

SAMPLE CURTAIN SPEECH FOR AUDIENCE COLLECTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE AFC

"This is a very special night for all of us working on this show as we are raising money for The AFC, the lifeline for Canada's entertainment industry. You may not have heard of The AFC, but I can tell you that for all the professionals who work in the world of entertainment, it can quite literally be a lifeline helping them maintain their health, dignity and ability to work.

If we get sick, sustain an injury or have a crisis in the family, we don't always qualify for government benefits. And contrary to rumour, we don't earn the salaries of a Meryl Streep or Brad Pitt, so we often don't have savings for unforeseen hard times. That's where The AFC comes in.

Previously known as the Actors' Fund of Canada, The AFC is a charitable organization that ensures that ALL members of the entertainment industry working in all aspects of film & TV, music, dance and theatre have somewhere to turn to cover the cost of basic necessities: medications, phone and utility bills, rent and even food when injury, illness or another emergency strikes. Requests for help have more than tripled in the last decade, with The AFC typically distributing \$500,000 in emergency financial aid annually.

The AFC is mostly supported by people working in the Canadian entertainment industry. Many of us make regular contributions to The AFC through voluntary payroll donations or opening night donations, but demand for assistance is high. That's why we turn to you, our audience. Tonight, we ask if you would join us in making a contribution. That way, The AFC can continue to help people when they need it most, so that they can get over a temporary setback and get back to creating great shows for you, our wonderful audience.

There will be actors collecting donations on your way out. You can donate by cash or cheque. No amount is too small or large. And you can get a charitable tax receipt by filling out the AFC insert in your program or donating online at **AFChelps.ca**

THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

Note for the performer or theatre: For more information, contact Sharon Tindyebwa – Sharon@AFChelps.ca – 1.877.399.8392