

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING – IN PERSON & HYBRID  
Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

**PRESENT**

David Gale, President  
Theresa Tova, Past President (Zoom)  
Paul Constable, Treasurer  
George Alevizos, Vice President  
John Cleland, Vice President  
Amy Matysio, Vice President  
Janet-Rose Nguyen, Vice President (Zoom)  
Kate Ziegler, Vice President (Zoom and in person)  
Heather Allin  
Tim Beresford (Zoom)  
Jason Bryden  
Elana Dunkleman  
Emily Hurson  
Jameson Kraemer  
Mercedes Morris  
Tavia Pereira  
Dina Pino  
Gord Rand  
Tonjha Richardson, alternate for Samora Smallwood (Zoom)  
Gugun Deep Singh (Zoom)  
Asante Tracey, alternate for Nicola Correira-Damude  
David Wallen

**ABSENT**

Alana Bridgewater  
Joy Tanner

**IPA BARGAINING TEAM (NOT ON COUNCIL)**

Cory Doran  
Shack Shackleton

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON**

Liam Chase, Chair, AABP Caucus (morning only)  
Roy Urbanozo, D&I Committee Co-Chair, alternate for Victoria Brooks, Chair, Apprentice Caucus

**OBSERVER**

Allegra Fulton  
Samy Osman  
Alicia Payne  
Anne Thornley-Brown

**ALSO PRESENT**

Alistair Hepburn, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto  
Gail Hauptert, Director, Contracts, ACTRA Toronto  
Tina Wang, Director of Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto (Zoom)  
François Desjardins, Associate Director, Organizing, ACTRA National  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. with President, David Gale, in the Chair.

The reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Gord Rand was followed by the reading of the Equality Statement by Amy Matysio, Asante Tracey, Emily Hurson, Dina Pino, Roy Urbanozo and Elana Dunkelman.

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

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

**Moved by George Alevizos, seconded by Asante Tracey:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 21, 2024, be accepted.”**

*Discussion*

Other Business was moved to before lunch and renumbered Item 6, Sandi Ross Awards was added to current item 15 Notice of Motion.

##### **MOTION #1 (AMENDED)**

**Moved by George Alevizos, seconded by Asante Tracey:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 21, 2024, as amended, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED (1 Against)**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 3, 2024**

**Page 3:** Last paragraph, third sentence should read: “It was noted that **some of** our members are not happy about this.”

**Page 4:** First paragraph, last sentence should read: “The Treasurer would like to encourage this discussion and invite this group for a discussion.”

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

**Moved by Jameson Kraemer, seconded by John Cleland:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of June 3, 2024, as amended, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **TABLING OF OTHER BUSINESS TO BE INCLUDED PER #6**

- OLRB (Ontario Labour Relations Board).
- Disability Alliance letter to AFBS.
- Monthly meeting with agents.
- Casting Directors posting self-tapes.
- Word from Set.

## **CHAIR'S UPDATE**

David Gale said that he was happy to be back.

He reminded Council that a new ACTRA Toronto President will be elected from this this body at its first meeting in January.

Mr. Gale introduced the alternates, Councillors, Committee Chairs and staff.

## **IPA BARGAINING TEAM TO JOIN FOR UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

Cory Doran and Shack Shackleton, who are on the Bargaining Team with Councillor/Alternates (Theresa Tova – National Council observer, Tonjha Richardson, Amy Matysio, George Alevizos and Paul Constable), joined the meeting briefly.

Alistair Hepburn reported that 12 Wages and Working Condition meetings have taken place and the 13<sup>th</sup> one is scheduled for September. There were 85 proposals which have now been whittled down to 40. The group gave an update on how these proposals are heading.

Amy Matysio thanked Gail Hauptert and Mr. Hepburn for the work the “mammoth work” that they have put into this.

Suggestions were made on how to keep the membership informed every step of the way. Transparency is the #1 priority. TikTok explainer videos, a campaign to involve members and a one-page information sheet to agents – if we want to get something out fast, and contacting member friends, were discussed. Members should be made aware of what we will be striking for.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- OLRB (Ontario Labour Relations Board)  
Ms Matysio said that Dina Pino has spent 120 hours at the OLRB hearings and has taken 200 pages of notes! Mr. Hepburn gave an update. Heather Allin left the meeting during this to avoid any potential conflicts.
- Disability Alliance letter to AFBS  
George Alevizos reported that Luisa Alvarez Restrepo and he met with AFBS to follow up on the letter that the Disability Alliance sent to them. He said that the meeting was not what he was hoping for and he did not have high hopes when he went into the meeting. They started off very defensive and said that they were unsure if they could do anything as it would mean that they would have to raise the premiums. AFBS did, however, say that they were going to look into how they could add their asks to the benefits. Mr. Alevizos said that it was not the productive meeting he had hoped it would be.

AFBS went into the meeting thinking that we would hand them a solution. ACTRA Toronto will be meeting with them again with information of our members who will be requiring benefits referenced in the letter from the Disability Alliance. Mr. Hepburn said that the fact that they took the meeting is good news and that they are talking about it is good. Paul Constable said that he would like to attend the next AFBS meeting as an observer.

- Monthly meeting with agents.

John Cleland queried about the monthly meetings with agents. Mr. Hepburn said that ACTRA Toronto has been TAMAC monthly, except July. Mr. Cleland said that his agents have not heard from TAMAC in about 8 months. They want more interaction with ACTRA. Agents want to be involved in the crisis that their clients are in. It was suggested that the agent should get in touch with the TAMAC Board since they are not receiving meeting notifications.

- Casting Directors posting self-tapes.

Concerns about Casting Directors posting self-tapes on social media was raised. Mr. Hepburn said that there is nothing in the Collective Agreements to say that self-tapes are necessarily private. He asked if the producer was aware that the self-tapes would be posted. It was suggested that this be looked into since the Casting Directors Society of Canada have a Code of Conduct. Mr. Hepburn said that to fully protect performers, this requires a change in the Copyright Act. Members could also ask their agents to include something like this “No self-tapes can be shared without the agreement of the performer”.

- Word from Set.

Members working on the non-union production *Mr. Beast* was discussed. Mr. Hepburn said that an attempt was made to make it a union show but the producers were not interested in becoming signatory. NABET and some DGC members have been allowed to work on this production. In order to monitor whether ACTRA Members are working on non-union productions, ACTRA would require proof. It was suggested that ACTRA Toronto send out a notice to the membership reminding them to support ACTRA's stance.

Mr. Hepburn explained the discipline process when Members work on non-signatory productions.

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM JUNE COUNCIL – ED**

- *Blackberry* permits – Mr. Hepburn reported that eight permits were issued and they thanked ACTRA for issuing these permits at the CSA awards. 330 Members worked on the production. A Councillor said that he saw it as a double standard. Mr. Hepburn responded that ACTRA did not hear this from other Members.
- Senior Members – Members on withdrawal are subject to a 25% deduction on residuals. Mr. Hepburn suggested that this Council might want to take this up with the PRS Board. The National Treasurer is willing to bring this forward.
- Text to speech function on the website – Mr. Hepburn explained how this works on the browsers. We have been using this particular method on our website for the past three years. AccessiBe
- Equity update – 130 Equity members joined. 85% of these registered within the last two days of the expiry of the offer.
- Ontario Skills Development Training Grants – the next cohort closes on October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will check to see if there is anything that we can come up with to work for us. Mr. Hepburn believe that there are things that we can do but they have to be very targeted training opportunities.
- SMS mass texting – cost, after initial contract and set-up – ACTRA Toronto has started looking into this but it will still have to be an “opt in and opt out” feature. This will cost the branch \$10,000 annually and we will continue to pursue this.
- Academy of Canadian Cinema & TV memberships – This will cost \$160 per year for each of the Members on the Executive. It includes full voting rights and into the room but not on the panels. Council was in agreement with this expenditure. Mr. Hepburn will look into a discounted membership fee for ACTRA Members.

- Sample measurement guide – this will be on our website soon so that performers know how to provide their measurements to productions. The next step is to do a video on how to do this.
- Unfair Engagers
  - *40 Acres* – late fees still have not been paid. They are pushing hard to release this for TIFF and are working hard to resolve this issue. The CMPA is very much on top of this. At the moment, they cannot do ADR work on this project.
  - *Fresh Meat* – they hope to be receiving funding in the next couple of weeks so we will hear more then.
  - *Whistle* – DGC pulled accountant after non-payment. Awaiting update as we pursue Producer.
  - *Gentle Barbarians* – has been removed from the list.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Treasurer, Paul Constable, and Tina Wang walked Council through the ACTRA Toronto Financial Statement for the period ending May 31, 2024.

Mr. Constable is looking to sitting down with Ms Wang, Theresa Tova and Anna Bucci, Senior Director Finance, ITDS & PRS, to try and find savings.

National Treasurer, Ms Tova, reported that the National Financial Stability Task Force will be meeting in September. They will be looking at the holistic financial health of the entire union.

A fulsome discussion took place regarding the per capita payments to National.

## **ORGANIZING UPDATE – FRANK**

Francois Desjardins, ACTRA National’s Associate Director, Organizing, addressed Council and talked about the ACTRA National Basic Organizing Tools document that he handed out. Members of Council can get together with Mr. Desjardins if they would like to help out.

Council met in-camera at 2:50 p.m. The Recording Secretary and observers left the meeting during this discussion.

## **PICNIC DEBRIEF – TAVIA**

Tavia Pereira debriefed Council on the July 27<sup>th</sup> ACTRA Toronto’s First Annual Picnic. 172 were in attendance – 101 were ACTRA Toronto Members. The total expenditure for this picnic was \$2,294.78. One of the donors was State & Main. The Picnic Committee will meet in October.

Councillors would like a Council Calendar that they can have access to so that they can get involved in events organized by Council and the Committees.

## **CREATOR’S CORNER UPDATE – GORD**

Gord Rand reported that for the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting 320 registered but 150 attended. It was a great meeting and beneficial discussion took place. Amy Matysio and Mr. Rand will set up a meeting with Mr. Hepburn to discuss next steps, i.e. better ways of execution and creation; involvement of other unions and guilds; crafting sessions; skill sharing sessions, etc. Ms Matysio said that they received positive feedback – not what is not happening but what Members can do. Mr. Rand pointed out that the overwhelming feeling is that Members do not understand the Co-op Agreement.

Mr. Hepburn pointed out that on June 18<sup>th</sup> Council- was invited to take the Co-op course. As of the August meeting only eight Councillors had taken the Co-op Course and encouraged all Councillors to take it. It will help a lot. All Councillors have been pre-registered.

#### **HOW TO REMOVE PSAs FROM THE NCA? – GORD**

Council would like to see an agreement where PSAs are done outside the NCA. They wanted to know why it is nested in the NCA and why small creators are being forced to sign to the NCA. Mr. Hepburn explained the reason why and cautioned that we need to be careful about this.

#### **AWARDS COMMITTEE – UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS – DINA**

After presenting Council a breakdown the accomplishments of Michelle D. Meghie and Vania Giusto, Dina Pino recommended that they be appointed Co-Chairs of the Awards Committee. Council approved of this recommendation.

#### **MEMBERS (NEW VS RESIGNED) – ELANA**

2023 January 1 to August 19

516 New Members

396 resigned and/or cancelled

196 Members went on voluntary withdrawal.

2024 January 1 to August 19

672 New Members

367 resigned and/or cancelled

149 Full Members (127 cancelled for non-payment and 22 voluntarily)

125 Apprentice

93 AABP

214 went on withdrawal

#### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

- i. Elana Dunkelman

*“That Members be notified via email in advance of Council meetings to give them the opportunity to observe the Council meetings.”*

- ii. Kate & David – Bargaining: IPA strike preparation, NDAs, ICA and NCA.

*“That the bargaining process be opened for input from all Members.”*

#### **MOTION # 3**

**Moved by Paul Constable, seconded by Elana Dunkelman:**

**“That Council waive the Notice of Motion that the bargaining process be opened for input from all Members.”**

*Discussion*

A Councillor felt that they were not sure if they had enough information to vote on this right now.

**CARRIED 15 in Favour**  
**Opposed: Janet-Rose Nguyen, Theresa Tova, Heather Allin and Tavia Pereira**  
**Abstentions: George Alevizos and Tonjha Richardson**

After several amendments, the following Motion was moved:

**MOTION #4**

**Moved by David Wallen, seconded by Kate Ziegler:**

**“That ACTRA Toronto Council directs our National Executive representatives at the next National Executive meeting to put the following in front of the National Council Executive.**

**Motion to bring transparency to the bargaining process with the goal of building a campaign to take on our employers, culminating in a successful strike vote and, if required, strike to restore performers earnings.**

**As a requirement, all bargaining team NDA’s need to be rescinded (any bargaining team member who wishes to remain under an NDA is free to do so without fear of reprisal and the decision shall remain confidential); which enables the bargaining team to speak openly with members, build a deputized council, and strategize with the National Executive that has sole bargaining authority.”**

*Discussion*

A fulsome discussion took place.

Explainer notes to accompany the notes will be forwarded to the National Executive.

**CARRIED 14 in Favour**  
**Opposed: Janet-Rose Nguyen, Theresa Tova, Tonjha Richardson, Heather Allin and Tavia Pereira**  
**Abstentions: George Alevizos and Gugun Deep Singh**

***The Recording Secretary left the meeting at 4:35pm and the Executive Director took notes.***

iii. John Cleland & Kate Ziegler

*“Motion to change National By-laws regarding spending and expenses.”*

iv. Gugun Deep Singh

*“A motion to approve a maximum \$1500 budget allotment to the D&I Committee for use for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandi Ross Awards.”*

**MOTION # 5**

**Moved by Elana Dunkelman, seconded by George Alevizos:**

**“That Council waive the Notice of Motion that the Council approve an additional allotment of \$1,500 for the Sandi Ross Awards”**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MOTION # 5**

**Moved by John Cleland, seconded by Jameson Kraemer:**

**“That Council approve a maximum \$1,500 budget allotment to the D&I Committee for use for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sandi Ross Awards.”**

Discussion ensued. Additional information provided by Roy Urbanozo & Gugun Deep Singh

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

v. Elana Dunkelman

*“Motion to hold ongoing Kids Lunch & Learn sessions, with a budget of \$150-200 per meeting.”*

**XP SUMMIT UPDATE**

Elana Dunkelman provided a report on ACTRA attendance at the XP Summit. Well worth the investment! We hope we can continue and grow this initiative.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**John Cleland moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:13PM**

**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 on June 21<sup>st</sup> for 90 minutes at the ACTRA Toronto offices.

- Lots of discussion and interest in making it easier to join as a Full Member.
- Continued interest in resources to produce work as member/producers.



- Some concerns about the casting process, pre-casting from LA but going through the motions in Canada to secure credits, with no intention to watch the tapes.
- Frank Desjardins spoke about organizing non-union sets, to bring the ICA back to the table and also spoke to some concerns about confidentiality in organizing.

The Apprentice Caucus met on August 7<sup>th</sup> for 90 minutes at the ACTRA Toronto offices.

- Picnic: was great! Wouldn't change a thing! People wanted a 'hang-out'.
- Feeling of not being able to get in touch with the Business Representatives, recommended to always get in touch with the general inbox/phone line and be redirected.
- Confusion about 'upgrades' and how to go about getting situations assessed

The Apprentice Caucus will meet next on September 5, 15:30pm at the ACTRA Toronto offices, followed by an informal social hour 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

AYA has nothing to report as the committee is on hiatus for the summer. They will be back with planning workshops and bringing their members together in September.

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

*Editorial Committee* – Chair, Joy Tanner

Staff Editor Jennifer McGibbon and Editor Joy Tanner had meetings on July 8<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss upcoming stories scheduled from the editorial calendar. It's been a busy month and a half! Please find the following:

- Between April 1 to July 31, 2024, PerformersMagazine.com achieved a 23.93% increase in pageviews (7,805 to 9,673) and a 24.09% increase in unique impressions (3,520 to 4,368) compared to the same period in 2023.

Published in June/July:

- [Spotlight: 2024 Canadian Screen Awards](#) (June 3, 2024)
- [Commercial Spotlight](#) (June 12, 2024)
- [Applause: Spring 2024](#) (June 20, 2024)
- [Spotlight: Something's Phishy](#) (June 21, 2024)
- [Watch the 22nd ACTRA Awards in Toronto](#) (June 27, 2024)
- [\(Stunt\) Women in Action](#) (July 2, 2024)
- [In conversation with Maria Nash](#) (July 4, 2024)
- [Red Carpet Convo: 22nd ACTRA Awards](#) (July 8, 2024)
- [In conversation with Cory Doran](#) (July 19, 2024)
- [In conversation with Salvatore Antonio](#) (July 31, 2024)
- [In conversation with Elizabeth Saunders](#) (August 7, 2024)

Upcoming:

- Applause: Summer 2024 (September)
- Get to know your IPA Bargaining Team (September)

- Ask an Expert: Planning your financial future
- Stunt Stars: in conversation with Tom Farr
- Stunt Stars: in conversation with Brian Jagersky
- First article of a four-part AI series

There are a number of other articles in the ethers. Keep an eye out and please continue to post the pieces to your social media sites.

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

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

Meetings/General

- Committee meeting held on June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- No meeting in July, reconvened for meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Queer Your Stories Subcommittee

- Plan to have first subcommittee meeting for the next edition of QYS this month.
- They are currently thinking about starting to initiative a little sooner, in hopes of picking a winner a month sooner than last year to give the winning team more time for pre-production.
- Currently outACTRAto are in talks with all of last year’s sponsors to make sure moving up the timeline works for them, and to check-in to ensure they’re able to make the same commitment as last year.

Working the Scene in Rainbow Subcommittee

- They are in talks to move the event up to May instead of June, as many of our members are fairly busy during Pride month.

Gender Diversity Subcommittee

- They are continuing discussions with the awards committee to add a gender-diverse category for the next awards.

***Liaisons: Past President, Theresa Tova & Vice-President, Janet-Rose Nguyen***

*TAWC: Co-Chairs, Heather Allin and Tonjha Richardson*

Their meeting in July was a great success and very productive. They discussed with the members that were present, to have “Master Classes” and Guest Speaker sessions be the focus of TAWC meetings while building the committee, with casting directors, screenwriters and continuity department’ where these experts can share the tricks of the trade, helping actors to work smarter not harder, gathering insights into audition practices, character development, writing skills and especially when it comes to continuity, how to best make sure they stay in the final versions. They discussed the success in ACTRA Montréal’s committee with “Monthly Café Conversations” where our members meet in person and connect. And there is some interest in duplicating that here. It was suggested to that TAWC create a Doodle calendar for upcoming events to check member’s availabilities hence increase attendance. Heather Allin and Tonjha Richardson are in the process of preparing their August “Meeting” and scheduling the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Picnic and Theatre event with Shakespeare in the Ruff’s *The Tempest: A Witch in Algiers*, during their Theatre Season August 15-September 1, 2024, in Withrow Park.

\*We recognize the terms “Woman” and “Women” (Female/Male/Man/Men) are gender constructs and we seek to create a safer space for all gender members who are interested in furthering the mandate of the committee. We are aware of the constantly evolving nature of language and the need to be conscious of language that may be micro aggressive, racist, sexist and exclusionary, and seek to self-educate towards best practices. We also recognize that neither equity nor parity is yet achieved in this society or the world at large and seek to further that vision.

We acknowledge that we live, work and create on the unceded and traditional lands of the Ho-de-no-sau-nee-ga (Haudenosaunee), Anishinabewaki ᐱᐸᓪᓄᐱᐸᓪᓄᐱ, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Mississauga, and Wendake-Nionwentsio territories. We recognize that we are all Treaty people and seek to work toward redressing the injustices from which Settlers of this land have benefited.

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

*YEAA: Chair, Mercedes Morris and Tavia Pereira*

- Hosted a BYOPicnic at Trinity Bellwoods Park on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Attended: Chairs plus 4 members. Had a great time despite the rain.
- Looking to host another BYOPicnic in August and September.
- Hosted a Videogame Showcase on July 26<sup>th</sup>. 10 self-tapes were selected by a jury of Tavia Pereira, Mercedes Morris and Myles Dobson to be presented at the Showcase. Panelist included Angela Bottis, Ivan Sherry and Patrick Garrow. 35 members attended the event.
- After event, members went to a bar and stayed until 2am.
- Cass Enright recorded the entire showcase and this footage will be used for social media campaigns.
- Future plans to host a videogame weekend workshop.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

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

- Bargaining
  - Attended IPA bargaining prep meetings.
  - Attended HMU pre-bargaining meetings.
- Industry Events
  - Attended the Banff World Media Festival. Once again, it was a great opportunity to connect with industry stakeholders. I continue to receive feedback from members and BSO/Reelworld/etc. delegations that they are grateful ACTRA sends somebody in a role like mine to these events. This was a great opportunity to connect with the ISO and we are due to meet at TIFF to continue conversations about how to work together.
  - Attended the Latin Forum as a panel speaker and roundtable host; we were also one of the sponsors. During the filmmaker panel moderated by BIPOC TV & FILM'S Kadon Douglas, ACTRA Toronto got a shoutout about the work we're doing regarding accent discrimination. I connected with several producers working in the LATAM space who want to learn about working with ACTRA. I also spoke to several members who were excited to have ACTRA represented there. A really nice conversation I had was with a filmmaker who mentioned he'd recently done their first short with ACTRA. He was so impressed by all the performances he will only be going ACTRA for all his projects.
  - Attended the screening and panel we co-presented at TIFF as part of their WOMEN IN ACTION marquee series. The conversation was moderated by Tig Fong and featured Alicia Turner, Alision Reid, and Stephanie Hawkins. TIFF was really happy with the conversation. We gave away about 15 tickets to members.
  - Attended the CMF's EDIA Information and Engagement session. It was a very quick presentation where they shared the general direction for their future strategy. You can see the presentation [here](#).
- Committees
  - Supported TAW\*C's June meeting
  - Had check-in with the D&I committee. New initiatives were discussed.
- Partnerships
  - Renewed partnership with Reelworld.
  - Renewed partnership with Reel Asian. They are still thrilled with how well the Asian Performer Showcase went and want to explore doing something similar again.
  - We have a brand new partnership with the Trans Film Summit's [Short Film Fund](#) pitch competition. This is the summit's 3<sup>rd</sup> year at TIFF and the pitch will take place during TIFF.

- As part of our TIFF partnership, we received an exclusive discount code for our members to purchase a TIFF Industry Pass. You can access the code by filling out [this form](#).
- Given the success of the stunts panel, TIFF wants to meet post-Festival to discuss other opportunities for us to collaborate on year-round programming.

#### *Industry Initiative & Outreach – Taisa Dekker, Manager*

- Attended XP Game Summit June 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> to connect with video game developers about engaging union performers on interactive digital media productions. The conference included sessions covering topics such as: video game funding, diversity, equity & inclusion, artificial intelligence, copyright & intellectual property, current trends and industry outlooks, and more. Thanks to Elena Dunkelman, Ivan Sherry and Tavia Pereira for attending the conference as member delegates.
  - Recommend partnering with XP Game Summit in 2025.
- ACTRA Toronto sponsored the Future of Film Showcase June 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The union co-presented the “In the Casting Room” session, featuring Casting Directors sharing their insights and experiences. Festival attendees were invited to connect with ACTRA Toronto at the FOFS Virtual Coffee Networking session.
- The first Creators’ Corner meeting took place on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. As the staff liaison, I gave a brief presentation about ACTRA agreements during the session and listened to member feedback during the 2-hour meeting. The union launched a [page on the website](#) and email address for Creators’ Corner - [creators.corner@actratoronto.com](mailto:creators.corner@actratoronto.com)
- Negotiated sponsorship agreements with four festivals/events.
- Introduced Creative Arts Financial to an event organizer interested in having a workshop about financial literacy at their upcoming industry event in September.
- The ACTRA Toronto Member Picnic took place on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at High Park. Thank you to the steering committee for their work planning and implementing the event, and to picnic volunteers. There were over 170 attendees, which included members and their guests. Members were encouraged to post about the picnic on social using the hashtag #ACTRAPicnic. Thanks to our sponsors: [Changeling Gaming](#), [Energy with Julie](#), [Macelleria Atlas](#), [Megaplay Voice](#), [Redbull](#), [RuRu Baked](#), [Sanagan’s Meat Locker](#), [State and Main Etobicoke](#), and [The Craft Self-Tape Studio](#).
- Negotiated a partnership with NABET 700-M UNIFOR on a training initiative for sound and costume technicians. The course includes information on microphone placement, equipment, costume considerations, and working with performers. Two union members have been engaged for the “Wiring 101” workshop on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Met with the production team of a public service announcement about how to work with ACTRA performers. The charitable organization and producer appreciated connecting with union staff and we look forward to future conversations.
- Met with the project coordinator of a video game program at an Ontario university interested in having the union present to their students about working with ACTRA on video game productions.
- Met with a post-secondary institution about connecting their performance and film production students and alumni with ACTRA Toronto performers.
- Presented to the Production Management course at Centennial College on July 17, 2024.
- Spoke with a producer working on multiple projects about engaging ACTRA talent and the applicable contracts for features, shorts, and audio-specific content.
- The union is preparing for outreach to post-secondary performance and film production programs for the 2024/2025 academic year.
- Attended National Council, Green Committee, and TAW\*C meetings.

#### *Ontario Green Screen*

- The OGS waste reduction signage project was launched this summer. The Waste Signage Sorting Kits can be downloaded for free, and include information on sorting recycling, cardboard & paper, organics, garbage, e-waste, and hazardous waste. Signage was created for seven filming jurisdictions across Ontario, plus one generic kit for use in regions/municipalities not represented in the templates. The seven jurisdictions with specific

signage are: Durham Region, Hamilton, Mississauga, North Bay, Ottawa, Sudbury and Toronto. The OGS Waste Signage Info Sheet is available [here](#). To download Waste Signage Sorting Kits, please [click here](#).

- OGS forwarded information to the Advisory Committee members about the Amazon MGM Training Program for Sustainability Managers/Coordinators. Details about the program were shared with ACTRA Toronto's Green Committee for those interested in applying for the training, which takes place this September in Toronto.
- The OGS Summer Community Meeting took place on Tuesday July 30th, and featured guest speakers Mary Anne Waterhouse, Amazon MGM, and Grant Heggie from Ready, Set, Recycle.
- OGS will be contacting post-secondary film production programs to share sustainability information for students. ACTRA Toronto assisted with this project by sharing information on post-secondary film programs that have a student film agreement with the union.
- Registration is open for the new OGS Carbon Calculation Fundamentals course. The course discusses how carbon calculator tools show which areas of a production are causing the greatest emissions, and strategies to reduce the carbon footprint of a production. Click on the dates below to register for this free online training:
  - [Thursday August 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm](#)
  - [Thursday September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm](#)
  - [Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm](#)

*Green Committee* – Avaah Blackwell and Elle A, Co- Chairs

In April, the ACTRA Toronto Green Committee had two cleanups. They had about a dozen volunteer participants at our Toronto cleanup, and cleaned up 16 bags worth of trash from a local park! For the Hamilton cleanup, although rain did keep some people at bay, they had four volunteer participants and cleaned up six bags worth of trash from the waterfront! The cleanups were a resounding success and we hope to host another two cleanups in the fall.

Their social media initiative is slowly coming together. They will have member-involved 15-20 second social media posts showcasing a way to be more green on and off set. As an example, they will remind members to leave their house with a reusable water bottle. They will post these campaign videos on all their social media channels and encourage members to share it.

In September, Council members will receive a letter from Elle A and Avaah Blackwell to encourage and promote being more green within their own committee and other ACTRA activities. They are here to help committees to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Their next Green Committee meeting is TBD.

*Past President's Report*

AACE

ACTRA Alberta Council have joined ACTRA Toronto, ACTRA Manitoba, ACTRA Montreal and ACTRA National as members of the AACE Steering Committee. We look forward to welcoming ACTRA Alberta coaches to our growing community. AACE membership numbers grow every month and as of writing this report we have 134 vetted coaches including two more from the USA and our first coach from Australia.

We are in the early planning stages of our next Educators Conference which will again be hosted by Tarragon Theatre in summer of 2025.

EIC

Issues around late or no payments to actors by a non-EIC agent remain a top priority. Thank you to ACTRA Toronto staff for proactive work trouble shooting these ongoing cases. Reaching out to the defaulting agent and the clients

represented by them was timely and helpful. Our ongoing work with the government to create agent regulations will go a long way towards protecting actors' income.

*Picnic Committee – Tavia Pereira*

- Total attended ~170 (according to sign in sheet 101 members, 61 guests, 10 volunteers).
- Total spent - \$2,436.03 (~\$15/attendee).
- Positive feedback all around.
- It was many members' first event.
- It was many members' favourite event.
- Committee met on August 7<sup>th</sup> to debrief.
- Overall successful pilot event.
- Committee would like to reconvene in October/November to begin planning picnic 2025 upon approval.