

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017**

PRESENT

David Gale, Vice-President, Communications, in the Chair
David Sparrow, Past President
David Macniven, Treasurer
Art Hindle, Vice-President, External Affairs
Shereen Airth
Tanya Allen, alternate for Leah Pinsent
Heather Allin
Rebecca Applebaum
Christina Collins, alternate for Ferne Downey
Maria del Mar (morning only)
Catherine Disher (morning only)
Shawn Doyle
Sedina Fiati
Dom Fiore
Barbara Gordon, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, VP, Internal Affairs
Jennifer Higgin, alternate for Grace Lynn Kung
Mina James, alternate for Theresa Tova, President
Kevan Kase, alternate for Wendy Crewson, VP, Member-at-Large
Angelica Lisk-Hann
Julian Richings
Emily Stranges, alternate for Clara Pasieka, Vice-President, Member Services
Joy Tanner, alternate for Joel Keller (morning only)
Randy Thomas, alternate for Colin Mochrie
Richard Young

REGRETS

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair, Apprentice Caucus
Les Williams, Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus

OBSERVERS

Donal Hansman

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, ACTRA Toronto
Indra Escobar, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Alistair Hepburn, Director, Film, Television and Digital Media, ACTRA Toronto
Karl Pruner, Director, Communications, Education and Outreach, ACTRA Toronto
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director, ACTRA
Charlie Davidson, Public Relations Intern, ACTRA Toronto
Elliott Anderson, Director, Public Policy & Communications, ACTRA
Cathia Badiere, Director, Research, ACTRA
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m. with Vice-President, Communications, David Gale, in the Chair. He welcomed everyone present.

The reading of the ACTRA Equality Statement and introduction of Councillors, Committee and Caucus Chairs, alternates, observers and staff followed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda Item 12 was deleted.

MOTION #1

Moved by Richard Young, seconded by Art Hindle:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of June 6, 2017, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Following the correction of typographical errors, the following was moved:

MOTION #2

Moved by David Macniven, seconded by Heather Allin:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of May 2, 2017, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

David Gale reported on behalf of Theresa Tova:

- Congratulated David Sparrow on his election as President of ACTRA National. Ferne Downey, Past President, will be celebrated in September for her service to ACTRA. Ms Downey continues to be President of FIA. She recently received an Honorary Doctorate from Dalhousie University.
- David Sparrow summarized the changes to the National By-Laws that were accepted by the National Council including an increase in permit surcharges.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- The ACTRA National draft *Strategic Plan* will be available prior to the next National Council meeting for discussion by the Branches.
- The AFBS AGM was held at the AGO following last month’s National Council meeting.
- Our focus, here at ACTRA Toronto, has been on NCA bargaining.
- The various ACTRA Toronto committees have been incredibly busy. Christina Collins, the Child Advocate led an internet safety workshop, TAWC honoured Adrienne Mitchell with the Nell Shipman Award,

NAWC's short film, *Reel Women Seen*, was screened at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Legacy Committee is planning for Canada Day, and the Diversity Committee helped lead a very successful Go-See at the Hazelton Hotel.

Alistair Hepburn reported that the casting session, in partnership with the OMDC and City of Toronto, was held on June 2nd and 3rd. Out of the 630 applicants, casting directors identified 70 members to be seen by Canadian and US casting directors and producers. The OMDC hosted a small reception during the event.

- At the last Council meeting it was mentioned that the Director of Member Services position was posted. This position has been filled and Ms Milling was pleased to announce that Nicole Valentin will be the new Director of Member Services.
- ACX, partner of Audible, has opened their site to Canadian publishers and narrators. This is an important step in the work to negotiate an agreement with ACX for ACTRA members similar to the agreement negotiated by SAG-AFTRA for their members.
- In-camera report on NCA bargaining.

FINANCE REPORT – AUDITED STATEMENTS

David Macniven and Karen Ritson reported on the *Consolidated Financial Statement* and the *Report to the Audit Committee – Communication of audit strategy and results for the year ended February 28, 2017*. The Finance Committee met with the auditors last week.

MOTION #3

Moved by David Macniven, seconded by Art Hindle:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve the Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended February 28, 2017”.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION #4

“That ACTRA Toronto Council re-appoint auditors Grant Thornton for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Sue Milling assumed the Chair.

ELECTIONS

Ms Milling explained the election process and reminded Council that there were two seats to be filled on ACTRA National Council; one being National Councillor as a result of David Sparrow's election to the position of National President and the other seat on the National Executive (ACTRA Toronto has two seats – one is elected by this Council and the other is held by the ACTRA Toronto President as per the ACTRA Toronto By-laws).

ACTRA NATIONAL COUNCILLOR

The floor was opened for nominations.

NOMINATED:

Richard Young - Elected by acclamation.

Mr. Young gave a brief statement.

ACTRA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The floor was opened for nominations.

NOMINATED:

David Gale - Accepted.

Heather Allin - Accepted.

The candidates gave their election speeches. Ballots were cast.

David Gale assumed the Chair while the ballots were being counted.

Treasurer's Report – David Macniven:

Full Members Background Committee: Mr. Macniven said that at the last meeting, the committee discussed the proposed video “*The Top 10 things you need to know to work Background*”. The committee is seeking a producer.

ACTRA Additional Background Performer Caucus: Chair, Les Williams, reported that the Caucus Secretary is working on a newsletter for the committee.

Apprentice Member Caucus: Joe Doran, Chair, said that social media presence is being increased.

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: AYA: Jennifer Higgin reported that the session with Ron Leach was a tremendous success. There was a meeting with the writers and YEAA on June 5th to discuss the short that the committees will be producing.

ELECTIONS - (Continued)

Ms Milling assumed the Chair as the results of the ballot were in for the seat on the ACTRA National Executive. The scrutineers confirmed that they observed a fair and accurate count.

ELECTED: David Gale

MOTION #5

Moved by David Gale, seconded by Art Hindle:

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

Ms Milling reminded Council that election process for the new ACTRA Toronto Council will commence in the fall.

David Gale was in the Chair.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)

President – Theresa Tova: Diversity Committee: The committee is awaiting Executive’s review of their proposal for the Sandi Ross event at TIFF.

Working the Scene in Colour, a script reading series featuring work by Indigenous writers and writers of colour, held in May at the University of Toronto’s Multi-Faith Centre, was a great success. The Diversity Committee will be partnering with them to present another script reading series at the September Members Conference.

Share the Screen – this initiative is on-going.

Diversity Advocate: Mr. Gale reported on behalf of Diversity Advocate Jani Lauzon:

Go-See: This was very successful. 630 performers submitted their resumes. The difficult task of selecting 70 candidates were undertaken by Casting Directors Society of Canada’s Jenny Lewis, Millie Tom, Sara Kay and Marjorie Lecker. There has been a huge intake to the Diversity Database as it was a prerequisite for application.

Toronto International Deaf Film Festival: ACTRA Toronto sponsored a panel called *Translating Scripts into English from ASL Perspective*. Panelists included Marjorie Chan from Cahoots Theatre and director dramaturge of the play *Ultrasound*, Tory Kotsur, deaf filmmaker and actor from Los Angeles and Andra Sheffer from the Independent Production Fund.

The discussion centred around the challenges of writing scripts and funding applications in English when you think and usually communicate in ASL/LSQ. The process for both the hearing and deaf collaborators and the funding bodies who look at the scripts was examined. Catherine MacKinnon is stepping down so this may be the last year for the festival.

Other Festivals: We are heading into negotiations with *Mississauga South Asian Film Festival* and the *imagineNATIVE Film Festival* for this year’s initiatives.

We have officially decided not to support the *CaribbeanTales International Film Festival*.

Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Nicole St. Martin: Barbara Gordon reported on behalf of Ms St. Martin on the following:

TAWC: Adrienne Mitchell was presented with the 2017 Nell Shipman Award at the gala on May 29th at The Spoke Club. It was a resounding success. The TAWC Toolkit short film *Orchid* was screened at the gala.

Conference: We are hoping to have the cast of *Odd Squad* to be our *Breakfast With...* interviewees at the fall conference on Saturday, September 23rd.

Child Advocacy: Child Advocate, Christina Collins, held a very successful cyber safety information session for parents in May and will be heading up two sessions at the fall conference for our young members.

Ms Collins reported that another Stage Parents seminar was held and attended by 34 parents. On the panel were Ms Collins, Maria Ralley (Agent, ETM), Eddie Huband (child actor) and Officer Megan McGarry. The topic of discussion was internet safety.

Voice Committee: Catherine Disher reported on behalf of Co-Chairs Linda Ballantyne and Shauna MacDonald. The next committee meeting is on June 14th which will be followed by the *Build your own Recording Studio* workshop. She also reported on ACX which hosts self-published books.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Continued)

- *Changing Workplace Review:* Ms Milling reported on the response to the interim report issued at the end of May by the Ontario government that acknowledged the different parties' views regarding precarious and freelance workers, as well as independent contractors. We are in favour of further study to ensure that our gains are not lost. We believe that our members should be covered by the Employment Standards and labour laws. David Sparrow reported on his recent meeting with Minister Flynn.
- ACTRA Day of Action is scheduled for October 12th to lobby for proper recognition and employment protections for artists and for a strong framework and regulations to support the development of Canadian Content. Members were recently mobilized to lobby the federal Cabinet to ask the CRTC to reconsider their recent decisions. The Federal Minister is expected to release the report from last year's consultations in the fall.

Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson: *Stunts:* Kevan Kase reported that the next committee meeting is on June 27th which will be followed by a *Safety on Set* workshop on gun handling and wrangling. The committee is in the process of updating their social media list.

It was noted that Business Representative Clare Johnston and Angelica Lisk-Hann, along with representative from other unions and guilds, will be going to Parry Sound, on June 8th to educate the Ministry of Labour inspectors on behalf of the Section 21 Committee.

It was suggested that it could be useful to reach out to other northern authorities, i.e. police and ETF, regarding adopting Toronto's template for on-set safety, to assist in preventing future accidents.

Industry Relations: Ms Milling reported that Taisa Dekker continues to follow up with breakdowns that come our way.

Ms Dekker connected with other unions at the Canadian Labour Congress Convention to promote working with ACTRA performers on any industrial, commercial or eLearning production. She also met with the Interactive Digital Media Program Consultant at the OMDC about outreach to video game studios in Toronto.

ACTRA Toronto sponsored T.O. WebFest 2017 and the ACTRA web series *That's My DJ* won best drama, best director and best Canadian web series.

Ms Dekker met with producers of a CMF-funded web series at the WebFest to discuss signing on with ACTRA. A further meeting was held and it seems likely that they will become signatory. At the Future of Film Showcase, Taisa networked with emerging filmmakers.

Vice-President, External Affairs – Art Hindle: Mr. Hindle reported.

Political Action: Our lobbying on this front does make a difference. ACTRA has the support of the Mayor and the Toronto Film Office. Mr. Hindle noted the positive feedback on the diversity go-see and the support of both the City of Toronto and the OMDC.

Mr. Hindle paid tribute to union activist Mike Seaward, who was the Vice-President of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council, President of the Steelworkers Toronto Area Council and Vice-President of United Steelworkers Local 7193.

CLC: The CALM Award garnered by ACTRA Toronto was heralded. Mr. Hindle encouraged Councillors to attend CLC Conventions if the opportunity arises.

Legacy Committee: We are in the process of brewing our own beer as part of our celebration of Canada's 150th. Our *CanCon* will be brewed on June 10th at Great Lakes Brewery. Videos are being made which will appear on social media. *CanCon* will make its debut on Canada Day on July 1st at the Brickworks at 11:00 a.m.

Preparations for ACTRA's 75th Anniversary will take place after Canada Day.

NATIONAL REPORT

David Sparrow reported:

- Mr. Sparrow attended the SAG/AFTRA negotiations in LA. SAG/AFTRA President, Gabrielle Cateris, spoke with him about the #workingtogether initiative. They will be sending two representatives to our Commercial negotiations.
- The ACTRA Maritimes AGM was a success. Their membership has similar concerns to those of members in Toronto. Local issues are national issues.
- The CRTC's recent decisions are impacting our ability to make a living. ACTRA is working with other industry partners, guilds and unions to lobby the federal Cabinet to see the decisions reversed.
- The CLC sent a letter to the Minister in support of ACTRA's call to amend the open-door policy in the Commercial jurisdiction regarding the Temporary Foreign Worker Program.

Stephen Waddell reported:

- Commercial negotiations – 9 days have been scheduled, commencing June 7th.
- SAG/AFTRA negotiations – May 31st was the opening day of bargaining, ending June 30th.
- CBC Agreement expires on June 30th. An agreement has been reached to extend it until September 30th.
- We will be entering negotiations with GameOn on July 13th.
- Negotiations on the BCMPPA are likely to commence in February 2018.
- CRTC's Jean Pierre Blais' latest decision is disastrous. Mr. Waddell encouraged everyone to sign the online petition.
- ACTRA has obtained intervenor status, along with Association of Canadian Advertisers (ACA), in seeking to overturn the SimSub ban, at the Federal Court of Appeal.
- We are seeking standing on the negotiation of three trade agreements – the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Canada-China Free Trade Agreement.
- DigiCanCon review process – Canadian content in a digital world has evolved into a review of legislation regarding broadcasting and telecommunications. Need to ensure the basic principles of the Broadcasting Act are protected.

- Beijing Treaty – we are advocating to have the audio performers rights extended to audio-visual performers.

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasioka: Emily Stranges reported:

Parades: The Parades Committee met late last week. The Pride Parade is on Sunday, June 25th, starting at 2:00 p.m. We will be meeting at ACTRA at 1:00 p.m. An e-blast will go out to the membership.

A social media contest will take place – one category is “Take and tweet or Instagram a photo with an ACTRA Councillor”. There will only be one hashtag.

YEAA: YEAA is piloting a new component for YEAA Shorts at ReelWorld with Whites. YEAA is using the new blanket insurance that they negotiated. This is available for other committee’s videos too.

A successful filmmaker mixer was held on Sunday. This subcommittee meets regularly.

YEAA held a joint writing workshop with AYA and are excited about working together in future collaborations.

Ms Pasioka is writing an Op Plan for YEAA.

YEAA at TIFF – two spearheads and two assistants have been chosen for an event, similar to last year, to facilitate mentorship.

Themes for YEAA right now include: (1) balancing the relationship between autonomy and guidance; (2) mentorship; (3) trying to include as many members as possible, always noticing and attending to when a member is left out, realizing our roles as leaders in the union are more important in the fulfillment of our members than we might always think.

Member Services: Our main priority is member education.

ACTRA Toronto Census: Richard Young said that as previously mentioned, we received a grant from the OMDC to do this survey. A promotional video will be shot on June 24th. Beta testing will start soon prior to it’s launch in July.

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

We are gearing up for the ACTRA’s 75th Anniversary.

ACTRA magazines received three Canadian Association of Labour Media (CALM) awards.

Jillian Rees-Brown was the recipient of the *Cayle Chernin Award*. It is given to women transitioning into different areas in their career.

Performers On-Set will be will mailed out in July and *Performers* magazine will be published in September.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Sparrow said there will be a focus group to look at the members’ Co-op professional development program, TIP and Digital Self-Promotion guidelines.
- Lack of accessibility and bathroom facilities at casting facilities was raised. Casting Central was lauded for its accessibility.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 3:18 P.M.