

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018**

PRESENT

Theresa Tova, President, in the Chair (morning only)
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications, in the Chair - afternoon
David Sparrow, Past President
Richard Young, Treasurer
Wendy Crewson, Vice-President, Member-at-Large
Clara Pasioka, Vice-President, Member Services
Shereen Airth
Heather Allin
Rebecca Applebaum
Tantoo Cardinal
Martha Chaves, alternate for Jean Yoon
Christina Collins, alternate for Leah Pinsent
Paul de La Rosa
Maria del Mar
Heather Dick, alternate for Catherine Disher
Toni Ellwand, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, Vice-President, Internal Affairs
Jennifer Higgin, alternate for Angela Asher
Sarah Kolasky, alternate for Grace Lynn Kung
Deb McGrath
Jack Newman, alternate for Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
Joanna Swan, alternate for Shawn Doyle
Samora Smallwood, alternate for Joy Tanner

REGRETS

Salvatore Antonio
Lisa Michelle Cornelius

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Michelle Roy, Vice-Chair, alternate for Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus
Mike Sheridan, Vice-Chair, alternate for Devanshu Narang, Chair, ACTRA Additional Background Performers

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Alistair Hepburn, Director, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Luca De Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Lisa Blanchette, Government Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Victoria Shen, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto
Cass Enright, Social Media, ACTRA Toronto
Stephen, Waddell, National Executive Director, ACTRA
Cathia Badiere, Director, Research and Bargaining, ACTRA National
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. with President, Theresa Tova, in the Chair. The meeting commenced with those present introducing themselves by sharing a little bit about themselves, what's happening on set, etc. and the reading of the Land Acknowledgement and the ACTRA Toronto Equality Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1

Moved by David Gale, seconded by Shereen Airth:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of May 1, 2018, be accepted.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

MOTION #2

Moved by Deb McGrath, seconded by Rebecca Applebaum:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of April 3, 2018, be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Theresa Tova on the following:

- She has been in for multiple meetings and called in for as many meetings as possible before and after her work days and on lunch hours.
- The music industry has signed its own Code of Conduct to address the harassment issue in their industry. They have also signed on to the Creative Industry Code.
- Heritage Minister Joly made an announcement requiring arts organizations who receive federal funding to have zero tolerance anti-harassment policies and procedures. The Heritage Department and the Canada Council for the Arts, the country's public arts funder, have also agreed to spend a combined \$552,000 to sponsor workshops to provide training that will help arts organizations create and maintain respectful workplaces.
- Ms Tova joined the National Executive meeting in Winnipeg for the budget priorities conversation via teleconference call. She thanked David Gale and Richard Young for attending on her behalf. As both, the National Treasurer and President of ACTRA Toronto, she has taken numerous meetings trying to focus our priorities going into an extraordinary year with huge pressures on budgets here and at National.
- Ms Tova thanked Mr. Gale for chairing the last Council meeting and for this afternoon too. She thanked the executive for accommodating her call times by attending early morning executive meetings. She also thanked the hard-working Chairs and Vice-Chairs for their inspirational energy on committees and files. Ms Tova also thanked them for submitting written reports prior to the monthly Council meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported.

- The Ontario Financial Accountability Office released a report which reviewed business support mechanisms including film, television and digital media tax credits. Together with supports for other industries, four entertainment industry support programs were reviewed. The report was critical about the Liberal government's lack of attempt to demonstrate the government industry supports are working.
- The OMDC has released its production figures for 2017. They can be seen here: <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Assets/Communications/Film+and+TV+Production+Stats/2015-17/Ontario+Film+and+Television+Production+20+Year.pdf>
- The City of Toronto released its production report. They count commercials, visual effects and music videos while the OMDC does not. The City lost at least 44 productions last year because of lack of studio space.
- Cinespace is taking over and developing the Marine Terminal. Showline studios was to be taken over by Canada Post and would include a rail line behind it. The city intervened to keep it as studio space. The Unilever building is attracting studio re-development interest from several parties. TriBro studios is ramping up Durham Live Studios. Vancouver is getting more studios.
- ACTRA Toronto made a submission to the Ontario Standing Committee on Social Policy in support of legislation to require pay transparency reports. ACTRA Toronto supported the submission from the Equal Pay Coalition and the OFL the new pay transparency law passed on April 26th.
- Bargaining – CTV negotiations is on-going, and CBC is coming up. IPA focus groups will be held later in the year.
- Yesterday, April 30th, was the last day of the dues period. Renewals are up over last year. Membership team – well done!

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Treasurer – Richard Young: *Finance* – Mr. Young reported on ACTRA Unaudited Statement of Income & Expenses for the year ending February 28, 2018.

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: Mr. Gale reported that *Performers Online* is looking for content. Councillors should contact Mr. Gale or Joy Tanner if they have anything to offer.

AYA: Co-Chair Heather Dick, reported.

On Monday, April 23rd AYA offered an "Auditioning for Film & Television" workshop and had an excellent turnout of 30 members. Robert B. Kennedy was their very knowledgeable presenter and Jason Stroud was their gifted reader. The response was universally positive.

For the first time, feedback forms were distributed and the committee was delighted with an 85% completion rate. The responses will help them to plan workshops and activities for the coming year.

AYA's final meeting before the summer break will be held on Monday, May 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the boardroom. This will be a general membership meeting to discuss the needs and interests of the group for 2018/2019. They are holding this meeting before the summer so that they can be organized to begin in September.

During the latter part of the May meeting the committee will celebrate the outgoing Chair, Jennifer Higgin. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration.

The new LGBTQ+ subcommittee meeting will be held on May 7th at 2:00 p.m.

ACTRA TORONTO VOTES – Special Guest: Peter Tabuns, MPP, Toronto Danforth

Lisa Blanchette and Cynthia Lynch (FilmOntario) presented a primer on the Ontario election. The first candidates debate will be broadcast on May 7th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on CityTV.

Councillors can download the link to the PowerPoint presentation on election strategy that was presented to Council by Ms Blanchette, Ms Lynch and Clara Pasioka at:

[What do you care about? - Ontario Election 2018 Council PowerPoint v3_050118.pdf](#)

Ms Pasioka said that ACTRA is officially non-partisan in the elections, but that does not mean that we cannot ask questions. Our three provincial election asks will be:

1. Commit to stable tax credits.
2. Invest in studio infrastructure.
3. Support precarious workers.

Special guest MPP Peter Tabuns spoke about the coming election and how important it is for the industry and supporters of culture to be visible and heard. Whatever the result on June 7th, there will be a new government that will inherit budget challenges and will have to make tough decisions about spending. He recommended that voters do the research on how the parties have fared in their riding in the past.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)

David Gale chaired the meeting after the lunch break.

Treasurer – Richard Young: The following are reports under Mr. Young's portfolio:

Apprentice Caucus: Michelle Roy, Vice-Chair, reported that the recent Apprentice Caucus meeting focused on planning for their upcoming event – a wine and cheese reception and presentation introducing Apprentice members to ACTRA's casting databases.

Diversity Advocate: Samora Smallwood reported on behalf of Jani Lauzon.

The launch of the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) brochure was a great success. The word is spreading that Arts Grants are now considered exempt from ODSP funding. We are all crossing fingers that the case workers at ODSP embrace this change with generosity.

Reel Abilities – For this year we will be co-sponsoring a film from Australia called Milky Pop Kid. We have negotiated a speaking opportunity and introduction before the screening for one of our members and hope to have Leesa Levinson take on that responsibility.

Regent Park Film Festival – We have taken on the creation and delivery of the script lab series this year. Committee member Barbara de la Fuente has been appointed the point on this file. We will be handling the outreach, intake and producing elements of this script lab.

imagineNATIVE – We will be revising our support of the script lab with imagineNATIVE and are currently in the early stages of development for this file as well. This year the lab will concentrate on feature films. We will be involved in the co-production of the live reading for script excerpts.

Reel Asian – We are currently in the development stages of a more in-depth relationship with the pitch submission filmmakers and the possibility of adding on a script reading component to this track.

Diversity Committee: Mr. Young reported on behalf of Co-Chair, Lisa Michelle Cornelius,

Sandi Ross Awards – The committee held their first subcommittee meeting for the Sandi Ross awards on Friday, April 27th. The event will be held on Wednesday, September 12th at Orchid. The sponsorship package is ready and a call for award nominees will be going out through the Diversity webpage shortly.

BIPOC event w/ Cory Bowles – This past Friday, April 27th, the committee partnered with BIPOC (organization for Black, Indigenous, People of Colour in Film & Television) to host a talkback session with actor and director Cory Bowles (Black Cop). It was well attended and a valuable conversation ensued.

Working the Scene in Colour – This script-reading event will take place at ACTRA Offices on May 17th, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The scripts have been selected and casting will begin this week.

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

Parades Committee: The Committee wants to add a 75th anniversary element to our participation this year in both the Pride and Labour Day parades. The LGBTQ+ subcommittee will also be involved in the planning of the Pride Parade.

YEAA: YEAA will launch a 48-hour PSA challenge. The message of the winning PSA will be to get out the vote. She encouraged Committee Chairs to send this information out to their committees.

Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Nicole St. Martin:

Conference Committee – Toni Ellwand, alternate for Ms St. Martin reported.

The Committee had their Winter Conference Debrief which was extremely positive. The committee is working with Ombudsperson Karen Ivany and staff on preparing a checklist and tips for conference volunteers on helping to prevent and deal with harassment, discrimination, bullying and violence.

The Committee would really like to have feedback forms provided online and is asking for this to be considered for the future. Even after reminders to audiences, receive very few forms are received.

TAWC – Joanna Swan reported.

- The next meeting will be on May 11th at 3:00 p.m.
- The Nell Shipman Award Gala will be held on Friday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. at The Spoke Club where the short film *Moon Dog* will be screened and Karen Walton (co-producer of *Orphan Black*) will be presented with the award. TAWC is planning to change the vibe of the night and party more. They are looking for a DJ.
- The Content Development sessions will be postponed until next year due to some scheduling issues. This will give the team time to better organize.
- The first New member meeting was successfully held. It provided new members with an intro into TAWC's past and current initiatives without taking time out of regularly scheduled meetings.

Child Advocate – Christina Collins, Child Advocate reported. The Stage Parents seminar will take place on May 11th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the ACTRA Toronto offices. This is open to parents and child actors, both Members and Non-members. The focus will be on taxes.

Ms Collins is planning to attend the upcoming OSLO training session on Monday, May 14th, to talk about background minors.

As Child Advocate, Ms Collins continues to answer calls and emails from parent on a daily basis.

President – Theresa Tova:

AABP Caucus – Mike Sheridan, Vice-Chair, reported that the AABP Caucus has now had two meetings since the election of their executive.

Some of the ideas the Caucus has discussed include:

- contributing to the IPA negotiations to achieve increased wages and recognition
- improved treatment from background agents;
- reducing voucher requirements to become AABP/Apprentice or Full Member, and
- how to better engage, activate and grow the AABP Membership

Full Members Background Committee: Background Advocate Shereen Airth reported that the FMBG committee has not met recently.

Background Advocate Report: Ms Airth reported that she is putting together a workshop for children. There will be an article in Performers on Set on the new role of the Background Advocate.

Past President – David Sparrow:

Stunt Committee – Stunt Liaison Tania Cardwell reported that Monique Ganderton who was contracted to work on *Avengers: Infinity War* is Marvel Studios' first female stunt coordinator for a feature film.

NATIONAL REPORT – David Sparrow, President, and Stephen Waddell, NED

Stephen Waddell reported on:

- CBC – referendum results are in 92.5% of the members voted in favour of the increase in pay. We will be going into negotiations soon.
- CTV negotiations are ongoing
- IPA negotiations are scheduled for the fall
- DGC National is in negotiations.
- National Executive met in Winnipeg last month.
- The Copyright Act is up for review.
- Ferne Downey and David Gale will be attending Julie Dabrusin's open house.
- NAFTA.
- Heather Allin, Chair of the National Women's Committee and Ferne Downey, President, FIA, will be making a presentation to the House of Commons re Gender Parity.
- CBC while preserving their archives is digitizing and destroying their analog version. There is a call for the preservation of these tapes.

RAGS TO REASONABLE: CHRIS ENNS AND EMILY NIXON

ACTRA Toronto is working with Chris, Emily and the AFC to identify and provide on-line and in-person financial help and planning tools specifically built for the creative class. These Members have a popular blog on financial literacy for freelance art professionals. (<https://www.ragstoreasonable.com/blog/>) Their presentation highlighted typical psychological barriers for performers. As well, they introduced exercises to evaluate whether your spending reflects your values. One tool they like to recommend is *You Need a Budget* which can be found here:

https://www.youneedabudget.com/?ar_clx=yes&ar_channel=sem&ar_campaign=36195583&ar_adgroup=1420857373&ar_ad=256856340718&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIwLzo66fn2gIVCbbACh0DpA9oEAAyASAAEgLjzvD BwE

The AFC's Executive Director David Hope and Program Manager Leah Erbe made a presentation about its new Financial Wellness Program which is free for members. The program includes financial counselling, coaching, debt management, a free Lynda.com subscription, and financial therapy. Learn more here: <https://afchelps.ca/financial-wellness-program/>

ANTI-HARASSMENT UPDATE

Victoria Shen reported in-camera.

OTHER BUSINESS

- ACTRA Toronto is a sponsor of *Scrabble with the Stars* fundraiser for PAL on Monday, May 14th at the Sony Centre.
- *Cayle Chernin Awards* – May 16th. Co-hosted by David Gale and Linda Kash.
- *Reel Women Seen* – has been officially selected into the Diversity in Cannes Short Film Showcase.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:25 P.M.