

ACT Email copy

Email Subject:

Financial support for Actor-Parents and their Children



Supporting the children of actors from birth to graduation

Noel Coward, Richard Attenborough, Marlene Dietrich, Ivor Novello, John Gielgud, Ellen Terry and Audrey Hepburn are just a few of the actors and theatre luminaries who have donated their time, energy and personal funds to the Actors' Children's Trust over the past 120 years. However, the work of ACT, past and present, remains largely unknown in the industry. We want to change that and help more families.

ACT is in the fortunate position of being able to increase its grants and support a lot more people. We fund actor-parents, where acting has been the main part of your professional career. Whilst most charities only give grants when you are unable to work, ACT knows that this isn't enough.

A depressing number of actors are forced to quit the profession when they become parents, simply because life becomes impossible. Earnings are too low and too unpredictable to organise and fund regular childcare. 'Free hours' barely exist for actors' unsocial work time. Schedules get changed at the last minute, meaning sudden needs for extra childcare. ACT is delighted that our childcare grants are helping actor-parents stay in the profession they love. Some parents welcome a monthly payment (e.g. £100 to £400), while others find a lump sum best at the start of a new job such as a tour.

ACT can help you with the following costs:

- **CHILDCARE** – top-up grants can help actor-parents attend auditions, take jobs and hopefully stay in the profession.
- **SCHOOL COSTS** – activities including music, sport, drama and dance lessons; uniform and kit, transport, lunches and trips.
- **CRISIS** – almost every actor-parent faces times of crisis. ACT is here for you and aims to give quick, useful, confidential support.
- **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS** – ACT aims not to duplicate state provision but, sometimes, when the statutory services are overwhelmed or unwilling, we are pleased to

fund urgent assessments and help families achieve appropriate provision through an Education, Health and Care Plan.

- **STUDENT GRANTS** – ACT helps in many other ways, including university, college and apprenticeship grants at 18+.

ACT does **not** pay for private education or private tutors.

Please do get in touch: robert@actorschildren.org 020 7636 7868

We first check eligibility (usually just by looking at your CV if you are on Spotlight) and we usually fund people whose household income is under £40,000.

www.actorschildren.org