

# ACTRA Toronto's Winter MEMBERS CONFERENCE DAY 1

## Wednesday, February 19, 2014

**8:30 a.m.**

**Registration and Breakfast**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

**I) BREAKFAST WITH COLIN MOCHRIE**

**Jean Yoon** interviews Canadian comedy icon **Colin Mochrie** about his entire experience in comedy. From the improv show "Who's Line Is it Anyway?" to Canadian and American sitcoms, to his best advice to actors for succeeding in comedy, this discussion will cover it all! Or, at least all that can be covered in a breakfast discussion.

**10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**I) 24 HOUR CO-OP CHALLENGE**

Leave the conference this year with your very own short film under your belt! Steward **Barbara Larose** will take you through all the steps and guidelines of the ACTRA co-op agreement. Come with your own camera / iPhone, bring your own team or let us assign you one! We will give you a theme and the rest of the day to plan, shoot and edit your movie. One of the films created will be selected by our jury to screen at the Plenary and be automatically entered into an online short film festival juried by the likes of **Jay Baruchel** and other Canadian Superstars. Submit photo, resume and include any directing, writing or editing experience you (and anyone on your team) might have. Hosted by **Freya Ravensbergen**.

*Participants will be preselected. Please see **MASTER CLASS application details**. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WORKSHOP IS A FULL-DAY COMMITMENT.*

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**I) Master Class SITCOM ACTING**

Stand up and slip on the banana peel with a comedy master class led by actors of the biggest Canadian comedy shows currently on the air. Find out the secrets to timing and getting people to laugh with (or at) you. Moderated by **Allison Wilson-Forbes**.

*Participants will be pre-selected. Please see **MASTER CLASS application details**.*

**II) STAND IN 101**

This stand-in workshop will include some of the best and most experienced stand-ins working in Toronto today: **Jacinta McDonnell** from *Bomb Girls* and *Spun Out*, **Gary Eisler** from *Degrassi*, and **Ted Stokes** a twenty year veteran stand-in from many series. The moderator, **Brendan Beiser**, will lead the discussion and Q. & A. covering issues surrounding getting work as a stand-in, as well as the considerable demands placed on a regular stand-in, including contracts, rates of pay and working conditions. The second element will be a physical demonstration of some of the skills required by a stand-in such as the special abilities in focus, pacing, professionalism and the ability to work well with "Others" over a long period of time.

**III) TAXES & INVESTMENTS 2**

The Taxman cometh. Be prepared with the return of **Brian Borts**, Entertainment Accountant and **Libby Hunter**, Investment Advisor. This dynamic duo will help you develop short and long term strategies for dealing with your money.

#### IV) THE ACTOR'S PROCESS

So you've landed the role, now what? How much can you / should you prepare! How much creative choice are you really granted and how do you negotiate character choices for lead roles! This three-part session with **Tantoo Cardinal, Enrico Colantoni & Eric Peterson** will talk mid-career actors through the processes of continually honing the acting craft and keeping it fresh. Learn how these actors prepare a script for shooting AND work in groups, coached by these actors, on scenes they have played in.

*Participants will be pre-selected. Please see MASTER CLASS application details.*

#### 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch courtesy of ACTRA Toronto

#### 1:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

##### I) WRITING FOR TV 101

Have you ever wanted to write for TV! Well here is your chance to learn how! In this session where Gemini Award winning writer **Sugith Varughese** (*Blue Murder, Fraggles Rock*) will introduce you to the basics of TV writing and teach you how to watch TV critically so you can learn how to improve your own writing by identifying all the essential elements of a show's formula.

##### II) MONEY FOR YOUR MOVIE

Need money for your next media project! Please join our panel of experts from Telefilm, OMDC, CMF, IPF, and the Harold Greenburg Fund in discussing how to get funding and grants for your pet project.

##### III) MAKING YOUR MARK AS A DIVERSE ACTOR

Featuring seasoned actors of diverse ages and ethnicities working with Director **Jennifer Podemski** on scenes from film and television. Hosted by **Jani Lauzon**, our panel of actors features Raoul Bhaneja, Eugene Clark, and others will discuss the ups and down of being an artist from a diverse background. There will also be a Master Class where ACTRA members from the audience will have a chance to play with actors from the panel.

*Participants will be pre-selected. Please see MASTER CLASS application details.*

#### 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

##### I) MICHAEL RILEY · Acting For The Camera· Method or Myth?

Back by popular demand, the passionate and erudite, multi award winning star of *Being Erica* and *This Is Wonderland* returns for an in depth, one on one with **David Gale**. Riley will crack open the common belief that stage acting and screen acting are separate techniques. Want to up your acting game! You won't want to miss this!

##### II) TV Writing 20 I: Pitch Perfect

For emerging writers that have scripts of TV series concepts written, now what! Welcome to the Art of the Pitch, where we'll talk about the basics of how to shape your idea into a sellable interesting concept, and how to hook your potential investor/broadcaster/producer. As well, we'll discuss who the key players in the Canadian TV/film market are and how to approach them. Led by **Glenn Cockburn**, President of Meridian Artists and founder of the Toronto Screenwriting Conference. Moderated by **Richard Young**.

#### 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

WINE & CHEESE

# ACTRA Toronto's Winter MEMBERS CONFERENCE DAY 2

## Thursday, February 20, 2014

**9:15 a.m.**

**Registration & Breakfast**

**9:45 – 11:45 am**

### I) **LIVE PITCH DEN**

Live Pitch Den will feature developed script concepts from both comedy and drama pitched to a panel of industry experts. Each pitch will be judged on the merit of the idea as well as presentation. Industry experts include **Sherry White** (Saving Hope and Rookie Blue), **Bobby Del Rio** (Writer/Director) and pitch coach **Warren Coughlin** as well as others. Moderated by **Julie Brar**.

*Participants will be pre-selected. (NOTE: must submit one-pager and tag line for the show in order to be considered)*

### II) **PERFORMANCE PSYCHOLOGY – PART I**

At Cirque du Soleil, performers' lives and safety depend on being 'in the zone' and working confidently, without fear. **Madeleine Hallé** gets them there. She is the Senior Sports Psychologist and works with Cirque's over 1300 performers worldwide. This unique full day workshop will teach you strategies and techniques for: - emotional control, - developing concentration, -achieving peak performance. From stunt performers to actors, this workshop has something for you. Join us!

### III) **AD-VANTAGE: PERFORMING GREAT COMMERCIAL AUDITIONS**

Want to know more about the commercial casting process? This dynamic panel will feature **Spencer Maybee** of Powerhouse, one of Toronto's best casting associates, along with some of the most prolific commercial talent in the business such as **Aurora Browne, Alastair Forbes, & Jason DeRosse**. We'll cover the basics: preparation, being in the room, getting the callback and booking the gig, in addition to looking at the bigger picture.

### IV) **BODY IMAGE-KEEPING YOUR SENSE OF SELF**

It is hard to keep a sense of self-worth amidst the pressure to be the Hollywood definition of beautiful. Be part of the conversation as we hear from actors **Athena Karkanis** (Saw IV, The Border), **Neil Napier** (300, Riddick) and stunt performer Angelica Lisk Hann about the pressures of body image and beauty in the industry, coping mechanisms and stories about playing outside your type. Joining us will be producer **Monica Parker**, award winning actress, writer, producer (Defiance, A Kiss So Deadly) and **Dr. Anita Shack**, a practitioner from the Artists' Health Center who is researching artists' self-esteem. Hosted by **Catherine Disher**

### V) **HOW TO ROCK THE SMALL PART AUDITION**

Join **Glenda Braganza** (Saving Hope), Casting Director **Marsha Chesley** (Little Mosque on the Prairie), coach **Patrice Goodman** & host **Jackie English** as they discuss how to approach and prepare for the "small part" audition AND either participate in the mock casting session (coached by Patrice) or be a fly on the wall – to learn how YOU can ROCK your next small part audition.

*Participants will be pre-selected. Please see MASTER CLASS application details.*

**12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.**

Lunch courtesy of ACTRA Toronto

**1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**ACTRA TORONTO'S AGM**

**Meet the ACTRA Award nominees**

CO-OP Film Screening

ACTRA Toronto's Operating Plan & Budget

**DOOR PRIZES!!**

**3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**I) NETWORK PITCH SESSION**

Culmination of Writing for Television 201 and Live Pitch Den this session will feature executives/producers from networks and independent production companies in Toronto. The strongest pitches from the Live Pitch Den will pitch to our esteemed panel from the CBC, Global, Showtime and Don Ferguson Productions.

*Participants will be pre-selected. (NOTE: must submit one-pager and tag line for the show in order to be considered)*

**II) FLY ON THE WALL: CASTING AND THE "REDIRECT"**

Ever been thrown for a loop when a redirect from casting turns your choices on their heads? Casting Director **Jason Knight** puts a few brave actors including **Grace Lynn Kung (Kim's Convenience, Insecurity)**, **Thomas Mitchell (Red, Reign)** and **Lisa Berry (Antiviral)** on the back foot as he flips the script for their second take, and talks genre and acting styles for TV and film auditions.

**III) PERFORMANCE PSYCHOLOGY – PART 2**

*See PART 1 for workshop description.*

**IV) PRE-VIS 101 FOR STUNT WORK" (PRE-VISUALISATION) - A look into this wonderful tool used more and more in preparation for action sequences in Film & Television**

Stunt Coordinator/ Performer **Angelica Lisk-Hann** and Stunt/ Fight Coordinator **Max White** will share their experience and explain what it is and why and how it's used. They will be joined by Stunt Performers, **Chris Mark** and **Jason Gosbee**, to demonstrate the process from script to finished product. You don't want to miss this!

**V) STATE OF THE UNION**

Want to hear more about what's new at ACTRA? Have questions about ACTRA's agreements, and your rights at work? Join Councillors and ACTRA staff for this session.

**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**WINE & CHEESE**

# **ACTRA Toronto's Winter MEMBERS CONFERENCE DAY 3 Friday, February 21, 2014**

**NEW LOCATION! ACTRA Toronto offices (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 625 Church Street)**

**9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

## **1) ACTRA ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND PERFORMER (AABP) CAUCUS**

Join your AABP Executive at the ACTRA Toronto offices to hear about the exciting initiatives they have undertaken on behalf. This is also an Election Year! Your AABP Executive for 2014-2016 will be elected at this meeting. As many as seven (7) executive members may be elected. National by-laws dictate that those who wish to run must provide evidence (vouchers) of having completed at least 15 days of work on ACTRA sets as an AABP member of the last year (since February 21, 2013) to be eligible. Come on out and cast your vote!

Please email [fmerritt@actratoronto.com](mailto:fmerritt@actratoronto.com) if you wish to run for the ACTRA Toronto AABP Caucus Executive.

**12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.**

## **1) ACTRA APPRENTICE CAUCUS**

Come out to the ACTRA Toronto offices to discuss issues important to Apprentice Members of ACTRA Toronto. This is also an Election Year ... a meeting with Apprentice Members in December 2013 raised many ideas. including re-establishing the Apprentice Member Caucus of ACTRA Toronto. This conference would be the time to elect a new Apprentice Executive for 2014-2016. Apprentice members of ACTRA in good standing, are eligible to run. As many as seven (7) members may be elected to the Apprentice Caucus Executive. Please come out and cast your vote!

Please email [fmerritt@actratoronto.com](mailto:fmerritt@actratoronto.com) if you wish to run for the ACTRA Toronto Apprentice Caucus Executive.

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## **CHILD CARE NOW AVAILABLE!!**

### **Improv Care, Group Child Care Services (INSERT LOGO)**

Improv Care Services for Children is providing ACTRA Toronto exceptional group child care services at the 2014 Winter Conference. Activity plans are developed according to the age and interests of the children and are delivered in an active, engaging way by the Improv Care team. ([www.improvcare.ca](http://www.improvcare.ca))

### **Our Theme This Year is: Enchanted Forest!!!**

If you need Child Care, please return the completed registration form to [membership@actratoronto.com](mailto:membership@actratoronto.com) by Friday, February 14, 2014.  
(PLEASE NOTE THAT SPACES ARE LIMITED)

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**Master class participants must apply by February 11, 2014.**

Participants should apply at [www.actratoronto.com](http://www.actratoronto.com) with your photo and résumé and any other requirements for that particular master class. We encourage performers with disabilities to apply.

**HOW TO REGISTER**

- the fastest way to register is online: [www.actratoronto.com](http://www.actratoronto.com)
- by fax (416) 928-0429
- or drop off your workshop choices at ACTRA Toronto, 625 Church St., 1st floor

**Please register by February 17, 2014**

**Master Class deadline is February 11, 2014**

All workshops and master classes are subject to change.

Check for conference updates at [www.actratoronto.com](http://www.actratoronto.com).

**The conference is free to ACTRA Toronto members who register.**