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THE REHEARSAL CLUB RESIDENCY COORDINATOR MEET MULTI-TALENTED MARIA ELENA DE LA NOVAL



TRC Residency Coordinator Maria Elena de la Noval is a Producer, Voice-Over Talent, SAG-AFTRA member, Cuban, dog lover, and musical theater film fanatic. As a child, Maria Elena performed in school musicals and appeared on television in Puerto Rico. As a high school senior, she received honorable mention in the drama category of the Silver Knight Awards. After graduating from the University of Miami with a BFA in Communications, she began her TV career, working at ABC and NBC in New York.

Later, in Los Angeles, Maria Elena landed her first job in advertising as an agency producer, something neither planned nor expected, but which became an amazing, successful career. After three decades of producing award-winning campaigns, Maria Elena returned to her greatest love, musical theatre. As lead producer, she is developing a musical called *Waiting for Snow in Havana*, based on the book by the same name, by Carlos Eire, which won the 2003 National Book Award.

A team player -- whether recording voiceovers in the booth, behind the camera producing commercials, or supporting aspiring actresses as the TRC Residency Coordinator - Maria Elena is professional, dedicated and driven by her love of the performing arts. TRC is thrilled she has joined our team!

TRC SPOTLIGHT

**TRC ALUM SPOTLIGHT:
PATRICIA HILL
Lauded Cinematographer**



Patricia paved the way for women entering the world of film-making.

TRC Alum Patricia Hill, shown representing her union (above), was one of very few women behind the camera when she began her nearly 50-year career. Below, in her own words, Patricia describes her determination to forge a path for herself behind the camera.

"I started shooting animation at night in Hollywood, so I could get into the camera guild. We shot everything from Jolly Green Giant commercials to the feature film *Mouse and his Child*. Even shot the animated intro to *The Carol Burnett Show!*

"During the day, I would go to rental houses and on movie sets to introduce myself, and I began getting jobs on commercials, music videos, movies and episodic shows. I got elected to the Executive board of IATSE 600 (International Cinematographers Guild) for 2 terms.

" I wanted to meet other women in the business (since there were so few and we didn't work together), but the union didn't have that designation. So I asked for the names of everyone in the union and called all the names that were feminine. Got ten fabulous women together and after a couple of meetings, WE formed 'Behind the Lens.'

"It was my great pleasure to work on *MASH*, *Cheers*, *Frasier* and many more. I was honored to be among the first women in the higher levels of cinematography. The union chose me to interview for the Heritage Series, which is also with the Directors Guild now."

Patricia was awarded a commemorative pin, along with a letter from the President of The Cinematographers Guild IATSE 600, for working over 25 consecutive years. She was also a member of the Hollywood Women's Political Committee, representing cinematography, along with Oscar-winning editor Lindsey Klingman, as below-the-line workers in this powerful group. Her Last show was "The Great Indoors." Patricia retired in 2017 after 45 years in the business.



Left: Patricia working on *Frasier* Center: Patricia on the set of *Mash* Right: Patricia on set

VIP Alums Brunch in Mid-Town



Left to Right:
Sunny Keyser (TRC early '60's)
Maybin Hewes Sherman (TRC mid '50's)
Maria Maggi Mallman (TRC early '60's)

This photo was taken at the St. Regis Hotel. The friends were in town to attend the Emmy Awards Ceremony, where Maybin Hewes Sherman's daughter, Amy Sherman Palladino, won for *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. After Brunch at "Fig and Olive" Restaurant, Maybin took the group to the candy store around the corner from the St. Regis and introduced them to the owner, whose name is Mrs. Mysel!

TRC Residency Program



Milestones of The Rehearsal Club Revival

By Maria Elena de la Noval, TRC Residency Coordinator

2022 began with rolling carts full of luggage and bags belonging to the new girls on the 12th floor Rehearsal Club wing at the Webster Apartments. Thanks to the generous donors and the volunteers that made this dream a reality, we now have nine talented, smart, and driven women living on Miracle St., chasing after their dreams.

The girls settled into their sweet, cozy rooms and without wasting any time, they were off and running. Top priorities for them were finding work, getting those much-needed character shoes, preparing auditions and slowly getting to know each other.

As you walk down the halls of our TRC wing, you can hear a beautiful voice vocalizing or preparing for a callback. You may run into one girl coloring or cutting another one's hair. The chatter of one talking with her parents, or another taking a class via zoom. Never a dull moment in the lives of our girls.

Each of the rooms' doors in our wing displays a TRC plaque, some bearing the names of Carol Burnett, Blythe Danner and other donors whose generous contributions helped to make our dream a reality.

Trying to schedule a time to get all the girls in one room is a challenge, but they are excited to begin their mentor program. We kicked off this month streaming movies and musical shows. We watched *West Side Story* in one of our beautiful, large living rooms at the Webster. The exchange between the girls after the film was smart, engaging and very refreshing. *Kinky Boots*, the musical, is next.

The girls are thrilled and honored to have been accepted in this program. They know that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and they are humbly grateful to The Rehearsal Club.

For some great images of the TRC Webster experience, watch this great video created by our own Maria Elena de la Noval:

[Webster
Video](#)

Latest TRC News

Breaking News of Our Celeb Alums



Kim Cattrall stars in the now-streaming on Hulu series, *How I Met Your Father*, a follow-up to the hit CBS series *How I Met Your Mother*, which ended some years ago. Kim plays Sophie, the narrator, in the new series. New episodes air every Tuesday.

TRC Founding Benefactor and comedy icon **Carol Burnett** has a new series streaming on Netflix. *A Little Help With Carol Burnett* features a panel of kids who help adults and celebrity guests solve their problems.



Rattlesnake Kate, featuring TRC's own **Andrea Frierson**, opens February 4 at the Denver Center For The Performing Arts. Break a leg, Andrea!

TRC Workshops



Meditation & Mindfulness

Hosted by RC Alum: Michele Mason
Thursdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT

Highly recommended to reduce stress and help to bring you into a state of true Zen.

Meeting ID: 822 0172 0646

Passcode: 738743

Thank you, Michele, for sharing your amazing gift with us every week! This Workshop is a special place to collect, reflect and commune.

[January Zoom Link](#)

**NEW: PROFESSIONAL CASTING WORKSHOP
BY JEN HALPERN OPENS
FREE TO TRC MEMBERS!**



Jen Halpern, daughter of TRC Alum Sunny Keyser, is an NYC-based Casting Director who primarily casts commercials, branded content videos and print. She works with advertising agencies and production companies to get them the talent they need per project. She also has a professional production background as a Line Producer for Independent Film and Television.

Jen's unique skill set has allowed her to understand the needs of producer, director and actor, although she loves working with actors the most and getting the best performances possible from them during an audition! Jen also coaches actors one-on-one to help improve commercial technique or for audition prep, does resume consultations and offers affordable headshots to actors.

Casting Workshop with Jen Halpern on Zoom
Tuesdays – February 22, March 1 and March 8 at 7:00 PM
Minimum 5 people, Maximum 12
Free to TRC Members, Non-Members \$10
Contact to sign up: rclub.francine@gmail.com

LAST CHANCE!

LAST CALL FOR THE PERFECT CUSTOMIZED VALENTINE!



It's not too late to order these beautiful keepsake Valentines custom-made by TRC Alum Charla Hayen. Each 5 x 8 card, on luxe creamy stock, is only \$20, including shipping. Deadline for ordering is Feb. 6. Contact Charla directly to order, at charla1219@aol.com, or call her at (540) 535-0515. Through Charla's generosity, all proceeds from these sales benefit TRC.



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If you shop on Amazon, you can donate 0.5% of every single purchase you make to The Rehearsal Club FREE! Just download the **Amazon Smile** App to your phone or computer and name The Rehearsal Club as your charity of choice! Those small amounts add up! You shop – TRC benefits! If we all sign up, we can make a difference in our support of our mission.

Shakespeare Alive!

Produced by Denise Pence



Othello wrapped in January, and *Much Ado* is next for February. If interested in joining the reading company, contact:

denise@denisepence.com.

In the meantime, Brush Up Your Shakespeare with Antony & Cleopatra

<https://youtu.be/eTvvZ--uADk>

All past Shakespeare projects are archived on our History Alive site:

www.historyaliveny.com

Explore! Engage! Enjoy!

Visit the New TRC Website – Click: www.rehearsalclubnyc.com

If you are an Alum or Member, click Login for Members-only access.

We Welcome Returning Alumnae

**If you haven't already done so, pay your
2022 TRC Dues by clicking the button below.**

[TRC Dues](#)

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