

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017**

**PRESENT**

Theresa Tova, President  
David Sparrow, Past President (morning only)  
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs  
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications  
David Macniven, Treasurer  
Clara Pasioka, Vice-President, Member Services  
Shereen Airth  
Rebecca Applebaum  
Angela Asher, alternate for Leah Pinsent  
Ferne Downey  
Sedina Fiati  
Dom Fiore  
Jennifer Higgin, alternate for Wendy Crewson, VP, Member-at-Large  
Marcia Johnson, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, VP- Internal Affairs  
Kevan Kase, alternate for Angelica Lisk-Hann  
Joel Keller  
Grace Lynn Kung  
**Constantine Meglis, alternate for Catherine Disher**  
Freya Ravensbergen, alternate for Heather Allin  
Julian Richings  
Safiya Ricketts, alternate for Colin Mochrie  
Richard Young alternate for Shawn Doyle

**REGRETS**

Maria del Mar

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS**

Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus  
John Johnson, Vice-Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus

**OBSERVERS**

Donal Hansman  
Alex Ross  
Paul Takano

**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, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto  
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director, ACTRA  
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto  
Laura McKelvey, Commercial Coordinator, ACTRA Toronto  
Elliott Anderson, Director, Public Policy, Research & Communications, ACTRA  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m. with President, Theresa Tova, in the Chair. She welcomed everyone present.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**Moved by David Macniven, seconded by Dom Fiore:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of March 7, 2017, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

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

**Page 5:** Under Vice-President, Communications *Conference* report, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph should read: **“Mr. Gale reported that Social Media Ambassador, Ivan Ruiz Soares, is organizing.....”**.

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

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

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of February 7, 2017, as amended, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Theresa Tova reported on the following items:

- Thank you to all who made the ACTRA Awards such a huge success.
- The Toronto Black Film Festival was a good opportunity to network and see great films. An Actra friendly event.
- The Ubisoft workshop for Voice performers was very well attended. Thanks to the organizers!
- The Executive met and re-assigned some of the VP portfolios. Nicole St. Martin will be the Executive liaison for the Women’s and Conference Committees as well as the Child Advocate; Theresa Tova will take on Diversity and Voice; David Macniven – Full Member Background; Wendy Crewson – Industrial Relations; David Gale – Act Your Age.
- The EIC Community meeting was held with TAMAC (Talent Agents and Managers Association of Canada), CTAG (Canadian Talent Agency Group), and TTAA (Toronto Talent Agent Association) to talk about the new industry Code of Conduct. It was well attended and productive. Hope to have new code this spring.
- Met with PAL to discuss working relationship with AYA and ACTRA Toronto.
- Social media strategy: A plan is being developed with 360i. Meanwhile we jumped into action and the Social media presence increased during both the Conference and Awards.
- A meeting of the Advocates, Chairs of Committees and Caucuses will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> following the Executive Meeting.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported:

- NFB are expanding their gender equality commitment and will include cinematographers, composers and writers.
- LA trip and meetings with the Studios and Production Companies went well. Talks focused on the diversity initiatives of ACTRA Toronto as well as the overall advantages of shooting in Ontario, stability of tax credits and the experience and depth of crew. The diversity.ACTRAonline.ca database was promoted. Plans are underway for a diversity casting event later in the spring.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

***Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle:*** Mr. Hindle reported on Mayor Tory's press conference at Royal York Hotel to promote Toronto as a location to shoot. Mr. Hindle said that it is important that we maintain the tax credits. He applauded Ms Milling and Alistair Hepburn for their hard work in LA and encouraged Councillors to continue with their lobbying efforts.

***Legacy and Archives:*** Joel Keller reported that he needs volunteers to go through the archives, which go back to the mid-1990s. He has come up with some ideas for ACTRA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, i.e. interviewing Past Presidents of ACTRA Toronto and ACTRA National, and teaming with the CBC in order to attain footage, etc.

## ORDER OF THE DAY

Ms Milling assumed the Chair.

### ***BY-ELECTION – VACATED COUNCIL SEAT***

Ms Milling walked Council through the election procedures. The floor was then open for nominations.

### ***NOMINATIONS***

<b>Constantine Meglis</b>	-	Accepted.
<b>Richard Young</b>	-	Accepted.
<b>Donal Hansman</b>	-	Accepted.

The candidates gave their nomination speeches and a question and answer period followed. Julian Richings, Clara Pasieka and Shereen Airth were appointed as scrutineers by the candidates to assist staff in counting the ballots.

Ballots were cast.

Ms Tova assumed the Chair.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)

***Vice-President, Internal – Nicole St. Martin:*** TAWC – Marcia Johnson reported on behalf of Ms St. Martin. The Nell Shipman Gala sub-committee is currently seeking nominations. The Gala is scheduled for Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at The Spoke Club.

The TAWC/AFBS session *Workin' Moms and Dads* at the Members Conference was very effective and a good step towards positive and productive conversations between the sub-committee and AFBS.

The TAWC Toolkit short film *Orchid* is scheduled to be shot in March.

*Conference* – Ms St. Martin (via Ms Johnson) thanked all staff, especially Karen Ritson and the Conference Committee who helped make this event a success. She also reported on some of the workshops and ImprovCare. Ms Ritson received a glowing compliment about it via email by a parent.

### **BY-ELECTION – VACATED COUNCIL SEAT (Continued)**

Ms Milling assumed the Chair.

The scrutineers reported that they observed a fair and accurate count.

**ELECTED** : **RICHARD YOUNG**

### **MOTION #3**

**Moved by Theresa Tova, seconded by David Gale:**

**“That the ballots be destroyed.”**

**CARRIED**

### **DISCUSSION AND CONFIRMATION OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT CANDIDACY**

The floor was opened for nominations.

### **NOMINATIONS**

**David Sparrow** - Accepted.

Mr. Sparrow spoke about his intent to seek the position of National President when Ferne Downey’s term comes to an end. He set out a vision for his presidency. The other candidate is Alvin Sanders from UBCP- ACTRA.

A brief question and answer period ensued.

Ferne Downey pointed out that there is currently a vacancy on National Council that needs to be filled by an ACTRA Toronto Councillor. An election for this position will take place at the April Council meeting

Ms Tova assumed the Chair.

### **EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)**

*Diversity Advocate’s Report – Jani Lauzon:* Ms Tova reported on behalf of Diversity Advocate, Jani Lauzon, on the following:

*Toronto Black Film Festival* – the festival was a great success. A panel organized by the Diversity Committee was included this year. The committee negotiated the screenings of two short films that were created during the Caribbean Tales Film Creation initiative. The committee also negotiated the screening of #ShareTheScreen video.

*Caribbean Tales Film Festival* – in organizing stage of the film creation initiative 2.0. This helps two ACTRA Toronto women from the black diaspora to create a five-minute film that is screened at the festival. The films in the inaugural year won awards and they continue to be filmed at festivals.

*August Schellenberg Award* – the deliberation team will meet later this month to determine the 2017 winner. Thanks to ACTRA National and PRS for their continued support.

*imagineNATIVE* – The committee has begun negotiations with this festival to find a better fit for our sponsorship.

*Toronto International Deaf Film Festival* – currently in the planning stages for a panel discussion at the festival.

*CLC* – we were approached to connect the Canadian Labour Congress with ACTRA members who could perform at their upcoming conference. We provided them a list of circus and specialty acts for their consideration.

The committee has received requests from several film festivals. Although this is good, we are not able to financially support them at this time, we are trying to develop a relationship with them.

*Diversity Committee Report:* Sedina Fiati reported on the activities of the committee which are working towards The Sandi Ross event, a Tiff reception, a Diversity census and more.

It was noted that the meeting of Committee and Caucus Chairs and Advocates is on Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

***Vice-President Communications – David Gale:*** Mr. Gale reported.

*Awards:* 1,100 people attended. He thanked everyone who was involved in the production of this event, i.e. staff, volunteers and especially, Karen Ritson, Alistair Hepburn, Awards Chair Maria del Mar and Karen Woolridge.

*Magazine:* The magazine is out and has been mailed to the membership. The Editorial Committee is meeting soon to discuss the next *Performers On Set*.

*Act Your Age:* Mr. Gale said that he is excited to be the executive liaison for AYA.

Jennifer Higgin, Chair, of AYA reported on the voice-over workshop organized by the committee. It was a great success. 35 members attended.

***Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasieka:*** Ms Pasieka reported.

*YEAA:* This committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. The CSA event sponsored by YEAA was a success. They are in discussion with AYA regarding having a joint event with them.

## **NATIONAL COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT (NCA) BLUE SKY**

Ms Milling reported on the commercial statistics and compared the 2015 and 2016 figures. There was an approximate 12% increase in the number of members working in 2016. A brief blue-sky session followed on issues of interest in the upcoming renegotiation of the National Commercial Agreement.

#### **NATIONAL REPORT**

Ferne Downey reported. It is International Women's Day tomorrow, Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Tina Keeper has been named ACTRA Woman of the Year.

Ms Downey also reported on CLC, AFBS and USW International Convention (Ms Downey and Elliott Anderson will be attending).

Stephen Waddell said that we are still in negotiations with CTV but are close an agreement. He also reported on Ubisoft, upcoming NCA negotiations in May/June, CLC conference from May 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> and the federal government's DigiCanCon interim report.

#### **EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)**

**Treasurer – David Macniven:** The following reports were submitted:

*Apprentice Caucus:* Joe Doran reported that the caucus held a very successful and well-attended event. Daryl Craig, Director, IS, presented ACTRAonline and the feedback from members was very positive.

*AABP:* John Johnson, Vice-Chair, reported on the recent e-blast that was sent out to AABP members trying to get more members involved.

*The Full Member Background Committee:* Constantine raised concerns of members working background that they want better representation at the Council table. Discussion ensued about the structure of Council. All committees are reminded to send written reports to their Executive Liaison who will ensure they are presented at Council.

*Finance:* Mr. Macniven reported that our year ended February 28<sup>th</sup> and we are now into our new budget year. Our audit will start April 17<sup>th</sup> for two weeks.

**Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson:** *Stunts:* Kevan Kase reported on the activities of the committee. The attendance at the Winter Conference workshop could have been better but it was a great panel. Improvements are being made to stunts.ACTRAonline. There was a good turnout of stunt members at the Awards.

#### **Voice Committee**

Ms Milling reported that the committee will be meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Ubisoft workshop last month was a huge success. They are looking forward to the upcoming NCA negotiations.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

*Upcoming Projects:* Rebecca Applebaum reported that her show *Bad Jews* will be opening on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Tova's show *Tough Jews* opens March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:22 P.M.**