

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015**

**PRESENT**

David Sparrow, President  
Heather Allin, Past President  
David Macniven, Treasurer  
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications  
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs  
Theresa Tova, Vice-President, Internal Affairs  
Shereen Airth  
Ferne Downey  
Barbara Gordon, alternate for Nicole St. Martin  
Richard Hardacre  
Grace Lynn Kung, alternate for Wendy Crewson  
Don Lamoreux, alternate for Tabby Johnson  
Jani Lauzon  
Burke Lawrence, alternate for Catherine Disher  
Shawn Lawrence, alternate for Joel Keller  
Angelica Lisk-Hann  
Constantine Meglis, alternate for Maria del Mar  
Farah Merani  
John Nelles  
Jack Newman  
Clara Pasioka  
Leah Pinsent  
Richard Young, alternate for Eric Peterson

**REGRETS**

Wendy Crewson, Vice-President, Member-at-Large  
Maria del Mar  
Catherine Disher  
Tabby Johnson  
Joel Keller  
Colin Mochrie  
Nicole St. Martin  
Eric Peterson

**ABSENT**

None

**CAUCUS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Larry Robertson, Chair, Apprentice Caucus, ACTRA Toronto  
Donal Hansman, Co-Chair, Full Member Background Committee, ACTRA Toronto  
Constantine Meglis, Co-Chair, Full Member Background Committee, ACTRA Toronto

**OBSERVERS**

Lorne Goodman  
Kristine Esposito

**ALSO PRESENT**

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto  
Indra Escobar, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto  
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Ritson, Director of Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Mimi Wolch, Director, Independent and Broadcast Production, ACTRA Toronto  
Stephen Waddell, Executive Director, ACTRA  
Jacob Leibovitch, Director, Public Policy & Research, ACTRA Toronto  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:15 a.m. with President, David Sparrow, in the Chair. He welcomed and introduced everyone present.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

##### **MOTION #1**

**Moved by Jack Newman, seconded by Angelica Lisk-Hann:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 4, 2015, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections to the Minutes, the following motion was moved:

##### **MOTION #2**

**Moved by Clara Pasieka, seconded by Heather Allin:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of June 2, 2015, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

The reading of the Equality Statement followed.

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

David Sparrow reported on the following:

- The Durham Region Film Festival is taking place on the same weekend as our Members Conference. David sits on the Advisory Committee. Information on the festival will be available soon.
- Sue Milling and Mr. Sparrow reported on their presentation on behalf of ACTRA Toronto to the Changing Workplaces Review Panel. Copies of their speaking notes were distributed to Council. Unions and guilds in the industry are looking at making a joint submission in September.
- A joint statement from ACTRA and Equity about discussions on a closer relationship is posted on the ACTRA National website. An e-mail address is available for questions.
- In mid- August, a special offer will be made to members who do not have Bronze level insurance coverage to participate in the newly enhanced Arts & Entertainment Plan. Insurance is available for \$74 per month for ACTRA members. Members will have the options to buy into Bronze coverage in the New Year.
- The Pride Parade was fantastic – there were approximately 70 people in attendance.
- A focus group with Choreographers was held to discuss upcoming IPA negotiations.
- ACTRA will be sponsoring the Canadian Comedy Awards that will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

- IPA New Media prep is underway.
- Julian Richings is being added to the ACTRA Toronto's IPA Negotiating Team. Motion #6, passed at the June 2, 2015, meeting was amended as follows:
- **MOTION #3**

**Moved by Theresa Tova, seconded by Jani Lauzon:**

**“That Motion #6 moved and passed at the June 2, 2015, ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting be amended as follows: That the following members represent ACTRA Toronto on the National IPA Negotiating Committee – David Sparrow, Sarah Gadon, Grace Lynn Kung, Catherine Disher, Rick Howland and Julian Richings.”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- Life Membership has been awarded to Paul Soles, Elva Mai Hoover and Barbara Gordon.
- ACTRA Toronto will be contributing toward the new August Schellenberg Award – Jani Lauzon reported that a fundraising event is being organized to raise funds for the award that has been created in the honour of Mr. Schellenberg. The *August Schellenberg Award of Excellence* will be awarded to a performer with a substantial career in film and television and one who gives back to the community.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sue Milling reported. IPA production has increased although we are seeing fewer days worked as production schedules adjust with current budgets.

There has been a slight decline in commercial production. This could be due to the Pan Am Games.

Membership activity has increased. A number of students have joined and some resigned members have also rejoined.

Regarding New Media – the working group will be meeting at the end of the month. There has been discussion about the various challenges that we have on the New Media front.

Work on the Commercial Agreement and the residual study continues.

Ms Milling reported on the provincial tax credit file and the impact of the changes that were made in the spring budget.

Regarding the upcoming federal election, Ms Milling said this is an opportunity for members to hold the Parties to account, and make sure cultural issues are on the agenda; we need a government that champions Canadian culture.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

David Macniven reported on the Statement of Income and Expenses for the period ending June 30, 2015. He said, as usual, we will be doing a Budget Restatement early in the fall.

Council was reminded of the following dates:

- . Toronto Executive meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>
- . Labour Day Parade on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – details to follow
- . ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting has been moved to Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADVANCING THE ACTRA ADVANTAGE – REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS: ROUNDTABLE RE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES**

A blue sky session was held re priorities and strategies. Staff will work on a plan to be discussed at the September Council meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

**Treasurer – David Macniven:** *Apprentice Caucus:* Larry Robertson reported that the Caucus is organizing a session at the September Members Conference. The next Caucus meeting will be held on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

*ACTRA Additional Background Caucus:* The Caucus is working well together and is communicating well with their constituency. The morale between the cash background and AABP members is good.

**Past President – Heather Allin:** Ms Allin reported that Tereza and Taisa continue to do methodical, one-on-one outreach, meeting with producers about ACTRA.

An On-Set Liaison Officer (OSLO) meeting is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ms Allin reported that a second draft of the ACTRA National Women’s Committee video tape script has been done.

**Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle:** Mr. Hindle reported on the importance of getting involved in the federal election, and encouraging family and friends to vote.

**Vice-President, Communications – David Gale:** *YEAA:* Clara Pasiaka reported on the TIFF party. She said that YEAA branches are opening up across the country - Halifax had their first YEAA meeting.

YEAA/Diversity/TAWC party is on September 15<sup>th</sup>. They are partnering with Hangloose Media.

Ms Pasiaka thanked AFBS and ACTRA Toronto for their donations.

*Performers magazine* – Mr. Gale reported that the magazine will be in the mail to the members before the Members Conference.

*Awards* – The committee had their first meeting a few weeks ago.

*Conference Committee* – Barbara Gordon, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, gave a brief report on her behalf. Amy Wright, Choreographer of *The Next Step* will be doing the Breakfast With... session at the Conference on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson:** *Stunts:* Angelica Lisk-Hann reported on Stunt issues. The Working at Heights seminar went well and the committee is working on putting on three more such seminars in September (30<sup>th</sup>), November and December. Training is mandatory in Ontario for people working at heights.

The committee is working on a stunt performer orientation course.

Regarding baseline testing for concussion awareness, stunt performers are being made aware of the Confidentiality Statement with the Artists' Health Centre. All test results are confidential.

*TAWC:* Ms Gordon reported on behalf of Nicole St. Martin: the committee is working on putting together Toolkit 3.0.

***Vice-President, Member Services – Jani Lauzon:*** Ms Lauzon reported on Diversity issues. She has signed an agreement with Mosaic International South Asian Film Festival being held this week. We will be sponsoring their star Supinder Wraich.

We will be co-sponsoring a film with the imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. This Festival is being held from October 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>.

Farah Merani said that the Diversity Committee would like to get more of our diverse members involved in the Pride Parade.

*Pride Parade:* John Nelles reported. This year the committee decided to have an Ambassador and agreed to have Elvira Kurt be that person. In spite of the weather, approximately 70 people were in attendance.

*Labour Day Parade:* Mr. Nelles said that the theme for this year's parade is *Time for Change*. Members are asked to congregate at 8:15 a.m. at University and Queen.

***Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Theresa Tova: Children's Committee*** – Ms Tova reported that a session was held on July 7<sup>th</sup> for parents of child performers.

Since Bill 17 was passed, Ms Tova has talked to the Law Times in Ottawa, Global TV, and CTV's Zureida Alman. The CTV was following up on a scam with an open call that was held in Toronto on July 28<sup>th</sup>.

The committee is taking names of parents who would like to take the Parents Survival training.

*Act Your Age* – This committee received a \$7,600 grant from the Senior Secretariat for their next video. Alan Goluboff, Chair of the Ontario DGC Board, will be shooting the video.

Classic Scene study at PAL will be coming up.

The EIC continues to work on a revised Agent Code.

David Sparrow reported that the Voice Committee is continuing to meet, and held a very successful workshop on setting up a home studio.

The Full Members Background Committee meets regularly, and is helping to organize a workshop at the Members' Conference on the ABCs of working as a background performer. The committee asked that a motion passed at their last meeting be presented to the ACTRA Toronto Council.

#### **MOTION #4**

**Moved by Clara Pasieka, seconded by Angelica Lisk-Hann:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council endorse the following Motion passed at the Full Members Background Committee meeting on June 10, 2015:**

**“The Full Members Background Committee supports the principle that all ACTRA members are professional actors and should not be discriminated against or disrespected on the basis of work category.”**

**CARRIED**

**NATIONAL REPORT**

Ferne Downey reported on the meeting of the ACTRA National Council in June, recent meetings of FIA, and work internationally. After Labour Day, ACTRA will launch a website and host resources on the federal election. The key objective is to encourage members to vote.

Stephen Waddell reported on the following:

- Wages and Working Committee meeting. IPA Negotiations commence in Toronto on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and the week of November 16<sup>th</sup> in Montreal.
- Negotiations of other guilds and unions are taking place over the summer and prior to IPA negotiations.
- CBC: tentative settlement has been reached for a one year agreement.
- CTV negotiations: a few issues are remaining but hope is to settle in the early fall.
- ACTRA/Equity – the next meeting is on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Items to be discussed: governance, insurance, and level of member participation. It was noted that ACTRA holds 279 events per year and approximately 50,000 members participate in these events.
- Temporary Foreign Workers – new guidelines will be out soon. This programme will be instituted across the country.
- This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of our strategic alliance with the USW.
- SAG/AFTRA elections. 50% of the elections will be conducted by mail and 50% by convention.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:33 P.M.**