



THE AMERICAN ACADEMY  
OF DRAMATIC ARTS

September 16, 2025

**Statement on the Passing of Alumnus Robert Redford (Class of 1959)**

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the passing of Robert Redford, legendary artist and beloved member of the Academy's Class of 1959.

Throughout his remarkable career, Mr. Redford exemplified an unwavering devotion to the art of acting and filmmaking. From his early days at the Academy, he nurtured his natural talents with discipline and dedicated study, embarking on a journey that would establish him as one of the defining talents of his generation. In every performance and story he brought to life, Robert Redford embodied *Veritas*—Truth—through a rare authenticity that allowed him to fully inhabit his roles and forge lasting connections with audiences worldwide.

Beyond his acclaim as an award-winning actor, director, and producer, Mr. Redford was equally recognized for his philanthropy, activism, and educational advocacy. In so many ways, he worked tirelessly to elevate and uphold the dramatic arts as a vital cultural force. As an Honorary Member of the Academy's Board of Trustees, his decades-long support of our school's ongoing mission underscored his passion not only for the profession of acting itself, but also for those individuals who embrace acting as a calling to greatness.

Robert Redford's brilliance lay not only in his artistry but also in his humanity. His influence will always be felt throughout our greater Academy family, and today's students are direct beneficiaries of the commitment and leadership that he so gracefully modeled throughout his lifetime. This legacy will endure for generations, lighting the way for all who aspire to follow the extraordinary path he so uniquely blazed.

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*The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, founded in 1884, is the first conservatory for actors in the English-speaking world. Throughout its history, The Academy has consistently focused on a single mission: Training the best and brightest students from around the globe to become highly skilled, confident, well-rounded actors. The Academy offers study in New York City through a fully accredited Full-Time two-year conservatory program, a third-year invitation-only reparatory Company, and summer programs. The Academy's alumni have been honored with an unprecedented 113 Oscar®, 361 Emmy®, and 102 Tony® nominations.*