

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, May 2, 2017**

PRESENT

Theresa Tova, President
David Sparrow, Past President
David Macniven, Treasurer
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
Clara Pasiaka, Vice-President, Member Services
Heather Allin
Josh Barilko, alternate for Colin Mochrie
Christina Collins, alternate for Julian Richings
Maria del Mar
Catherine Disher (afternoon only)
Ferne Downey (afternoon only)
Dom Fiore
Jennifer Higgin, alternate for Wendy Crewson, VP, Member-at-Large
Tabby Johnson, alternate for Rebecca Applebaum
Kevan Kase, alternate for Angelica Lisk-Hann
Joel Keller
Grace Lynn Kung (morning only)
Constantine Meglis, alternate for Shereen Airth
Leah Pinsent
Richard Young
Jocelyne Zucco, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, VP, Internal Affairs

REGRETS

Shawn Doyle
Sedina Fiati

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

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

OBSERVERS

Joella Crichton
Donal Hansman
Mark Taylor
Randy Thomas

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
Luca de Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Charlie Davidson, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:10 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

Agenda Item 6 was moved to Item 8 and vice versa.

MOTION #1

Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by Grace Lynn Kung:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of May 2, 2017, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Page 6: Under *Past President – David Sparrow’s* report, second line should read, “...meet with Blair Young, National Councillor, **President, ACTRA Alberta.**”

MOTION #2

Moved by David Gale, seconded by Art Hindle:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of April 4, 2017 be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

- Theresa Tova reported on the NCA focus groups and the meeting of the National Wages and Working Conditions Committee that she attended in preparation of the upcoming renegotiation of the National Commercial Agreement. The Toronto members of the bargaining team are performers with experience in voice and on-camera commercials. It is a very strong national team.
- Attended the Legacy Committee where plans moved forward for our Canada Day event. Ms Tova missed the Full Member Background Committee and Voice meetings due to a voice booking.
- The Voice Committee held a well attended meeting where they were pleased to see the updated Voice website. The committee is actively promoting the all-in radio pitch, e-learning and audiobook opportunities.
- The Diversity meeting was well attended. The committee made plans for further outreach to promote #ShareTheScreen including the Sandi Ross event during TIFF.
- The new CASCU CEO, Frank Manzo, was introduced at the CASCU AGM on April 20th. The Board announced that they reached their goal with the share offering and welcomed a new board member from UBCP, Keith Martin Gordey.
- Kudos to the Canadian creative team behind the musical *Come From Away* which received 7 Tony Award nominations.

- Ms Tova paid tribute to NOW Theatre critic John Kaplan. John was a great supporter and friend to many in our community.
- Ms Tova reminded National councillors that our Council meeting is on May 13th and 14th. Ferne Downey is stepping down as President after 8 years. Alvin Sanders (UBCP ACTRA) and David Sparrow are running for election.
- Ms Tova thanked those councillors who have committed to attend the CLC Convention May 8th – 12th. Ms Downey is running for Secretary-Treasurer of the CLC.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The dues deadline was Friday, April 28th. Over the weekend, over 1,000 members paid their dues online. Suspension notice will go out to those members who have not paid indicating that their membership will be suspended on May 5th.
- A few changes are being made to the first floor office space. We are in the process of digitizing the old membership files. The cabinets will be moved out in order to make space for new workstations, one of which will be utilized by the new IS programmer who will be dedicated to ACTRA Toronto.
- Indra Escobar will be moving on to the next phase of her life after 42 years of employment with ACTRA. She will continue to be involved with Industry Relations. The position of Director of Membership Services has been posted.
- As requested by the USW, the Stewards' job titles have been changed to Business Representatives. This change is consistent with other unions in the industry.
- OMDC has released their statistics for 2016. There was an increase in overall activity. The stability of the tax credit has contributed to this upward trend. There was a rise in both domestic and service production in Toronto.
- ACTRA met with the CBC. The CBC has committed to licencing productions that are produced under ACTRA contracts.
- The Voice Committee is focused on commercial production and marketing. The Voice website has been updated to allow members to upload their demos for both narration and audiobooks.
- The Diversity Casting call for June 1st and 2nd went out last week. So far there have been 261 applications. The requirement is that an applicant has a profile on diversity.ACTRAonline. Consequently, the number of profiles on diversity.ACTRAonline has risen to 868.

NATIONAL BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION MOTIONS

David Sparrow presented Council with the National Constitution and By-Law Committee's recommendations to National Council re amendments to the National Constitution and By-Laws. After a brief discussion, the following was proposed:

MOTION #3

Moved by Maria del Mar, seconded by Heather Allin:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council support the recommendations of the ACTRA National's Constitution and By-Laws Committee to the National Council re changes to the ACTRA National By-Laws and Constitution.”

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Continued)

- Ms Milling gave an in-camera report on NCA bargaining which is scheduled to begin May 29th through May 31st.
- Equity is rolling out an anti-harassment information campaign with posters and leaflets.
- An e-blast will be going out to the membership re the upcoming NCA negotiations and subsequent referendum once the terms of settlement have been reached.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Nicole St. Martin: Jocelyne Zucco reported on behalf of Ms St. Martin.

Conference Committee – The committee had its first “blue sky” meeting with some new committee members in preparation for the September Members Conference. The next meeting is on Thursday, May 4th at 10:30 a.m.

TAWC – Adrienne Mitchell will be present to accept the Nell Shipman Award on May 29th at The Spoke Club. Councillors are invited to attend and/or volunteer at the event. The TAWC Toolkit in association with Women in Screen short film *Orchid* will be screened at the Gala.

Last week, Kristina Esposito led an informative and successful panel on budgeting and marketing lower budget camera projects. This will be available online in the not too distant future.

Child Advocacy: Christina Collins has been in touch with Kids, Cops and Computers, an organization that works with police officers and children to help increase online safety. An online safety workshop will be available shortly.

Treasurer – David Macniven: There was no report from the AABP and Apprentice Caucus chairs.

Full Member Background Committee: Constantine Meglis said that the FMBG meeting on April 12th was very well attended. The Committee discussed their mandate. They are considering a video project with 20-second vignettes to address set issues and rights. The next meeting is on May 10th to discuss this project.

FINANCE REPORT – UNAUDITED STATEMENTS

Mr. Macniven reported on the Statement of Income & Expenses for the period ending February 28, 2017. The Finance Committee will be meeting with the auditors on June 2nd.

A discussion ensued regarding the budget line item for *Performers* magazine, in relation to advertising in the magazine. It was noted that the income from advertising in *Performers* was never intended to cover the cost for the publication of the magazine.

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasioka: YEAA – Eleven applicants were selected for *YEAAShorts17*. Each applicant was interviewed as well as their proposal read. A gentle and honouring rejection letter is being crafted for those not selected. The runner-up will be invited to participate in other projects.

A spearhead is being sought for YEAA's TIFF event.

A couple of YEAA members will be attending the CLC Young Workers conference.

Parades Committee – Ms Pasioka has been in contact with Parades Committee Chair, John Nelles. A meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: Act Your Age – Chair, Jennifer Higgin reported. Mark Schoenberg led a very successful masterclass on Chekov's *The Seagull*.

On May 19th, Ron Leach will lead an on-camera auditioning workshop.

Awards – Maria del Mar reported that she received a lot of positive feedback about the last awards. The committee is looking forward to making a lot of changes to make the event even better than the last.

Website – Mr. Gale requested feedback from Councillors on whether they can easily navigate the website.

Publications – The *On Set* magazine is a way for the union to have our union in the hands of our performers and also non-union performers. The publications are tools to address issues raised by the membership.

Mr. Gale noted that opting out of mailings is done manually.

Gender Equity Survey – Ms Tova reported on ACTRA National's Gender Equity Survey. ACTRA Toronto should be very proud of the representation on council and on committees.

LIFE MEMBERS

An in-camera session was held. To help guide the discussion Ms Tova read out the list of all the members who currently hold Life Membership. Two candidates have been chosen and their names will be released once they are notified. Life Members do not pay Basic Dues but still pay Working Dues. Life Membership is bestowed not only on performers working in the jurisdiction but who are also active in union activities and initiatives.

David Gale assumed the Chair while Ms Tova filmed two messages.

Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle: Mr. Hindle reported on the recent Ontario budget. The tax credits were not changed. There was an increase in the infrastructure line in the budget; however, there are no details for what this is for.

The WGA strike has been averted. They have a three-year contract.

SAG's contract expires on June 30th.

Legacy and Archives Committee – Joel Keller reported on the preparations for Canada's 150th and ACTRA's 75th celebrations. The committee met to discuss the upcoming event for Canada Day, and the brewing of an ACTRA beer for the event. Mr. Keller has been nominated to be the Brew Master. Our beer has a name: *CanCon Session IPA*. It is proposed that one dollar from every beer sold at the Beer Fest will go to the AFC. There will be non-alcoholic beverages available at the venue. Mayor John Tory, Film Commissioner Zaib Shaikh, Minister Melanie Joly and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will be invited to join us on Canada Day.

Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson: Stunt Committee: Kevan Kase reported that the committee will be meeting on Friday, May 5th. The stunt survey went out to the stunt community but the committee has not had the opportunity to review the results. Ms Milling said that the rate of return was reasonable. It supports the work that the committee is doing in relation to health and safety and Accident on Set.

Ms Tova assumed the Chair.

INDUSTRY RELATIONS REPORT

Taisa Dekker reported. It has been a busy year so far as outreach to content creators in all types of media continues, i.e. e-Learning, video games, film, web series and to the schools. 18 audiobooks have been voiced so far under the project with small Canadian Publishers.

Discussion ensued regarding how to reach out to new engagers and performers about working with ACTRA.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)

Diversity Report: Ms Tova reported on Sedina Fiati's behalf that plans are coming along for the Sandi Ross reception at TIFF. A budget will be forwarded to the Executive for approval.

Working The Scene in Colour is on Wednesday, May 10th at the Multi-Faith Centre, University of Toronto. This is a script reading series featuring work by Indigenous writers and writers of colour. All the roles will feature ACTRA Toronto talent.

Jocelyne Zucco pointed out that we should not forget French-Canadians when we talk about diversity and inclusion.

Agents: Ms Tova reported that the meeting with Agents on the new Industry Code will be rescheduled.

NATIONAL REPORT

Ferne Downey reported:

- USW Women of Steel is celebrating 30 years this year. A Women's Conference will be held on July 24 and 25, 2017, to celebrate this occasion.
- Ms Downey announced her candidacy for the CLC at the USW conference in Las Vegas.
- Ms Downey attended the EuroFIA meetings in Copenhagen. EuroFIA represents 28 countries.
- ACTRA National Council meetings are on May 13th and 14th.
- The next AFBS AGM will be at the AGO on May 15th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Attendees can see the Georgia O'Keefe exhibition for free.
- Ms Downey thanked Heather Allin for her work on the advocacy video. The launch in Vancouver for cast, crew and sponsors was in April. The Toronto launch is on May 20th. Buddies in Bad Times Theatre will be sponsoring this event.

Stephen Waddell reported:

- Mr Waddell talked about plans for the upcoming CLC Convention and ACTRA National's effort to get Ms Downey elected Secretary-Treasurer of the CLC. David Sparrow pointed out that not only would Ms

Downey's involvement on the CLC be good for the culture file, but our experience representing the self-employed would be useful to the wider labour movement.

- Cathia Badiere is ACTRA National's new Director of Research.
- CTV negotiations are on-going.
- The final agreement with Ubisoft will be available soon.
- BC Animation Agreement – all nine companies have now signed the agreement.
- BCMPPA negotiations may commence as early as October.
- SAG will commence negotiations on May 15th.
- ACTRA National met with HRDC to discuss the problems which result because HRDC is not required to solicit a labour market opinion on foreign permits for commercials.
- As we head into a federal copyright review, ACTRA National has two priorities: ratifying the Beijing Treaty and reinstating the private copying levy.
- BC membership system has been integrated with AMS.

OTHER BUSINESS

ACTRA Toronto National Caucus meeting is on Friday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:30 P.M.