

**ACTRA TORONTO**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – IN PERSON & HYBRID**  
**Tuesday, April 2, 2024**

**PRESENT**

**ABSENT**

Theresa Tova, Past President, in the Chair (for part of the meeting) (Zoom)  
Paul Constable, Treasurer, in the Chair (for part of the meeting)  
George Alevizos, Vice President  
John Cleland, Vice President  
Amy Matysio, Vice President  
Janet-Rose Nguyen, Vice President  
Kate Ziegler, Vice President  
Heather Allin (Zoom)  
Tim Beresford  
Alana Bridgewater  
Jason Bryden  
Elana Dunkleman (Zoom)  
Emily Hurson (Zoom)  
Jameson Kraemer  
Matt Lemche, alternate for David Gale, President (Zoom)  
Premika Leo, alternate for Mercedes Morris  
Taylor Love, alternate for Nicola Correira-Damude (Zoom)  
Tavia Pereira  
Dina Pino  
Gord Rand  
Gugun Deep Singh  
Samora Smallwood (Zoom)  
Joy Tanner (Zoom)  
David Wallen

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON**

Victoria Brooks, Chair, Apprentice Caucus  
Roy Urbanozo, Co-Chair, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

**OBSERVER**

Christine Cleary, Stunt Committee  
Nicola Correira-Damude

**ALSO PRESENT**

Alistair Hepburn, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto  
Gail Hauptert, Director of Contracts, ACTRA Toronto  
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, ACTRA Toronto (Zoom)  
Nicole Valentin, Director, Membership Services, ACTRA Toronto  
Tina Wang, Director, Finance & Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Taisa Dekker, Manager, Industry Initiatives and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto  
Jennifer McGibbon, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto (Zoom)  
Cass Enright, Media Relations, ACTRA Toronto (Zoom)  
Marie Kelly, Executive Director, ACTRA National  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. with Past President, Theresa Tova, in the Chair.

The reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Paul Constable and Victoria was followed by the reading of the Equality Statement by Tavia Pereira, Jameson Kraemer, John Cleland and Alana Bridgewater.

The alternates, Councillors, Committee Chairs and staff introduced themselves.

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

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

**Moved by Amy Matysio and Tim Beresford:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of April 2, 2024, be accepted.”**

##### *Discussion*

Gord Rand, referring to items on the agenda on which Councillors are requested to vote on, said that they would appreciate more details on the subject in advance.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 5, 2024**

**Page 1:** Under Committee & Member Caucus Chairs, Ombudsperson – Should read: Roy Urbanozo, ~~Diversity & Inclusion Committee~~, alternate for Victoria Brooks, **Chair, Apprentice Caucus.**

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

**Moved by George Alevizos, seconded by Heather Allin:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of March 5, 2024, as amended, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **TABLING OF OTHER BUSINESS TO BE INCLUDED PER #15**

- Life Members discussion.
- Date of May Council Meeting.
- Notice of Motions.
- Follow up on Notice of Motions brought forward by Mercedes Morris.
- Jason Bryden – Notice of Motion.
- NCA Task Force.
- John Cleland – removal of expiry date on Educational Credits.

Heather Allin talked about process and said that in theory a Notice of Motion can arrive at any time. It can be introduced at the current meeting to be voted upon at the next meeting.

#### **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

Tova thanked Councillors for the great work on the Op Plan. She is proud of working with a group who are doing incredible work on the Awards.

**Mr. Constable then moved into the Chair.**

#### **IPA FOCUS GROUPS RECAP**

Alistair Hepburn and Gail Hauptert tag teamed on this file.

A Councillor said that they attended all the focus groups, except one, and was “exposed to all the nooks and crannies”. They said that UBCP is doing an open call and suggested that ACTRA Toronto might think about doing the same.

Mr. Hepburn said that the proposals are drawn up from the focus groups and then the proposals are presented to the bargaining team at Wages & Working conditions.

Discussion arose on how to acknowledge members who want to attend and how to get more members to attend.

It was suggested that in future the entire Council should be able to attend focus groups.

Another Councillor said that although information is going out to members on a regular basis, how do we engage the background performers. They do not feel like they are part of ACTRA.

Further to a comment, Mr. Hepburn said that organizers are not on the sets, On Set Liaison Officers (OSLOs) go on set. The organizers are organizing non-union sets.

A Councillor said that they have spent 20 some years as an OSLO and during that time has spent a lot of time explaining what the benefits of membership are. Most people do not read their emails. As an OSLO talking to them one-on-one is important and reminding members to read their emails and attend the meetings.

Suggestions were made on how to increase engagement. One being to provide some sort of focus group compensation and another a phone tree in advance. A procedural review is in order.

Mr. Hepburn pointed out that one virtual and two in-person focus group sessions were offered and no one attended. A Councillor said that members were given short notice of those live dates and felt that if members were given more time attendance would be higher.

It was noted that the GenZ folks do not like to respond to telephone calls and preferred text messages.

#### **IPA BARGAINING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS (VOTE)**

Mr. Hepburn reported that the Stunt Committee has voted the following two members to represent their community:

Steve “Shack” Shackleton – Primary  
Geoff Scovell – Alternate

As reported at the last Council meeting, Raven Dauda has now responded and has agreed to be a Primary member on the IPA Bargaining Team.

**MOTION #3**

**Moved by Janet-Rose Nguyen, seconded by John Cleland:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council add to the already voted in list of recommended members to the IPA Bargaining Team Steve “Shackleton” as Primary and Geoff Scovell as Alternate (to represent the Stunt Community) plus Raven Dauda as Primary.”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**AWARDS VOLUNTEERS & UPDATE**

A Councillor said that if Councillors cannot volunteer help will be sought from the Committee and Caucus Chairs to fill the gap. It was mentioned that since it is on Council to pull this off, sobriety is encouraged.

Mr. Hepburn reported that 303 of the 450 tickets were sold, including all the \$25 tickets. There are 150 tickets available which will be sold to the industry.

Martha Chaves has been confirmed as the Host of the Awards and Nneka Atto will be the Awards Announcer.

Tom Farr will be the recipient of the Outstanding Stunt Award.

Mr. Hepburn informed Council that out of 98 submissions for one of the performance awards, only 25 were for BIPOC members. Council deliberated whether a statement, which was presented to the meeting, should be issued since none of the final Nominees in that category are from the BIPOC community.

**MOTION #4**

**Moved by Kate Ziegler, seconded by Gugun Deep Singh:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve the releasing of the statement as written.”**

**DEFEATED      1 Abstention – Gugun Deep Singh (recorded abstained)**

**MOTION #4**

**Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by Theresa Tova:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council waive Notice of Motion on the following Motion regarding consulting with outACTRAto, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Disability Alliance regarding how to proceed with the messaging re the Gender Non-conforming Male Category at ACTRA Toronto Awards 2024.”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MOTION #5**

**Moved by Tavia Pereira, seconded John Cleland:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve that outACTRAto, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and the Disability Alliance regarding how to proceed with the messaging re the Gender Non-Conforming Male Category at the ACTRA Toronto Awards 2024.**

*Discussion*

Council recommended that the juries and Councillors be included in these discussions.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **CREATOR CORNER UPDATE – GORD**

Gord Rand said that he is hoping to have a feedback session with the membership regarding the process of member producers creating shows and how creativity can be served.

In response to the Apprentice Caucus Chair’s query, Mr. Rand said that he is just in the beginning stage of the process and is seeking feedback from Council and others. It was suggested that Mr. Rand create a blurb that can be forwarded to the Apprentice Caucus.

A Councillor suggested that Mr. Rand take the Online Co-op Course and that he should send the link out to the people he talks to.

This has been tabled for further discussion.

## **COUNCIL IPA FOCUS GROUP**

A fulsome IPA focus group took place.

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON ACTRA TORONTO WEBSITE – JASON**

Discussion arose regarding the Land Acknowledgement and where it lived on the ACTRA Toronto website. Mr. Hepburn informed Council that the document is in the Council Handbook which is on the website but not in a place that can be found easily.

Council agreed that this document needs to be refreshed and other Indigenous communities require to be consulted. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Land Acknowledgement live in the bottom banner of ACTRA Toronto’s homepage.

## **WORD FROM SET**

- There are a lot of concerns about AI in regards to audiobooks.
- A SAG-AFTRA staff member from Chicago on set was accompanied by an OSLO. They were talking to the lead SAG performers. Their aim is to get better terms in their agreement so that they members have better protection in place. We need to keep a close eye on this.

- The pandemic accommodation re A1705 should be removed so people get cash in hand. Council was reminded that there was no pandemic accommodation in A1705. Gail Hauptert said that production should not add per diem on the gross total and said that members should call the office if this is happening. Per diems should be reimbursed per the actor's choosing. Mr. Hepburn said Canadian dollars and US dollars in the US or the currency of the land. Per diems are not included in the net fees. It was reported that productions are saying that they cannot give cash because it is unsanitary.

## **COMMITTEE & CAUCUS UPDATES NOT IN THE WRITTEN REPORTS**

*outACTRAto*

### **MOTION #6**

**Moved by Janet-Rose Nguyen, seconded by Gord Rand:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council waive the Notice of Motion re the approval the formation of the Gender Diversity Subcommittee of outACTRAto and the appointment of Neta Rose as the Chair of this Subcommittee.”**

**CARRIED**

### **MOTION #7**

**Moved by Janet-Rose Nguyen, seconded by Gugun Deep Singh:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve the formation of the Gender Diversity Subcommittee of outACTRAto and the appointment of Neta Rose as the Chair of this Subcommittee.”**

*Discussion*

The subcommittee would like to have the option of holding closed meetings so that they have a safe space.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Voice Committee*

Amy Matysio reported that the Voice Committee has recommended that Emily Stranges be appointed as their 3<sup>rd</sup> Co-Chair.

Council approved the recommendation.

*Stunt Committee*

Ms Ziegler reported that the Stunt Committee did not submit a report because they were working.

*Organizing*

Paul Constable will ask Frank Desjardins, ACTRA National Organizer, to come to talk to Council about the carding system.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### *NCA Task Force*

Igniting a NCA Task Force. Kate Ziegler requested approval from Council to take leadership on this. They have been invited by Jamie and Jill to attend a Question Period session at Queen's Park. The two-year anniversary of the NCA lockout is approaching (May 1<sup>st</sup>). These politicians have been with us from day one. They would like 1,000 members in attendance.

Council granted approval of a Task Force which will be led by Kate Ziegler.

### *Notices of Motion – Gord Rand*

- *“Open up communications between Executive and Council and also National Council.”*
- *“Grant a review to audit various depart at Council's will.”*

It was pointed out that matters at the Executive meetings are open discussion and hence not minuted. Mr. Rand said that he would like them to be run like Council meetings.

Regarding the auditing of departments, a Councillor pointed out that this cannot be done as this would mean “going into other union” territories. It was pointed out that if there are issues are staff-related then that is up to Mr. Hepburn to take up with the staff.

### *Life Member*

Mr. Hepburn said that Council should bring forward names of members to be granted Life Membership. Every year Council grants two members to receive this honour. Council will receive a list of names of members who have been granted Life Membership in the past. A criteria for granting Life Membership will also be sent to Council.

### *May Council Meeting*

Ms Hauptert and Mr. Hepburn will be in LA to talk to studios there in May along with a contingent of film industry people representing Toronto. Mr. Hepburn's schedule is tight with various meetings, i.e. pre-bargaining session, IPA Wages and Working Conditions session, etc. He will send out a Doodle Poll to determine Council's availability.

### *Notice of Motion by Mercedes Morris*

Mr. Hepburn reported that the request from Ms Morris was sent to National.

### *Notice of Motion – Jason Bryden*

Mr. Bryden would like to change the way ACTRA Toronto communicates with members.

They would like to talk about the dissolution of ACTRA Toronto By-Law 4.12 at the AGM.

*The Recording Secretary left the meeting at 4:30 p.m.*

The Executive Director took additional notes.

## **OPERATING PLAN – CONTINUED**

### **The Council split into working groups to bring the Operating Plan into clearer focus.**

A fulsome discussion took place.

The group decided to focus on themes and ranked them by a vote. The list of themes and bullet items was handed over to staff to collate and bring back to Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **The Meeting Adjourned At 5:30 P.M.**

## **COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS HIGHLIGHTS**

The following reports were emailed to Council prior to the Council meeting:

### ***Liaisons: Treasurer, Paul Constable & Vice-President, Amy Matysio***

*Apprentice Caucus – Chair, Victoria Brooks*

The Apprentice Caucus met March 14<sup>th</sup> for 90 minutes at ACTRA Toronto offices.

- Members working BG are interested in producing their own work and getting experience as principal performers. Suggested the Coop program, and programs for diverse performers like bipocfilmandtv.com.
- Shared: if you are ever asked to do a “body scan” on set, please always report it to the business rep for the production.
- Member quote: “Whoever made the changes to the Coop program, thank you!”
- Members wish that ALL Committees and Caucuses have a hybrid method of meeting to allow folks to join remotely.
- Lots of discussion on what the “card” system for non-members working commercials would mean. (Paul Constable will speak more on their concerns in Council.)

The Apprentice Caucus will meet next on April 10, 15:30 at ACTRA offices, followed by an informal social gathering at The Bishop and Belcher. All are welcome.

### ***Liaisons: Vice-Presidents, John Cleland, Amy Matysio & Kate Ziegler***

*Act Your Age (AYA) – Co-Chairs, Heather Dick and Ann Wootten*

Last year’s brainstorming sessions and the Christmas gathering brought requests for acting scene study workshops, self-tape help, and audition workshops. They have responded by planning two skill development workshops. Heather Dick approached the two great instructors, and they are so thrilled to have them on board.

The first is an editing self- tape workshop, called *Clipchamp Editing Workshop*. Facilitated by ACTRA member Trish Adams, it’s a step by step on how to edit self-tapes using the Clipchamp app. It’s a free app which everyone will download prior to the workshop. Participants can follow Ms Adams as she demonstrates on her screen. The date is Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Invitations have gone out and the committee had a good response.



The second workshop is called *KISS the Callback Audition Workshop*. It's an in-person acting scene session with ACTRA member Marianne McIsaac. They will be using the ACTRA Toronto Boardroom, and out of town members can also watch from home on Zoom. The date is Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> noon to 3:00 pm. AYA will be releasing more details a little closer to the event date.

A big thank you to Karl Pruner for helping them make these workshops a reality.

### ***Liaisons – Vice-President, John Cleland***

*Child Advocate – Angelica Alejandro, Child Advocate*

- Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> Clare Johnston and Angelica Alejandro will co-host a Parents/Guardians Zoom meeting. Since the Protecting Childs Performers Act applies to all minors, this Zoom meeting is open to parents/guardians of both Union and Non-Union minors. The intent is to bring parents/guardians together to discuss concerns, issues and respond to questions they have with respect to minors working in the industry. In her next report Ms Alejandro will provide an update on the session. They have a varied list of speakers and they will also be discussing the IPA as it pertains to minors. Similar to the IPA Focus groups that engage adult members, this Zoom is a good opportunity for parents to speak on the challenges and issues facing minors working under this agreement.
- Other initiatives that Ms Alejandro has brought forth to facilitate Minors and their Parents/Guardians: ROS for Minors 15-17 and having ACTRA Toronto start a committee similar to the UCBCP/ACTRA Guardians of Minors Committee (this was outlined in more detail in the prior report to Council).
- Communications this month to the Advocate Office have mostly been about the Zoom Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> from parents wanting to register and find out more information. In addition, some parents have sent in questions and issues they would like addressed, for those unable to attend Ms Alejandro has scheduled a follow-up with them after.

### ***Liaisons – Vice-Presidents, George Alevizos, John Cleland and Janet-Rose Nguyen***

*Diversity and Inclusion Committee – Co-Chairs, Krystle Ferdinand, Dorly Jean-Louis and Roy Urbanozo*

#### Summary

- The committee held its first member meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> over zoom. They had over 30 participants attend the meeting. Members in attendance were diverse in age group and number of years with ACTRA. Some were BIPOC, Full and Apprentice members, but it was noted that the vast majority of attendees were predominantly members of the Disability Alliance Sub-Committee and not members of the BIPOC community as originally expected.
- A blue-sky meeting was held between the Co-Chairs and the Staff Liaison on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the ACTRA Toronto Office.
- A meeting to discuss the next season of Working the Scene in Colour was scheduled on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They met with Louis Taylor and Lea Geronimo to gather information about the event and to schedule key dates for the initiative.
- A meeting for the Accent Discrimination Sub-Committee was held on March 27<sup>th</sup> and lead by Mladen Obradovic. Roy Urbanozo, Co-Chair, Tonjha Richardson, Lead, Disability Alliance Sub-Committee, and Staff Liaison Luisa Alvarez Restrepo were in attendance.

#### Objectives & Goals

- During the committee meeting, the lead of the Accent Discrimination Sub-Committee Mladen Obradovic gave an overview of the sub-committee and outlined that the challenges being faced are not just audible for members with accents but also physically as well if they fall within the BIPOC category. One point of concern is Quebec actors who come to live or work in Toronto find it difficult to find their footing. They are often excluded from many projects because of their French accent and many do not work consistently. Members “get discouraged”, “don’t want to try”, leave or don’t give themselves a chance to create a platform. This is a conversation that is overdue

and must be had with gatekeepers. He urges “make writers our friends”. Obradovic pointed out that audiences are ready and “want to see” true representation in a Country “full of Immigrants.” He believes interest in Canadian content will subsequently “rise when that change occurs.”

- Participants were divided into three breakout groups at the end of the committee meeting. Members were welcomed to share their ideas, thoughts and suggestions within their groups. Some of the initiatives that the members would like to see are listed below:
  - Working the Scene in Colour (Currently in progress).
  - Picture Day (Tentatively planned to occur in November 2024).
  - A Different Lens: Demo Reel Initiative.
  - MasterClass Casting Director Workshops/Showcases.
- During their blue-sky meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>, they discussed additional initiatives the committee would like to undertake and support. Some of these initiatives are listed below:
  - Sandi Ross Awards at TIFF.
  - Reelworld Short Film Competition.
  - Authentic Accents - Dialect Training for Black Performers.
  - Black Market - Showcasing Black-Owned small business services and products (Black History Month 2025).
  - Multicultural Day - An event showcasing and celebrating the music, art, clothing, dancing, traditions and food of the diverse members. The possibility of making this a fundraiser was discussed.
- Next Committee Meeting Date is Tentatively Scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>. Whether the meeting is hybrid or virtual is still to be determined. A poll will be sent out to the committee members to gauge feedback once again.

#### Supplementary Discussions

- With regards to the meeting with Mladen, there is an opportunity for the D&I Committee to collaborate with the Accent Discrimination Sub-Committee to amplify their visibility within the membership. There are plans to create a promotional video similar to outACTRAto’s “Queer Your Stories”, but highlighting the accents our members have, the barriers they face and how authenticity can be beneficial to a production.
- Initiated that their mandate/mission statement is unclear and that they need specificity before forging ahead.

#### ***Liaisons: Treasurer, Paul Constable & Vice-President, Kate Ziegler***

#### *Editorial Committee – Chair, Joy Tanner*

#### Published in Quarter One

- Award of Excellence Q&A – Maria del Mar’s interview was published March 20.
- Applause Winter Spotlight including - Measha Brueggergosman-Lee, Ronnie Burkett, Marilyn Dennis, Andrea Martin, George Stroumboulopoulos, Tonya Williams, Wes ‘Maestro’ Williams and Braden Wright was published March 26.

#### Upcoming Articles to be Published in Quarter One

- Ask an Expert: Taxes - expected publish date in early April.
- ACTRA Awards:
  - Outstanding Performance nominee spotlight – expected publish date the first week of April.
  - Stunt Award Q&A – expected publish date in mid-April.

#### Upcoming

- AI series (Part 1).
- Introduction to Political Advocacy/Labour Allies.
- Series on importance of ratification votes/voting process.

***Liaisons: Vice-Presidents, George Alevizos & Janet-Rose Nguyen***

*outACTRAto – Co-Chairs, Matt Lemche and Madelaine Rose*

Meetings/General

- Committee meeting held on March 25, 2024.
- Next meeting April 22 or 29, 2024
- Survey results received:
  - adjusted meeting time and planning for first in-person meeting since early 2020.
  - creating chat thread for community networking.

Exploring / Expanding Partnerships

- Inside Out 2SLGBTQ+ film festival Toronto—Ongoing conversation with Director of Partnerships, Anna Daliza, about options for outACTRAto participation at Industry Day.

Queer Your Stories Subcommittee

- QYS5 Winners, *Something's Phishy*, have finished filming and are now in post-production for their short film.

Working the Scene in Rainbow Subcommittee

- Subcommittee met for first meeting of 2024 on March 15.
- Planning for hybrid in-person and online event mid-June.

Gender Diversity Subcommittee

- New subcommittee created and approved by the Executive.
- Will focus on the unique experiences of trans, non-binary, and gender-fluid performers.

***Liaisons: Past President, Theresa Tova and Vice-Presidents, Amy Matysio & Janet-Rose Nguyen***

*Voice Committee: Co-Chairs, Krystal Meadows and Kwaku Adu-Poku*

- Emily Stranges volunteered to join them as a 3<sup>rd</sup> co-chair on the Voice Committee. She was voted in by the members and staff will hopefully have her confirmed by around April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- AI, IPA and Dubbing Focus Groups have been productive.
- Ivan Sherry shared about his VO Atlanta experience yesterday for 30 minutes at the start of the committee meeting. They are continuing to work with the Voice Committee's executive liaisons to develop ideas to engage new members and support current members growing their skills in VO.

***Liaisons: Vice-Presidents, George Alevizos & John Cleland***

*YEAA: Chair, Mercedes Morris and Tavia Pereira*

- Mercedes Morris has taken control of the Instagram account and is doing amazing. She has been incorporating videos and quizzes to boost engagement.
- Last meeting was on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Next meeting April 15<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm in person.
- Talked to Second City about hosting New Graduates Welcome Mixer. This correspondence fell through. Will be looking into alternatives.
- Initiatives in the works: Video Game Audition Workshop, New Graduates Welcome Mixer, Self-Advocacy Panel, Social Media Information Video Series.

## OTHER REPORTS

*Diversity, Equity & Inclusion & Belonging* – Luisa Alvarez Restrepo, Manager, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

- IPA Negotiations: Ms Alvarez Restrepo has been attending IPA Focus groups.
- Asian Performer Showcase: Launched the call for submissions and vetted them as they came in. Liaised with industry partners such as Reel Asian, TIFF, and Reelworld to get the word out; also received support from Andrew Phung and Jean Yoon who shared the call on their social media. Met with the TIFF Industry team to pitch partnership for the Asian Performer Showcase. They are on board to do an in-person event. Ms Alvarez Restrepo is working out the details.
- D&I Committee: met with co-chairs for their blue-sky session. Arranged intro meeting to Louis Taylor and Léa Geronimo from Working the Scene in Colour (WTSC). The date for the next WTSC is May 23 – [you can register here to attend](#).
- Permit Access Fund: processed applications as they came in. Currently working on the launch of the expansion of production eligibility beyond our Low Budget Guideline.
- Rising Voices: Finalizing our partnership with BIPOC TV & FILM to support their Rising Voices initiative through table reads. This will create an opportunity for our members to be seen by the writers.

*Industry Initiative & Outreach* – Taisa Dekker, Manager

- Spoke on the [Acting Panel](#) with members Emma Hunter and Jordan Dawson at the Kingston Canadian Film Festival & Queen's University [Industry Day](#) on March 1, 2024. Taisa Dekker then connected with attendees at the Table Talks portion of the event about how to engage ACTRA talent on various types of content, as well as how to become a union member. Over 300 people registered for the Table Talks event.
- Attended the Energy & Affordability Town Hall hosted by MPP's Jessica Bell and Peter Tabuns. Members can view a recording of the webinar [here](#).
- Met with a casting director to discuss the industry and future projects.
- Represented the branch at the Networking Roundtables portion of the [Indie Filmmaker's Amplifier](#), hosted by Mississauga Arts Council on March 9, 2024. There were 90 registrants and Ms Dekker spoke with attendees about the [ACTRA Advantage](#) for independent filmmakers.
- Followed up with attendees who provided their contact information during the Indie Film Amplifier with information about the [ACTRA Toronto Low Budget Guideline](#).
- Connected with four different producers/production teams interested in working with union performers on upcoming short film productions.
- ACTRA Toronto took part in the [Durham Region Film & Television Career Fair](#) on March 25, 2024. Over 1000 people registered for the event, which included a panel with representatives from various unions, guilds, and organizations, followed by 2 hours of attendees speaking with Ms Dekker and members Tonjha Richardson and Paul Constable about working as a performer, ACTRA Toronto's role in the industry, how to join, and getting started in the business.
- Represented ACTRA Toronto on the Unions & Guilds zoom panel hosted by Toronto Metropolitan University for students at the Creative School.
- Met with a video broadcasting company interested in working with ACTRA Toronto and offering their services to members.
- Non-union production research and outreach continues.
- Outreach to three post-secondary performance programs about ACTRA, the role of the union, the importance of becoming a member, and how to join via the [New Graduate Credit](#):
  - Presented to 55 students in Seneca College's Acting for Camera & Voice program on March 8, 2024, with Tavia Pereira.

- Presented to 47 students in Sheridan College’s Music Theatre program with George Alevizos on March 12, 2024.
- Presented to 35 students in Humber College’s Acting for Film & Television program with Tavia Pereira on March 15, 2024.
- Attended the Sustainable Production Forum [Climate Action Group](#) meeting to discuss current initiatives. ACTRA Toronto has been involved with this group since autumn 2022.
- In total, there were over 1500 registrants for various industry events, panels, and presentations the union took part in this month. ACTRA Toronto is proud to connect with potential engagers and pre-members via this outreach, supporting the goal of procuring more work opportunities for union performers and growing the membership.

#### *Ontario Green Screen*

- April is Earth Month, and Ontario Green Screen is launching a campaign focused on Best Practices for sustainable production. Members are encouraged to follow OGS on social media for updates:
  - [Facebook](#)
  - [Instagram](#)
  - [LinkedIn](#)
  - [X/Twitter](#)
- OGS hosted the first Electric Generator Workshop at Pinewood Studios on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Ontario Green Screen is in the process of redesigning the Climate & Sustainable Production training module and the Carbon Calculator training module. To be notified when course registration opens, please add your name to the list [here](#).
- To become an Ontario Green Screen Ambassador, apply [here](#).

#### *Green Committee*

Avaah Blackwell and Elle A, Co- Chairs

For the 2024 year, the Green Committee has decided to continue its incomplete 2023 tasks rather than reinvent the wheel, because they’re practical and *sustainable* that way. See what they did there