**Title:** Are Two Of Hollywood’s Main Actors Unions Headed for a Merger?

**Subtitle:** The Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists are currently in extensive talks to combine the country’s two main actors unions. While nothing has been announced officially, the two sides are reportedly close to a deal.

**Meta Description:** SAG & AFTRA to become one group? What exactly does the future hold for these two major actors unions? Anthony Caruso provides some insight.

**Date:** 0-3-2012

**Author:** Anthony R. Caruso

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The Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists are currently in extensive talks to combine the country’s two main actors unions. While nothing has been announced officially, the two sides are reportedly close to a deal.

The Group for One Union, which is comprised of leaders of SAG and AFTRA, is leading the effort to merge the two actors unions. According to the Los Angeles Times, the group has reportedly come to terms on a draft constitution, governance structure and dues-payment plan.

The newspaper also reported that the proposal will be presented to the union’s respective boards for approval. After they formally endorse the merger, it will then go to the members for a ratification vote likely to happen this spring. The proposed merger must be approved by at least 60% of the members for it to go through.

The merger would form the largest labor group in Hollywood. SAG represents about 125,000 actors while AFTRA is comprised of more than 70,000 actors, broadcasters, disc jockeys, singers, dancers as well as other entertainment professionals. Most notably, combining these two actors unions into one unit will lead to greater bargaining power in contract negotiations with potential employers.

The merger may also be beneficial for actors who have often been caught in the middle of the turf war between SAG and AFTRA. As noted by the LA Times, many actors have voiced concerns regarding their inability to earn the minimum pay necessary to receive health and pension benefits because their jobs are increasingly divided between the two actors unions.

**Raw Content:** <!-- wp:heading -->
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<h3><strong>What Does the Merger Mean for Hollywood?</strong></h3>
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