

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

PRESENT

Theresa Tova, President, in the Chair
Wendy Crewson, Vice-President, Member-at-Large
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
Clara Pasioka, Vice-President, Member Services
David Sparrow, Past President
Richard Young, Treasurer
Shereen Airth
Heather Allin
Salvatore Antonio
Rebecca Applebaum (afternoon only)
Angela Asher
Linda Ballantyne, alternate for Catherine Disher
Aldrin Bundoc, alternate for Grace Lynn Kung
Christina Collins, alternate for Leah Pinsent
Lisa Michelle Cornelius
Paul de La Rosa
Maria del Mar
Shawn Doyle
Deb McGrath
Jean Yoon
Jocelyne Zucco, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, Vice-President, Internal Affairs

REGRETS

Tantoo Cardinal
Joy Tanner

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus
Karen Ivany, Ombudsperson (morning only)
Dan Iaboni, Stunt Committee
Mike Sheridan, Chair, ACTRA Additional Background Performers

OBSERVERS

Safiya Ricketts
Gugun Deep Singh

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
Stephen Waddell, Executive Director, ACTRA National
Lisa Blanchette, Director of Public Policy, ACTRA National
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Victoria Shen, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. with President, Theresa Tova, in the Chair.

Ms Tova introduced the alternates, Council and Staff. This was followed by the reading of the Land Acknowledgement and Equality Statement.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1

Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by Lisa Michelle Cornelius:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of September 4, 2018, be accepted.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Page 1: Karen Ivany was present all day.

MOTION #2

Moved by Paul de la Rosa, seconded by Jocelyne Zucco:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 4, 2018, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Theresa Tova reported on the following:

- Tova made a friendly reminder to Councillors to sign up for Direct Deposit in Toronto, PRS and National
- IPA focus groups will recommence in September as many people were away for the summer.
- The Executive took a Building Power course for leaders from the USW educator which started us thinking about priorities going into the IPA.
- All TAMAC and many other agents have signed on to the new EIC code. Only one background agent has signed so far.
- Telefilm is looking at the gender statistics and we will reissue the stats.
- Proud of our Toronto members in TIFF. Tauto Cardinal has three films in the upcoming Toronto International Film Festival. We are excited to be partnering again with the xoTO. The xoTO House this year will be at 284 King Street West. There will be a panel on diversity Friday afternoon.
- As part of Beer Week in Toronto, the Only Café will be featuring ACTRA Toronto’s beer: 475. The tasting will take place on September 21st at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to come taste ACTRA Toronto’s new beer ACTRA 475.
- Councillors were encouraged to attend the ACTRA Toronto Fall Members Conference on September 22nd. Toronto City Councillor Paula Fletcher will be the guest speaker at the Plenary.

- Richard Young and Alistair Hepburn will be going to meet with the Members in North Bay at the same time as the Fall Conference, facilitating the Respect on Set, Member Orientation and Financial Literacy workshops.
- Victoria Shen and Tova have taken a number of meetings dealing with harassment.
- National Constitution and By-Laws Committee has met a few times. A questionnaire is being circulated to all the branches to help guide the Committee in the review of the Constitution. There are a number of questions we need to consider today so we can report back
- Tova reminded Council that Nicole St. Martin announced her intention to step down as ACTRA Toronto Councillor. Elections for her vacated seat on Council and the Executive will be held at the October Council meeting.
- CBC negotiations are ongoing with another 32 days planned in October. Any increase negotiated will be retroactive to July 2018.
- Tova thanked all who came out to march at the Labour Day Parade.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported:

- Thanks to Clara Pasioka and the organizing committee for another successful Labour Day Parade. IATSE 58 appreciated the support. They are back at the bargaining table.
- Congratulations to Art Hindle who will be receiving the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian International Faith & Family Film Festival (CIFF) for his contribution to the Canadian film and television industry.
- Congratulations to Lisa Blanchette who has accepted the position of Director of Public Policy and Communications at ACTRA National. She will be available to help us with the municipal elections.
- A new studio is being built in Markham.
- Unlike at other international festivals, a Netflix production will open TIFF and Netflix will be fully present during the festival. As the public funding for feature films declines, Netflix is increasingly a go-to source for independent filmmakers.
- A couple of focus groups have been held and a survey has been sent out in preparation of the upcoming IPA negotiations. The Stunt Committee will be holding a focus group on Saturday. There will also be focus groups at the Members Conference later this month.

INDUSTRY RELATIONS REPORT

Taisa Dekker reported:

- A producer of a Public Service Announcement got in touch with Industry Relations as he wanted to use ACTRA talent. IR had previously reached out to this producer about a non-union PSA, and the producer remembered our pitch, and decided to work with union talent this time around.
- ACTRA Toronto negotiated a Letter of Understanding with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Union members can volunteer to read material for the CNIB.
- Taisa spoke about a few of the meetings with new Producers and Engagers including: a content marketing agency to discuss how to work with ACTRA talent, specifically on digital-only productions; and a company that provides digital marketing support to independent Canadian

book publishers. The company is interested in learning how to contract union performers on audiobook productions.

- ACTRA Toronto is sponsoring the xoTO House at TIFF 2018. The purpose of the xoTO House is to promote Toronto as a location for both domestic and international producers. Council members have received an invitation to attend various events at the xoTO House, and we encourage Toronto Council members to help promote using ACTRA talent on feature film production to festival attendees.
- Industry Relations visits performance programs at post-secondary institutions to encourage students to join ACTRA when their studies are complete. This year, we have also reached out to post-secondary production programs to educate them about engaging ACTRA performers on their student films. Letters were sent out to both production and performance programs in August, and we are looking forward to speaking with film and performing students this autumn
- The ACTRA Industry Relations team spoke with the Industry Relations and Organizing staff at SAG-AFTRA about outreach efforts and challenges we are seeing on both sides of the border

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

- Tova explained the election procedure for upcoming election next month.
 - 2-minute speeches for Councillor election.
 - 3-minute speeches for Vice-President, Internal, election.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

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

Labour Day Parade -The Labour Day Parade was an important demonstration of solidarity, strength and positive energy around unions. The key messaging of our chants were: actors are workers, ACTRA votes (a message chosen due to the upcoming city elections) and solidarity towards our friends walking the IATSE picket line. While the turnout was a little bit smaller than last year, many members still attended despite us not ending at the EX. ACTRA maintained a positive, non-partisan status during the parade, but several politicians including Jagmeet Singh, Andrea Horwath, Paula Fletcher & Peter Tabuns and others came by as we were setting up or on route.

YEAA: The films are now all in post. The filmmakers are planning their annual fundraiser to offset some filmmaking costs. It will likely be held the first week of October. If you cannot attend, there will be ways to contribute announced. The date of the screening is not confirmed but we anticipate a Sunday, October 14th matinee screening, so pencil in the date!

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

AYA: After taking time off this summer, the committee is very excited to hold a workshop at the Conference. They will re-cast a scene originally intended for younger performers with older performers.

Performers Magazine and Performers On Set: Both these publications are out.

Awards: Maria del Mar, Awards Chair, encouraged everyone to submit performances for the 2019 ACTRA Awards. Submission deadline is October 31st. Karen Woolridge said that the submitter will not be disclosed to the Selection Committee.

Performers Online: Launch date is nearing.

LGBTQ+: This sub-committee is now called outACTRAto and they are hosting a workshop at the conference.

Communications Committee: A committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Notice of Motion:

"That Council approve ACTRA Toronto's Social Media Policy, as presented."

Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle: Mr. Hindle reflected on his ACTRAvism and how important it is to be engaged and active in the Union. The current political challenges are a call to action for all ACTRA members. Activism does make a difference.

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

Background Advocate: Shereen Airth reported.

- She is in communication with Tova, Joe Doran, Chair of the Apprentice Caucus, Michael Sheridan, Chair of the AABP Caucus and Constantine Meglis, Chair of the FMBG who are all interested in working on initiatives that will include all categories of membership who chose to work in the Background Performance category.
- Currently in discussions with members regarding an event such as the Self Promotion session recently held by the Apprentice Caucus. Stay posted!
- She has an open invitation to attend both the Apprentice Caucus and the AABP Caucus and will be attending these as available. The next session of both of these Executives will be focused on the upcoming IPA negotiations.
- Ms Airth would like to pursue an article with Child Advocate Christina Collins, focusing on BG issues for minors. Ms. Airth and Ms. Collins are also discussing holding a session for children who work in the background category.
- Attended the Background IPA Focus group, presented a list of ten key items for discussion, with an additional four items in the second "sweep".
- Assisted a number of Members with information and/or direction to specific staff (primarily Business Reps or Membership).
- Has been contacted by a number of OSLOs.
- Currently working on a list of action items, such as (but not limited to):
 - the "Did You Know" snippets for the *Performers on Set*
 - another article specific to Background
 - an overview and update of the various handouts regarding Background and others
 - developing an Annotated Voucher with links for the website
 - redevelopment of the Background Page on the website
 - contribution to the redevelopment of the Members Handbook
 - redevelopment of the OSLO Check List

AABP Caucus: Mike Sheridan, Chair, had nothing to report.

Apprentice Caucus: Joe Doran, Chair, reported that the Caucus did not meet in August, therefore, he had nothing to report.

Vice-President, Internal – Nicole St. Martin: The following are the reports from Committees under Ms Martin's portfolio.

TAWC: Jocelyne Zucco, Ms Martin's alternate reported that TAWC is putting out the call for writer/director teams for the short film creation lab.

TAWC is planning a *Script to Pitch* session at the September Conference that aims to help aspiring writers learn how to get their films made.

The next committee meeting is on Friday, September 21st from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Child Advocacy: Christina Collins, Child Advocate reported that she and Jackie Warden will be leading the sessions for our young members at the Fall Conference. One session will be *Audition Prep & Self-Tapes*, the other will be a *Teen Transition* session.

Conference Committee: Jocelyne Zucco reported and provided an overview of the workshops being offered at the upcoming conference.

Ms Tova announced that Lifetime Membership will be awarded to Rita Shelton Deverell, Ferne Downey and David Macniven.

NATIONAL REPORT

David Sparrow and Stephen Waddell reported on CBC, IPA and NFB negotiations. The extension of the NFB Agreement is subject to approval. The NFB Agreement is based on the IPA. IPA focus groups are being held across the country.

An appeal to the simsub court challenge will be heard by the Supreme Court. ACTRA will participate.

The CRTC is convening an expert panel to consider the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Acts.

Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Waddell will be attending the FIA Executive meeting in Tokyo from September 25th to 28th.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM THE GERSTEIN CENTRE

Nicki Casseres, Coordinator of Training and Community Education at the Gerstein Centre made a presentation to Council on the work and services the centre provides to people struggling with mental health issues. Mental health issues were identified as a health concern for a significant number of our members who participated in the census. Anyone seeking help should call 416.929.0149. One of the services Gerstein provides is a mobile crisis team which will meet a person in a public place. They have programs for people in recovery, which incorporate mindfulness, walking and fitness. Ms Casseres also recommended the use of 211 to get referrals to appropriate help. For additional information go to their website <http://gersteincentre.org/>

TREASURER'S REPORT (Continued)

Richard Young announced that the AFBS will be rolling out a new online orientation which will take about one hour to complete.

Finance: Budget restatement next month.

Diversity: Co-Chair, Lisa Michelle Cornelius reported that the Diversity committee is gearing up for the *Sandi Ross Awards* taking place next Wednesday, September 12th at Orchid Nightclub. The award recipients are: Tonya Williams and the Frankie Drake Team for their commitment to championing diversity in their work and storytelling. Invitations to this event will be sent out this week, and entry is by RSVP only.

The Committee is hosting two workshops at the conference: a Creative Casting Masterclass and the MOW Masterclass.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, September 5th there will be an OutACTRAto meeting (the LGBTQ+ sub-committee) for a Pride Parade debrief, conference planning and more.

OTHER BUSINESS

- There was a brief overview and discussion of the questionnaire guiding the review of the ACTRA National Constitution.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:50 P.M.