



Broadway Cares and programs and affiliates of Broadway Cares

165 West 46 Street
New York, NY 10036 US
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Dear Company of CATS – National 3:

Thank you all for participating in the fabulous virtual presentation of the CATS: National 3 “With Love, Now and Forever” fundraiser. Last Friday night’s “opening night” was a delightful success.

Your feline cavalcade raised \$22,230 for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS in support of the good work being done at The Actors Fund. These funds are the total of on-line donations to the CATS: NATIONAL 3 landing page and to BC/EFA’s YouTube channel over the event’s four-day, on-line run. Bravo!

You are part of “a wave” that has allowed Broadway Cares over the last eight months to maintain an essential safety net of assistance and services for our friends, co-workers and loved ones across Broadway/NYC theatre community and indeed from coast to coast:

- 1) Since the shutdown began on March 12th, **Broadway Cares has raised and awarded The Actors Fund \$7.5 million, specifically for their Emergency Financial Assistance outreach and a new health insurance initiative, Every Artist Insured.**
- 2) In April, BC/EFA initiated a new online campaign entitled “Emergency Grants for Pandemic Relief that raised just over \$2 million specifically earmarked for more than 300 social service agencies across the country whose clients have nearly been overwhelmed by the pandemic.
- 3) In addition, \$909,000 in emergency assistance grants have been awarded to social service providers here in NYC, nearly overwhelmed with requests for help

You all are a part of the fabric of those efforts, as you have been from our earliest days.

The enthusiasm, generosity of spirit and joyful courage that you brought to the benefits presented in cities across the country by CATS 3 in the mid- ‘80’s built the foundation in the Broadway community and on the road from which we work today. It’s a rich, sweetly remembered legacy. For which all here at Broadway Cares are most grateful.

And here we are today, over 30 years later. Now and forever does not get better than this. Or ever better than you.

Special thanks to Jonathan Cerullo and his JSC Productions for leading the charge on this shining endeavor.

We join Brian Stokes Mitchell in saluting all involved “With Love. Now and Forever.

You have conjured the means for us to move into a New Year in strength and with a Jelicicle re-commitment to good will and embracing those in crisis.

Sincerely,

Tom Viola
Executive Director

Valerie Lau-Kee Lai
Producing Director

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Tom Viola

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We've done many online, virtual and zoomed fundraising events over these last seven months. And I expect will do more in the coming seven. But of them all, this special event presented by and with members of the CATS National Tour 3 feels most like a family reunion, a gathering of beloved folks "from the junkyard" who go back to BC/EFA's very first days and earliest beginnings. Truth be told, I do believe that the company of CATS 3 was putting together fundraisers for AIDS organizations before an Equity Fights AIDS or Broadway Cares even existed here on the Broadway.

Please join us on Friday, October 23rd at 8:00pm. There are so many in this special event cast that I feel I've travelled a very long road, become an adult with, signed up for pensions, Medicaid and Social Security. (Forgive me!!! 😊)

We have all somehow survived all variety of personal and professional ups and down, moments of glory, recovery and getting back up. I join them in doing it all while holding dear memories of beloved friends, colleagues and comrades who are not here with us today. As we do our best to ride out COVID, as we have so much else. In faith and hope, celebration and with an eye to looking out for each other.

I hope you will join be and CATS National 3 for "With Love, Now and Forever."

To steal a line from another Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber musical: "We were young, together,"

