

HP COVER STORY

HP actress headlines fundraiser for Wilmette's ATC

ERIN YARNALL, Editor

Carole Dibo felt that there was something special about Rachel Brosnahan when the Highland Park actress first walked into her acting class "eleven or twelve years ago."

"There's a way that you can see when young actors listen when I'm talking, or if I'm giving them notes or adjustments that it's more of a collaboration than a young person trying to decipher what I'm saying," Dibo, the founder of the Actors Training Center (ATC) in Wilmette, said. "Rachel had that right away. She was very serious."

Years later, Brosnahan has won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Television Musical or Comedy, and most recently the Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series for her work as Midge Maisel on Amazon's "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel."

After that, it's safe to say

that Dibo was right in her feeling.

Brosnahan returned to Highland Park on Friday, Oct. 19 to headline a fundraiser for ATC at the Highland Park Community House.

Attendees of the fundraiser were able to meet Brosnahan, take photos with her, hear from musicians Raii & Whitney and then listen to a question and answer session with Brosnahan and Dibo.

Tickets to the event cost \$200, and the proceeds went towards supporting ATC.

"We want to raise awareness about [ATC], and we want to keep it going," Brosnahan said.

"The goal is not just to keep it going, but also to expand it," Dibo added.

Dibo said she wants to offer scholarships to students who are not able to afford the classes at ATC, and part of the funds raised at the event will go toward that goal.

"It's not inexpensive," Dibo said. "And I really

want to hire an outreach coordinator so we can take what we offer outside of the North Shore into more disadvantaged areas."

The acting school recently branched out on its own after being a part of the Wilmette Theater Education Project for six years.

"We're an old business, but it's like we're a new business now," Dibo said.

ATC has recruited a brand-new board of directors, comprised of nine women who are "very passionate about arts education," according to Dibo. The training center is still located above the Wilmette Theatre, but is opening a new studio space in Wilmette.

"We're growing so much," Dibo said.

In addition to funding scholarships, this new growth that the training center has undertaken is also being supported by the fundraiser.

When Dibo ran the idea past Brosnahan to headline the fundraiser, she said she

had no second thoughts.

"We were very excited because Rachel is a Highland Park High School graduate, and we were excited about having one of our own come back to the Highland Park Community

House," Wendy Horwitch, the executive director of the Highland Park Community House said.

Brosnahan said that she doesn't have the opportunity to come back to the North Shore frequently,

and it was nice to be home to support a cause that she truly cares about.

"It's so great to be back here, and it's so great to be back supporting ATC, which was my first acting home," Brosnahan said.



ABOVE: Carole Dibo, the founder of the Actors Training Center in Wilmette, introduces performers at a Marvelous Evening with Mrs. Maisel, Friday, Oct. 19.

RIGHT: Actress Rachel Brosnahan (center) poses with Carla Wasserman (left), a board member of the Highland Park Community House and Wendy Horwitch, the executive director of the Highland Park Community House. PHOTOS BY ERIN YARNALL/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

