frontline* and has been a dedicated union member since joining SAG in 1973. Lyman's career as a stage, film and television actor includes starring or featured roles in such television series as *Commander-*

in-Chief and Threat Matrix, and in the films What Doesn't Kill You, Little Children, Mystic River, The Siege, A Perfect Murder, and Welcome to the Dollhouse.

Fitzgerald is also a military veteran, having served during the Korean War. He entertained the troops during and after his service, including shows performed with Eddie Fisher.

SOROPTIMIST NEWS

March is Women's History Month and the Women's History Coalition of Miami-Dade County recently honored one of the members of Soroptimist International Coral Gables during its XXXIII Woman of Impact Awards dinner.

Past President Margaret McCaffery was recognized for her efforts in raising awareness of sexual trafficking in South Florida. In January 2010, she staged a play written by Deborah Lake Fortson called Body & Sold at the Florida International University campus for the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness. For this year's observance on January 11, she helped bring the play to the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. with FIU theater director Phillip Church and most of the original FIU student cast.

In addition, McCaffery was instrumental in bringing about a Congressional Forum, under the auspices of the Foreign Affairs Committee, to identify opportunities for Congressional action in assisting victims and advocating for change.

In other Soroptimist news, guest speaker William Butler recently treated the Coral Gables club members to some of his interesting stories. The group's work is to improve the lives of women and girls, and in his talk, Butler recalled many accounts of female participation during his long tenure as vice president for student affairs and professor of education at the University of Miami.

Butler also tells the university's 80 year history of international and diversity events, programs, and leadership in his book, Embracing the World: the University of Miami from Cardboard College to International and Global Acclaim. You can listen to some of his entertaining stories on YouTube.

For more information on getting involved with helping women and girls through Soroptimist of Coral Gables, call 305-235-7096.

FAT TUESDAY

Get out and celebrate 15 years of fish tales at the annual free Mardi Gras party at The Fish House, from 5-10 p.m., March 8 at 10000 SW 56 St. The fun includes live music and a crawfish boil, along with traditional party beads for all. For more about this lively seafood restaurant, visit www.thefishhouse.com.

Known about town for its Back Room Live of pro blues, jazz and rock, The Fish House has been called the best open mic nightspot. Be sure to visit on a Monday evening for Blues with Papa Joe. Call 305-595-8453 or go to [Facebook.com/thefishhousemiami](https://www.facebook.com/thefishhousemiami).

STUDENT RACE

Students Offering Support S.O.S. is a Palmer Trinity School organization that introduces high school students to the impact that they can have on their community.

On a recent beautiful Miami day about 100 runners, walkers and volunteers participated in a 5K

Dash through the Deering Estate that raised \$4,500 for charity.

Funds raised at the even will be disbursed to four charities chosen by the students. They are His House Children's Home, Shake-A-Leg Miami, the Tim Hardaway Foundation, and the Homeless Assistance Center.

The race first place winner in the adult category was Nick Rivadinero. The first place winner in the child category was Lucas Fernandez. The second place in the child category was Joshua Dye and the second place in the adult category was Allyce Perret-Gentil.

This year, the 5K Committee Board Members were Bryan Fusfield, Corey Haith and Daniel McCain, all 11th-graders at Palmer Trinity School in Palmetto Bay.

© 2011 Miami Herald Media Company. All Rights Reserved.
<http://www.miamiherald.com>