

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

**PRESENT**

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

**REGRETS**

Shereen Airth

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS**

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

**OBSERVERS**

Lorne Goodman  
Donal Hansman

**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  
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Luca De Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto  
Stephen Waddell, Executive Director, ACTRA  
Elliot Anderson, Acting Director, Public Policy, Research & Communications, ACTRA National  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

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

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1**

**Moved by Jack Newman, seconded by David Macniven:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of September 6, 2016, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

## **CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There being no corrections, the following was passed:

### **MOTION #2**

**Moved by Linda Ballantyne, seconded by Maria Del Mar:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 9, 2016, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

The reading of the ACTRA Equality Statement and introduction of Councillors, Committee and Caucus Chairs, alternates, observers and staff followed.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

David Sparrow reported on the following items:

- Passing of Sandi Ross, a Past President and Diversity champion of ACTRA Toronto. A celebration of Sandi’s life will be held on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
- We had a fantastic Labour Day Parade.
- Day of Action is on October 13<sup>th</sup>, and we are reaching out to the federal, provincial and municipal governments.
- Our industry has been doing very well in this province and we have a lot of work opportunities. Commercial production is up, including US National commercials. This means we should double down on our lobbying efforts to ensure stability of tax credits, and protect the ecosystem that has been growing stronger over the years and is now under threat with the federal review and CRTC decisions.
- SAG/AFTRA and ACTRA leadership will be meeting to discuss non-union production work is on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- We have been meeting with TAMAC and EIC agents regarding non-union work in the commercial sector.
- ACTRA Toronto and the Stunt Committee met with Charles Northcott and Bob Underwood of AFBS for an update on the Accident On Set (AOS) insurance program.
- The ACTRA Toronto Members Conference is on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported.

- There was a fabulous turnout at the Labour Day Parade. She thanked John Nelles, Clara Paseika and everybody who helped to organize our contingent. Over 300 wristbands to the CNE were handed out. It was great to see some of the politicians at the parade marching with ACTRA performers. She said that change comes from collective action, and that much progressive change over the years is a result of the hard work of labour unions.
- Submissions on the interim report of the Changing Workplace Review are due October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The IPA is now online and a limited amount of printed copies are available.
- Ubisoft – bargaining commences later this fall.
- Childcare – Kids & Company. Ms Milling reported on this endeavour with Kids & Company. The yearly annual fee payable by ACTRA Toronto would be \$2,500. The yearly cost to members would be \$350 per child - \$20 per visit up to a maximum of 15 x ten hour visits per year. We have a great response from members for this service. For the remainder of the year 8 visits and the pro-rated annual fee to members would be \$200.
- **The recommendation is that Council approve this endeavour.** The cost is included in the restated budget. Council members asked questions and made suggestions about how to promote this offer. Recommendation was supported.

## BUDGET RESTATEMENT

David Macniven and Karen Ritson reported.

## MOTION #3

**Moved by David Macniven, seconded by David Gale:**

**“That Council accept the re-stated budget for this year.”**

**CARRIED**

## CRTC ANNOUNCEMENT, RESPONSE, IMPACT & AN OPEN LETTER

Mr. Sparrow reported on the CRTC decisions over the last couple of years and this latest decision regarding the Certified Independent Production Fund and the lowering of Canadian content criteria from 8 out of 10 to 6 out of 10 points.

Ferne Downey said that ACTRA has worked hard to get to where we are; Ms Milling noted that the CRTC has been slowly eroding regulations over the last couple of years.

In response to CRTC's announcement, David Sparrow has written an open letter to the Prime Minister and Minister of Heritage which was read into the Minutes. This letter was well-received by Council. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Council was in favour of the recommendation that the Open Letter be sent to the Prime Minister and Minister of Heritage.

## **GIF PROJECT**

Richard Young spoke about the gif project introduced the gif site. It was well-received by Council.

## **NATIONAL REPORT**

Ferne Downey reported on AFBS, the CLC Rise Up! Human Rights Conference on October 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> in Ottawa. This will be followed by the Young Workers' Summit from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to register is September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Virtual launch of CUES report is tomorrow, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Ferne Downey will be attending TIFF, and be present at a workshop on gender equality on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>.

The John Drainie Award night is on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Stephen Waddell reported on:

- Bargaining with Ubisoft in Montreal later this fall.
- Short term agreement with CTV re digital media is being finalized.
- Re-negotiation of the BC Animation Agreement will begin later this month.
- Staff negotiations with USW (September 28<sup>th</sup>) and COPE (October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>).
- SAG/AFTRA meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss organizing.
- Meetings with the Department of Heritage regarding the federal review are ongoing

## **EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

***Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Theresa Tova:*** Ms Tova reported on the attendance of the cast from *Odd Squad* at the Labour Day Parade; events planned by AYA – musical workshop and the annual benefit for PAL and AFC on December 5<sup>th</sup>, and the 4 Score Club, high tea celebration with four new members. She thanked the Communications Department for producing the AYA bookmark promoting the video Misconceptions.

***Voice Committee – Linda Ballantyne, Co-Chair:*** Ms Ballantyne reported that the committee has been inundated with voicemails and emails from members with various concerns. In the voice-world work opportunities are down and there is concern of double dipping, i.e. that members are doing both union and non-union work. Ms Ballantyne raised the permit issue and suggested limiting the number of permits a non-member can purchase. Mr. Sparrow said that this concern will be raised at the December meeting of the National Constitution and By-laws committee.

The first Voice Committee meeting will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

***Vice-President, Communications – David Gale:***

***Awards:*** Maria Del Mar reported that the next ACTRA Toronto Awards will be the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards. A new award has been suggested and the following Motion was moved:

#### **MOTION #4**

Moved by David Macniven, seconded by Heather Allin:

***“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve an Ensemble Award at the ACTRA Toronto Awards beginning in 2017.”***

#### **MOTION #4 – AMENDMENT**

Moved by David Macniven, seconded by Heather Allin:

***“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve a Series Ensemble Award at the ACTRA Toronto Awards beginning in 2017.”***

#### **CARRIED**

*Conference* - Mr. Gale reported on the upcoming September 24<sup>th</sup> Members Conference. Jocelyne Zucco reported on behalf of Nicole St. Martin.

*Magazine*: The new *Performers* magazine is out. It was the first for Joy Tanner as the Editor.

A new *Performers On Set* – Northern Edition, will be out shortly.

Please pitch any ideas for the above publications to David Gale.

#### ***Past President – Heather Allin:***

*Diversity*: Sedina Fiati reported and introduced the new video for the Share the Screen campaign. The *ShareTheScreen* reception is on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at Dentsu Bos from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ms Fiati was on a panel on *Canada This Morning*.

*Industry Relations*: Ms Allin reported on the various productions that the Industry Relations department has been able to “go union.”

Heather Allin is still working on the National Women’s Committee video. Filming in Toronto will take place in November.

***Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson.*** TAWC – Ms Zucco reported on behalf of Nicole St. Martin re ToolKit 4.0.

***Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasioka:*** Ms Pasioka reported on the Labour Day Parade and thanked all the volunteers who worked hard to make this a success.

YEAA Creates launched about two weeks ago. This was covered by *Playback*. She reported on YEAA’s presence at TIFF. A small networking event will be held at DentsuBos.

Bryn McAuley and Ms Pasioka will be attending the CLC Young Workers Conference in Ottawa.

Member Services Committee will meet in a couple of weeks.

***Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle:*** Mr. Hindle said that we are not going to take CRTC's decision sitting down. This, he said, makes us realize that we must constantly lobby.

***Day of Action - October 13<sup>th</sup>*** – Mr. Hindle will speak at the conference to get the members' support. Commitment cards have been printed and will be available for members to sign up.

***Full Members Background Committee – Constantine Meglis:*** The August meeting was very well attended by new and returning committee members.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

***Commercial Production:*** Judy Barefoot reported on commercial production statistics and earnings from January 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

***IPA Production:*** Alistair Hepburn reported on IPA production statistics.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:47 P.M.**