

Statement for Theatre Students Regarding the Press

Members of the group *Got Your Back* and *Canadian Actor's Equity Association* were informed today that in the current wave of harassment allegations a number of theatre school students are being intimidated by members of the media as they try to come by more stories.

We would like to make it clear that you have no obligation to speak to anyone from the press if you do not feel comfortable doing so. No one should be pressured or bullied into speaking, especially when many of the topics being addressed can be deeply affecting and triggering.

Should you have any questions about how to proceed when dealing with the media you may contact Canadian Actor's Equity Association at 1 (800) 387-1856. Ask to speak to a Respectful Workplace Advisor (RWA). They can help you navigate through this.

You are not alone and we have got your back.

We want you to know that sexual assault and harassment have no place in our industry or in our schools. Please know that the **time is up** for that kind of thinking and we are actively working to change things.

Know that you have every right to speak up. You have every right to a harassment-free and bully-free education. You have every right to demand more from your institutions. Take your time, take your space, and know that you are not alone. We are here for you and we are listening.

Equity's *Respectful Workplace Policy* and its *Not in OUR Space!* campaign are designed to eliminate harassment in live performance and they are there for you too! Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or need help.

Be well and be safe!
Got Your Back & Canadian Actor's Equity Association

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Canadian Actor's Equity Association is the voice of professional artists engaging in live performance in English Canada.

Got Your Back is a grassroots community of established and emerging women in the Canadian entertainment industry, using their collective energy and voice to demand active changes in the creation of safe and inspiring art.

