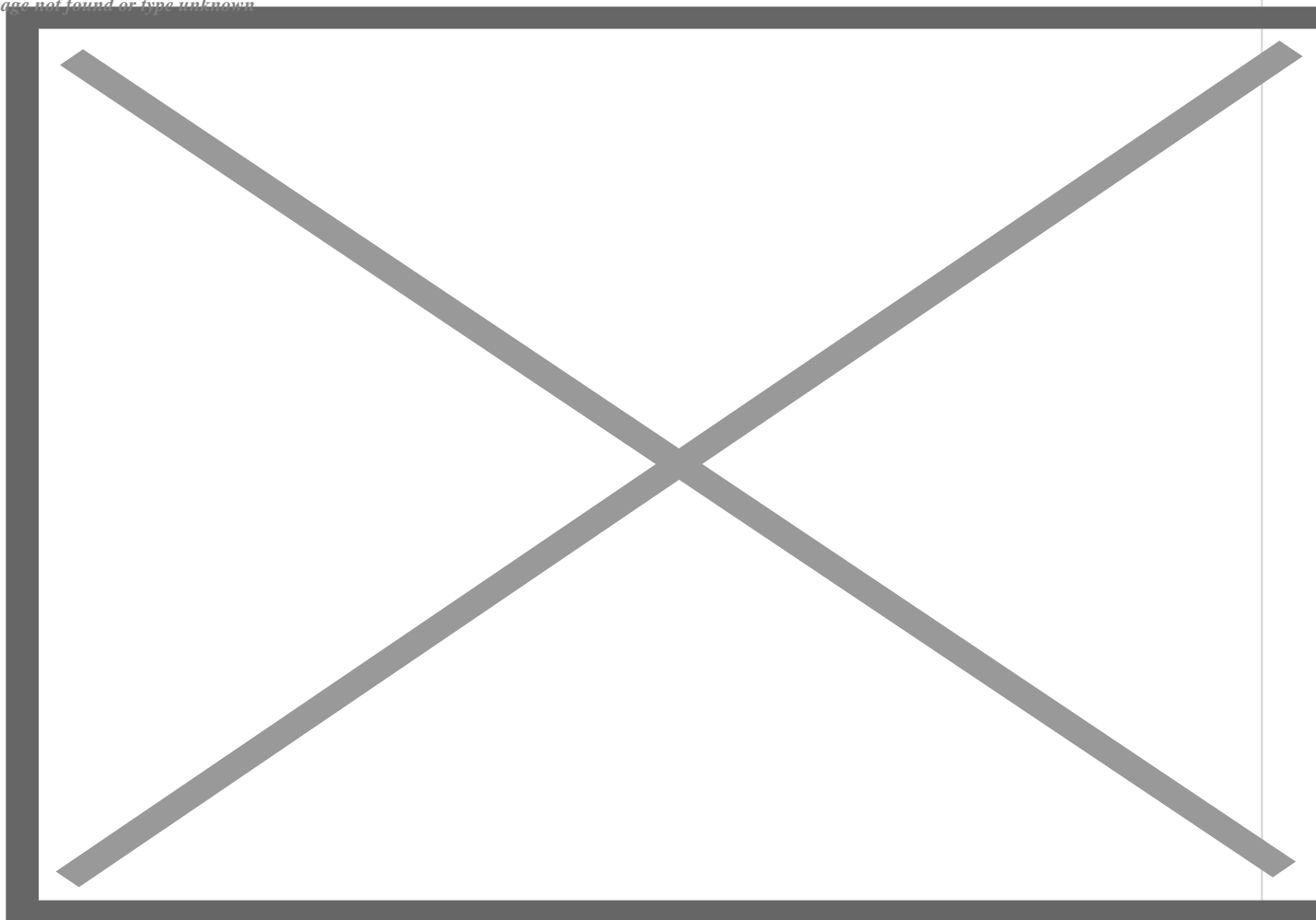


Hollywood poised for historic shutdown after strike talks fail

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Film and TV writers and their supporters picket at the Silvercup Studios production facilities in the Queens borough of New York, US on June 28, 2023 [Ted Shaffrey/AP Photo]

Los Angeles, July 13 (RHC)-- Negotiators for Hollywood actors' union have unanimously recommended a strike after labour talks with studios failed to yield an agreement, setting the stage for performers to join film and television writers on picket lines by the weekend.

The Screen Actors Guild – American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) union, which represents 160,000 members, said its national board would vote on a strike order on Thursday morning. If approved, Hollywood studios would face their first dual work stoppage in 63 years and be forced to shut down production across the United States.

th SAG-AFTRA and the Writers Guild of America (WGA) are demanding increases in base pay and residuals in the streaming TV era plus assurances that their work will not be replaced by artificial intelligence (AI).

Fran Drescher, former star of *The Nanny* and the president of SAG-AFTRA, said studios' responses to the actors' concerns had been "insulting and disrespectful." "The companies have refused to meaningfully engage on some topics and on others completely stonewalled us," she said in a statement. "Until they do negotiate in good faith, we cannot begin to reach a deal."

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP), which negotiates on behalf of Netflix Inc, Walt Disney Co and other companies, said it was "deeply disappointed that SAG-AFTRA has decided to walk away from negotiations".

The group said it had offered "historic pay and residual increases, a groundbreaking AI proposal that protects actors' digital likenesses" and other gains to actors.

"Rather than continuing to negotiate, SAG-AFTRA has put us on a course that will deepen the financial hardship for thousands who depend on the industry for their livelihoods," the AMPTP said.

The writers' strike has sent late-night TV talk shows into endless reruns, disrupted most production for the fall TV season and halted work on big-budget movies.

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