

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

PRESENT

David Sparrow, President
Heather Allin, Past President
Wendy Crewson, Vice-President, Member-at-Large
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
David Macniven, Treasurer
Clara Pasieka, Vice-President, Member Services
Theresa Tova, Vice-President, Internal Affairs
Rebecca Applebaum
Maria Del Mar
Ferne Downey
Sedina Fiati
Dom Fiore
Barbara Gordon, alternate for Shawn Doyle
Joel Keller
Lindsay Leese, alternate for Catherine Disher
Angelica Lisk-Hann
Jack Newman
Julian Richings
Safiya Ricketts, alternate for Grace Lynn Kung
Jocelyne Zucco, alternate for Nicole St. Martin
Richard Young, alternate for Colin Mochrie

REGRETS

Shireen Airth
Leah Pinsent

MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus
Les Williams, Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus

OBSERVERS

Adam Nicholson
Kevan Kase (Alternate for Robert Racki, Stunt Committee Chair)
Tania Cardwell
Donal Hansman
Tara Bastikar
Lorne Goodman

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto
Indra Escobar, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Alistair Hepburn, Director, Independent & Broadcast Production, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto
Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director, ACTRA
Luca De Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA National
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1

Moved by Angelica Lisk Hann, seconded by Jack Newman:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of March 1, 2016, as amended be accepted.”

CARRIED

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Page 1: Theresa Tova was present at the February 5, 2016. Delete her name from *Regrets* and insert under *Present*.

MOTION #2

Moved by David Gale, seconded by Clara Pasioka:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of February 5, 2016, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

David Macniven introduced Joe Doran, the newly-elected Apprentice Chair, Joe Doran, and Vice-Chair, Adam Nicholson. He also introduced the new Chair of the ACTRA Additional Background Committee, Les Williams.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

David Sparrow reported on the following items:

- The ACTRA Awards in Toronto: thanks to Maria del Mar and David Gale and all of our volunteers and staff for putting on a great show.
- MPP Paul Miller’s 65th birthday celebration that was attended by Mr. Sparrow and Theresa Tova.
- Voice Committee meeting – Marit Stiles is helping with development of the e-learning package.
- The analytics on the ACTRAGrams launch on January 19th are very encouraging: work continues to reach out to creative personnel and decision makers at advertising agencies.
- CASSIE Awards: Richard Young attended with David. ACTRA Toronto was a sponsor of the Awards. The ACTRAGram site was promoted at the event.
- Ferne Downey reported on advocacy and the trip to Parliament Hill. Councillors who attended included Art Hindle, Rebecca Applebaum and Theresa Tova. Sue Milling also reported on this Lobby Day in Ottawa.
- Mr Sparrow was acclaimed as the Central Region Representative of the AFBS Board of Governors. He took his seat at the board as of March 1st, 2016 for a three year term.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms Milling commented on the Conference and the Awards. She stated that we could not have the kind of event we have without our sponsors. She thanked ACTRA National, ACTRA Performers' Rights Society and ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society for their generous support. A number of Agents also sponsored the event. A *Thank You* letter will be going out to all the sponsors within the next couple of weeks.

Ms Milling said that ACTRA is relieved and pleased with the new Ontario government spring budget. We were lobbying through FilmOntario to return funding to the previous levels but although that did not happen we are pleased that the government better understands our needs and didn't make any changes to the credits that would further impact on the "stability" necessary for industry investment.

Ms Milling reported on production volumes in Canada. Production is up. We will not see the impact of the spring 2015 budget cuts until next spring because of the "grandfathering" clause.

Regarding video games, Taisa Dekker has been working hard reaching out to low budget video game producers. Ms Dekker gave a PowerPoint presentation on *What Are "Indie Games"?* Council supported ongoing efforts to meet with the small videogame producers and identify ways they can access ACTRA talent on their low budget projects.

ADVOCATE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONFIRMATION

A hiring committee made up of Pres David Sparrow, VP Theresa Tova and ED Sue Milling was struck by Executive to seek candidates for the advocate positions. Council, members, staff and former advocates were asked to recommend possible candidates and descriptions of the advocate responsibilities were created.

Diversity Advocate: Mr. Sparrow reported that Jani Lauzon has agreed to return as Diversity Advocate. She will take this opportunity to mentor someone to replace her in the future. The Executive recommended that **Jani Lauzon** remain in this position.

A brief discussion ensued.

This recommendation was confirmed and Ms Lauzon has been reappointed as Diversity Advocate for the next two years.

Ombudsperson: Shawn Lawrence has been, for 16 years, an exceptional advocate in this important position which acts as liaison between members and ACTRA staff, AFBS, etc.

The hiring committee conducted interviews for this position. The Executive recommended that **Karen Ivany** be appointed.

The recommendation was confirmed with two abstentions.

Child Advocate: Theresa Tova and Tabby Johnson have done excellent work building this file for twenty and six years respectively, culminating in the passage of the *Child Performers Protection Act* in Ontario in 2015.

The hiring committee conducted interviews for this position. The Executive recommended **Christina Collins** for this position.

This recommendation was confirmed.

Process going forward: As per the By-Laws, the above positions will be reviewed and potentially reconfirmed every two years with each new Council. The Executive recommended that the positions be opened for applications and an interview process every six years, after an advocate has been in a position for three terms. Incumbents may be considered at that time as there is currently no limit to the number of terms one can serve.

Clara Pasioka was of the opinion that six years was too long as it does not give interested member/candidates a chance to put forward their names for the positions in a timely manner.

The recommendation of Executive was confirmed by Council with one against. Clara Pasioka recorded abstained.

ART HINDLE – CMPA PRIME TIME OTTAWA AND POLITICAL PICTURE

Art Hindle reported on the CMPA Prime Time in Ottawa, the CRTC and issues ACTRA members raise and advocate for with Members of Parliament and the Heritage Committee. It was an excellent primer and reminder to Council of the important political work done on behalf of members.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Past President – Heather Allin: Ms Allin reported on industry relations. 4 commercials went union after ACTRA's intervention, 1 short film was signed on to TIP and 2 video game projects are going ACTRA.

Ms Allin reported on *The Augie* – the August Schellenberg Award. Sedina Fiati and Safiya Ricketts reported on Diversity Issues and Jocelyne Zucco reported on the Canadian Film Festival which is March 30th to April 2nd.

Vice-President – Theresa Tova: Ms Tova meets with the agents on a monthly basis. EIC have some good initiatives on the go. Ms Tova is looking forward to working with the new Children's Advocate.

AYA – Ms Tova reported on the February 9th workshop – *Auditioning for Film and Television* which was attended by 50 members and taught by Ron Leach.

The March 13th and 20th workshops will focus on improv, taught by David Huband.

The 2nd annual Four Score Tea (Held to celebrate members who have turned 80.) at the King Edward Hotel was a success.

Vice-President – David Gale: Mr. Gale reported on the Members Conference and the ACTRA Awards – the best party in town. He extended his thanks to all the volunteers and staff. Maria del Mar also reported on the ACTRA Awards.

Jocelyne Zucco reported on the Members Conference on behalf of Nicole St. Martin.

Performers Magazine: Mr. Gale reported that Chris Owens has stepped down as Editor of the magazine. We owe him much appreciation for all his fine work with the magazine. The Editorial Committee will bring a recommendation for a new Editor forward at the April Council.

Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson: Ms Crewson commented on the ACTRA Awards: the tribute to our pioneer Stunt performers was amazing and Kevan Kase's reel was remarkable.

Mr. Kase reported on behalf of Robert Racki for the Stunt Committee. Tania Cardwell received emails expressing thanks from the families of the deceased Stunt Performers who were recipients of an ACTRA Award.

Nominations for the Nell Shipman Award should be sent to Ms Applebaum or Ms St. Martin.

The Women's Committee will be discussing insurance coverage for expectant and new mothers.

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasioka: Ms Pasioka reported. YEAA is developing a relationship with Indiegogo Canada.

Chairs for the Member Services Committee and the Labour Day Committee will be recommended soon.

ANTI-HARASSMENT TRAINING & POLICY REVIEW – SUE MILLING

This agenda item was postponed to the April meeting.

NATIONAL REPORT – FERNE DOWNEY & STEPHEN WADDELL

Ferne Downey reported. The AFBS deadline to register for insurance is March 31st.

March 8th is International Women's Day and Catherine Joell MacKinnon has been named the 2016 ACTRA National Woman of the Year. This honour is bestowed on a member who excels in both her artistic and advocacy achievements.

Wendy Crewson will be honoured at the Canadian Screen Awards on March 13th with the Earle Grey Award.

Ms Downey also reported on the SAG/AFTRA Strategic Alliance.

Stephen Waddell reported on:

- PRS' direct deposit policy. The deadline for members to sign up was March 1st. Residual cheques will now only be mailed out once a year.
- *Dare to Agree* – This group is going to establish a Screen Industry Council in order to speak with one voice.
- Mr Waddell met with Netflix, HBO and studios in LA.
- BC is very busy – 53 productions shooting currently
- SAG/AFTRA – we have signed a Strategic Alliance agreement and are looking forward to an improved relationship with them.
- ACTRA/Equity – a joint meeting has been scheduled for March 11th.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Cayle Chernin Awards – Nominations are open
- Monkey Love – Council viewed the video, for a charity that rescues primates, provided by Joel Keller.
- New Clips. Karl Pruner explained to Council how they manage this email correspondence from the ACTRA Communications Department.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:18 P.M.