

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022**

**PRESENT**

**REGRETS**

David Gale, President, in the Chair  
Theresa Tova, Past President  
Gugun Deep Singh, Treasurer  
Lisa Michelle Cornelius, Vice-President  
Debra McGrath, Vice-President  
Joy Tanner, Vice-President  
Louisa Zhu, Vice-President  
Jocelyne Zucco, Vice-President  
Dalmar Abuzeid  
Fuad Ahmed  
George Alevizos  
Heather Allin  
Thom Allison  
Sandra Beckles  
Martha Chaves  
Nicola Correia-Damude  
Wendy Crewson  
Ruby Joy  
Linda Kash  
John McGrath, alternate for Anand Rajaram  
Tony Nappo  
Jane-Rose Nguyen  
Tonjha Richardson, alternate for Maria del Mar  
Samora Smallwood

**Also Present:**

Anand Rajaram  
Amy Szoke, Women's Stunt Committee

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON**

Karen Ivany, Ombudsperson  
Victoria Murdoch, Chair, Apprentice Caucus

**ALSO PRESENT**

Alistair Hepburn, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto  
Sue Milling, Advisor, ACTRA Toronto  
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto  
August Lew, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto  
Gail Haupert, Manager, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto  
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto  
Cass Enright, Media Relations, ACTRA Toronto  
Maxine Bower, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto  
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto  
Marie Kelly, National Executive Director  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order over Zoom at 10:02 a.m. with President, David Gale, in the Chair. Mr. Gale welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Louisa Zhu was followed by reading of the Equality Statement by Jocelyne Zucco, Thom Allison, Fuad Ahmed, Martha Chaves, Dalmar Abuzeid, Lisa Michelle Cornelius and Tony Nappo.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by Gugun Deep Singh:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of January 4, 2022, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**Moved by George Alevizos, seconded by Joy Tanner:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of December 6, 2021, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

##### **MOTION #3**

**Moved by Louisa Zhu, seconded by George Alevizos:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of December 16, 2021, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

#### **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

David Gale reported:

- The City has new mental health resource page and so does ACTRA Toronto. You can check it out here - [website](#).
- Our finances are in a better position right now and the Executive discussed and have come to the decision to have the fifth Vice-President position filled. ACTRA Toronto is a member-lead organization and we rely on our volunteers and we appreciate people who commit themselves to ACTRA. The Executive meets once a month and is an important part of our union. They can make emergency decisions if we cannot get a quorum at Council.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Alistair Hepburn reported. He said that the draft of Operating Plan will first be sent to the Executive for their input. It will then be sent to Council prior to the February meeting. The Op Plan will be broken down into four themes of our “looking forward” plan.

The Government of Ontario has moved us back into a modified Step 2. Live studio audiences are restricted. This has not impacted our business as they recognize the steps our industry is taking on set.

The ACTRA Toronto office we remains closed to the public. Staff has been working successfully at home since March 2020 and there is no end in sight.

**ELECTION OF ACTRA TORONTO EXECUTIVE, ACTRA NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES, AND ACTRA TORONTO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ACTRA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

Alistair Hepburn assumed the Chair. Mr. Hepburn explained the election procedure. The candidates must obtain 50% plus 1 of the vote to win.

**Treasurer** - the floor was open for nominations.

Nominated:

Gugun Deep Singh	-	Accepted
Joy Tanner	-	Accepted

Speeches were given. There was a question-and-answer period. The candidates appointed their scrutineers (Jocelyne Zucco and Fuad Ahmed).

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

**ELECTED:** Gugun Deep Singh

**Vice-Presidents** – the floor was opened for nominations.

Nominated:

Debra McGrath	-	Accepted
Jocelyne Zucco	-	Accepted
Lisa Michelle Cornelius	-	Accepted
Joy Tanner	-	Accepted
Fuad Ahmed	-	Accepted
George Alevizos	-	Accepted
Tony Nappo	-	Accepted
Anand Rajaram	-	Accepted
Louisa Zhu	-	Accepted

Speeches were given. There was a question-and-answer period. The candidates appointed their scrutineers (Dalmar Abuzeid, Theresa Tova, Thom Allison, Gugun Deep Singh, Janet Rose Nguyen and Wendy Crewson).

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

**ELECTED:**

Lisa Michelle Cornelius  
Debra McGrath  
Joy Tanner  
Louisa Zhu  
Jocelyne Zucco

**Toronto National Councillors** – Mr. Gale talked about ACTRA Toronto’s representation on ACTRA National Council. Council agreed that the past practice of acclaiming the sitting/elected Executive members to the National Council continue.

The floor was opened for nominations for five ACTRA Toronto National Councillors.

Nominated:

Ruby Joy	-	Accepted
Heather Allin	-	Accepted
George Alevizos	-	Accepted
Fuad Ahmed	-	Accepted
Anand Rajaram	-	Accepted
Nicola Correia-Damude	-	Accepted
Tony Nappo	-	Accepted
Dalmar Abuzeid	-	Declined
Janet-Rose Nguyen	-	Declined
Thom Allison	-	Declined

Speeches were given. The candidates appointed their scrutineers (Theresa Tova, Wendy Crewson, Gugun Deep Singh, Joy Tanner, Louisa Zhu and Thom Allison)

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

***ELECTED:***

Fuad Ahmed  
George Alevizos  
Heather Allin  
Nicola Correia-Damude  
Ruby Joy

**REPRESENTATIVE ON NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

Council agreed that Theresa Tova and David Gale remain ACTRA Toronto's representatives on National Council Executive.

David Gale assumed the Chair. He thanked everyone for running and congratulated the new Executive and representatives to National Council.

**DISCUSSION ABOUT OMICRON AND TESTING**

Mr. Hepburn reported that some productions have pushed their start dates to January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Testing is done every 72 hours and rapid testing is also accepted in Ontario.

The question was raised if we need to make changes to the protocols on set. Mr. Hepburn said that unilateral decisions are hard to make, however, we need to put in place guidelines to protect the membership. The set is still safer than a grocery store but how do we maintain this?

We are 250 times lower in terms of spread on set as opposed to the provincial average. Here we are in a modified Stage 2 and we're still open!

Samora Smallwood said that she cannot stress enough on how much work ACTRA is doing to keep us all working. We must drive home to our members that if we want to keep working, they have to do everything in their power to do the right thing.

Mr. Gale said that we have a solid media campaign reminding members to be vigilant.

Ms Crewson said that *Good Sam* is working hard to keep everyone safe. She cancelled her plans for Christmas to stay safe.

Concerns were raised about doing a PCR test and then instructed by production to take public transit.

Mr. Hepburn said that there are so many variables with this virus, therefore, we need to chart the safest way to do it – continued support for the current guidelines and added support. We know that we are not a burden to the provincial healthcare system and that we are boosting the economy.

Sandra Beckles said that we know that the protocols we have been following have been highly successful and we need to get the word out.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS – HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW ITEMS**

### ***Diversity and Inclusion – Co-Chairs, Janet-Rose Nguyen and Chattrisse Dolabaille:***

The committee took the month of December off. They held a meeting in November and will be holding a meeting at the end of this month.

### ***Association of Acting Coaches and Educators – Theresa Tova:***

Ms Tova will be sending out information via email if requested re the Code of Conduct in the teaching environments. They will be working with coaches who are members of AACE.

### ***Apprentice Caucus – Chair, Victoria Murdoch:***

They met last as a Caucus on November 17<sup>th</sup> for 90 minutes on Zoom followed by an optional non-official Zoom happy hour. They will strive to meet again as soon as a new Executive liaison is appointed and can coordinate schedules.

The caucus received an email newsletter pre-holidays detailing Council business and discussions in December.

They are looking forward to the virtual Winter Conference, and Chairperson Victoria will be a point person on a session.

### ***Awards Jury – Co-Chairs, Jocelyne Zucco and Pierre Simpson:***

Jurors received their packages before the holiday break and are now busy watching their jury package, ready to come with their top five (max) from the submissions in their package.

A Zoom meeting has been scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup> following. It is an opportunity for Mr. Simpson and Ms Zucco to answer any questions or the jurors may have.

The two juries will meet later this month. Gender Non-Conforming/Male on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and Gender Non-Conforming/Female on January 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

### ***Act Your Age (AYA) – Chair, John McGrath***

The Committee held an informal HolidAYA Zoom gathering on December 10, 2021. It was billed as a virtual holiday house party, where members socialized. A few members performed songs to get into the holiday spirit. They also discussed the tentative IPA agreement and encouraged all members to vote.

The next session will be on January 23, 2022, on commercial voice over work with ACTRA member Tracey Hoyt.

Chair John McGrath also attended a CSARN (senior artists group) virtual meeting on the topic of ageism and what can be done to combat it in society and in the arts.

***Child Advocate – Christina Collins:***

Ms Collins is hoping to schedule another parent/minor session in the new year. The last one over Zoom was well-received.

Her presentation – *An Informative Look into the Industry* – as a guest speaker at Pierre Trudeau High School went fantastically. She informed young up and coming performers of who/what ACTRA is/does and what they can expect as a professional performer in Canada. There were 35 attendees! Many questions were asked and answered. In lieu of payment Ms Collins asked them to donate her fee to the school's arts program. They were very grateful.

She soldiers on getting information out to parents and minors.

***Conference committee – Co-Chairs, Rebecca Applebaum and Jocelyne Zucco:***

The Committee will be meeting again on January 6<sup>th</sup>. They have three sessions chosen:

- *Run the Burbs* will be highlighted
- Nailing that 1–2-line commercial audition
- Session on taxes

The point persons along with the Co-Chairs will continue putting the sessions together and reaching out to potential panelists.

They will look at if it is logistically possible to show ACTRA Co-op shorts for attendees to watch with a protected link and password.

The conference will take place virtually on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

***Editorial Committee – Joy Tanner:***

Please go to *Performers Online* on our website to listen to the interview with one of ACTRA Toronto's newest Councillor George Alevizos, chatting with Sheila Boyd on the performance landscape for the differently able bodied. Although the committee did not meet this month, there will be articles galore coming down the pipe; including the Award of Excellence article on the inimitable Art Hindle. A full career and fascinating life that will surely scintillate our readers.

There will be articles on the IPA deal, the Sandi Ross Awards and *How to Handle Your Kid's Money*, the minors and guardians bullet point on guidelines. There will also be a piece on the first ever Stunt Ensemble Award.

***TAWC – Co-Chairs Joanna Swan and Dominique Brownes:***

- The Committee will be holding their next meeting in February – date TBD.
- TAWC held a Zoom Virtual Social on November 12<sup>th</sup> and it was a successful gathering chaired by Dominique Brownes. It was nice to see everyone, connect with familiar faces and some faces that had not had the opportunity to attend a TAWC meeting in a while. They championed the members who were running for Council, reminded everyone to vote and announced that the Childcare Initiative pilot project would launch in the new year.
- TAWC 2020 Short Film Creation Lab film, *Rainbow Baby* is still awaiting confirmations from film festivals. They are happy it is an Official Selection of the Berlin International Art Film Festival competition and are hoping for more.
- The Masterclass Pass is still going on. Two new passes have been purchased as part of the two-for-one special so that they can continue the initiative in 2022. An email reminder will be sent out to members who simply have to contact Dominique Brownes directly for registration and access. Log-in credentials are sent on a bi-weekly basis.

- The TAWC *I Need a Reader* - WhatsApp Self Tape Group continues to be popular, a few members have been added and it's incredibly helpful to have access to such a large network of readers to request help for self-tapes. TAWC members are readily available to assist with self-tapes, rehearsals and auditions. As always, thanks to Cait Alexander for spearheading this.
- The TAWC Childcare Initiative has officially been approved by Council. A meeting was held December 9<sup>th</sup> to map things out, review the promo and delegate a few tasks among the sub-committee members. The sub-committee has met virtually to set things in motion and have everything ready to launch the pilot. Launch date is set for week of January 3, 2022, after final edit reviews.

#### **NATIONAL REPORT – MARIE KELLY, NED**

Marie Kelly congratulated the Councillors on being elected to ACTRA Toronto Council.

The IPA was ratified at the end of last year.

Re NCA bargaining. There are 16 days on hold starting next week and ACTRA will be working with a mediator to lessen these hold days. We remain hopeful.

The federal government has shut down until January 31<sup>st</sup> and when they return, they will be dealing with the old Bill C-10 (the Broadcasting and Copyright Act). ACTRA's Political Action Committee team is on the ball on this. Copyright remains on our radar. We believe that we have ownership and stake in our work.

Production across the country is steady. Everyone is worried about Omicron and its impact.

Ms Kelly reported on the Hair and Makeup grievance.

ACTRA National continues to struggle with staffing issues across the country.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- There was a suggestion to set up an email address so that members can report egregious requests in terms of auditioning and violating our best practices. Mr. Hepburn reported that this has been done but not launched yet as we are working out the kinks in it.
- It was suggested that breakdowns state pronouns instead of 'male' and 'female'.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Thom Allison moved to adjourn the meeting.

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:40 P.M.**