

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017**

PRESENT

REGRETS

Theresa Tova, President
David Sparrow, Past President
David Macniven, Treasurer
David Gale, Vice-President, Communications
Clara Pasiaka, Vice-President, Member Services
Shereen Airth
Heather Allin
Rebecca Applebaum
Linda Ballantyne, alternate for Catherine Disher
Josh Barilko, alternate for Art Hindle, VP External Affairs
Shawn Doyle
Sedina Fiati
Dom Fiore
Sean Harraher, alternate for Nicole St. Martin, VP, Internal Affairs
Jennifer Higgin, alternate for Colin Mochrie
Joel Keller
Grace Lynn Kung
Angelica Lisk-Hann
Leah Pinsent
Julian Richings
Randy Thomas, alternate for Ferne Downey
Joanna Swan, alternate for Maria del Mar
Joy Tanner, alternate for Wendy Crewson, VP, Member-at-Large
Richard Young

COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS

Joe Doran, Chair Apprentice Caucus
John Johnson, alternate for Les Williams, Chair, Additional Background Performers Caucus
Constantine Meglis, Chair, Full Members Background Committee

OBSERVERS AND DAY OF ACTION PARTICIPANTS

Joe Alberico	Angelica Alejandro
Angela Asher	Donal Hansman
Christopher Holden	Pam Hyatt
Bryn McAuley	Supinder Wraich
Jason Smith	

ALSO PRESENT

Sue Milling, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto
Judy Barefoot, Director, Commercial Production, 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
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Luca de Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Peter Gatti, Organizer, Day of Action, ACTRA Toronto
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto
Cass Enright, Social Media
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting commenced at 10:05 a.m. with President Theresa Tova, in the Chair. She 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

The Agenda was amended as follows:

Item (5) Executive Reports – The order of the Executive Reports was switched with Treasurer David Macniven reporting before the Day of Action Lobby Day Training. VP Member Services Ms Pasieka and VP External Mr. Hindle reports were delivered after the training.

MOTION #1

Moved by Linda Ballantyne, seconded by Randy Thomas:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of October 3, 2017, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections to the Minutes, the following was moved:

MOTION #2

Moved by Heather Allin, seconded by David Gale:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of September 5, 2017, be accepted.”

CARRIED

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Theresa Tova reported:

- The City of Toronto partnered with the industry to launch the xoTO Lounge on the opening night of TIFF. Ms Tova met with politicians, industry stakeholders and members at this event.
- Attended the OMDC TIFF event at the Carlu, the CMPA event at the Glenn Gould Studio; Canadian Film Centre (CFC) barbeque, William F. White event at TIFF Bell Lightbox, YEAA networking event, Diversity’s *Share the Screen* event, breakfast with Minister Melanie Joly and the Wendy Crewson event.
- Ms Tova also attended the ACTRA Performers’ Rights Board meeting
- She remarked on the stellar quality of the sessions offered at the ACTRA Toronto Conference in September. Over 400 members attended.
- Ms Tova conveyed thanks from Ferne Downey to ACTRA Toronto for the gift and for honouring her at the Plenary in September.
- Tova thanked Richard Young, Dom Fiore and Alistair Hepburn for the sessions led at the Northern Ontario Symposium and outreach they did in Sudbury on the same weekend as the Conference in Toronto.

- Ms Tova will be attending the upcoming joint meeting of the Legacy Committee and the Awards Committee charged with co-ordinating our 75th year celebrations.
- She will be going to LA to attend the SAG-AFTRA convention as an observer and have a chance to build on leader to leader conversations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported:

- It has been a busy month as we continue to move forward with our plans as per the Op Plan.
- ACTRA Toronto was one of the sponsors of the xoTO Lounge at TIFF organized by the City of Toronto's Film & Television Digital Media office. Michele Alosinac, Film Development Officer with the City's Film Office and instrumental in building the Mayor's support for this industry, is leaving the Toronto Film Office. ACTRA Toronto has conveyed its appreciation and best wishes to Michele.
- President Tova is reaching out to new apprentice and Full Members on a monthly basis
- The Commercial Agreement's Local and Regional Addendum has been ratified. 98% in favour.
- Setting up of the ACTRA Opportunity Pilot Project has begun.
- Ms Milling will be going to LA to meet with SAG-AFTRA staff. More effort needs to be put into #WorkingTogether.
- Meeting with ICA later in the month to discuss joint outreach and organizing initiatives.
- Elections – nominations are closed. There are 55 candidates. Voting will be online and will be open to Full ACTRA Toronto Members on October 20th.
- Member Education was discussed with emphasis on how to enforce attendance at the training sessions required to become Full Members.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Treasurer – David Macniven: *Finance:* Mr. Macniven – nothing new to report since budget restatement in September.

Full Member Background Committee: Chair, Constantine Meglis reported on the committee video. The committee will be hosting a social event during Christmas. The next FMBG meeting is on October 13th.

Apprentice Caucus: Chair, Joe Doran, reported that the members are feeling left out. They held a blue-sky session, led by Ewa Green, on how ACTRA can better support the Caucus and Apprentice Members.

DAY OF ACTION – LOBBY DAY TRAINING

Lobby Day is October 12th. Toronto City Councillor Mike Layton was the invited to address Council.

A lobby training session was held with Councillors and Guests.

COMMUNICATIONS BLUE SKY

Cass Enright facilitated a brainstorming session on how ACTRA Toronto can better use its means of communication to reach members, engagers/producers, the public, allies and politicians. The Council supported the establishment

of a Communications Committee comprised of Committee and Caucus Chairs to meet 3-4 times a year to develop and update a communications calendar.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS (Continued)

Vice-President, Member Services – Clara Pasiaka: YEAA: Ms Pasiaka reported on the upcoming screening of YEAA Shorts at the ReelWorld Film Festival, the successful networking event at TIFF, and the status and progress of YEAA Creates – the program to help develop filmmaking skills.

Vice-President, Internal Affairs – Nicole St. Martin: *Conference:* Sean Harraher presented Ms St. Martin's report. Over 400 members attended. She thanked staff, especially Karen Ritson, and the committee who worked hard to make it a fantastic event.

Child Advocacy: Christina Collins was extremely pleased with the sessions for children, parents and guardians organized for the conference.

TAWC: Joanna Swan reported. Ms St. Martin has begun mentoring Jillian Rees-Brown in taking the lead on the TAWC Toolkit Stream B and Joanna Swan for the Toolkit Stream A. Both these initiatives will be renamed in the very near future to more clearly reflect the content. A call for submissions will be announced shortly.

Vice-President, Member-at-Large – Wendy Crewson: Sue Milling presented the *Industry Relations* report. ACTRA Toronto had a big presence at TIFF via our sponsorship of the xoTO Lounge, our heightened social media campaign for films produced with ACTRA talent in our jurisdiction and through networking with content creators at various events throughout the festival.

Taisa Dekker met with a UK producer who is interested in shooting a feature film in Ontario with ACTRA talent.

Industry Relations reached out to 55 Ontario companies that are members of the Canadian eLearning Enterprise Alliance to promote engaging ACTRA voices on eLearning productions.

Ms Dekker attended an Interactive Ontario information session about OMDC and CMF funding changes for Interactive Digital Media producers. She also attended a networking event for video game developers to promote working with ACTRA talent.

Vice-President, Communications – David Gale: AYA: The committee held a very productive meeting at which they discussed their mandate, name, goals for the year and the holiday fundraiser.

Performers magazine: Joy Tanner, Editor, reported that the new magazine is out. The committee is working on *Performers Online* and is close to completion. The printed copy of the magazine will continue to be available twice a year.

Legacy: Joel Keller reported that the committee is working with the Awards committee re ACTRA's 75th anniversary. The two committees will be meeting to discuss how the Awards Night can highlight ACTRA's 75th anniversary.

Awards: The deadline for submissions is October 31st. Members were encouraged to make submissions. It is permissible for performers to enter their own performances for consideration.

Website: Committee Chairs were asked to check their webpages and let Communications know of any updates to their mandates, and the content of their pages.

President – Theresa Tova: Diversity: Tova reported on behalf of Diversity Advocate, Jani Lauzon.

Mosaic International South Asian Film Festival (MISAFF): We sponsored the Rising Star award

Reel Asian: We will be sponsoring *Kim’s Convenience 2.0* along with Thunderbird, CBC and CMPA. Alistair Hepburn will be speaking to the pitch competition participants about the benefits of working ACTRA. One of last year’s winners shot their film under ACTRA.

ImagineNATIVE: We are sponsoring the feature film *Julianna and the Medicine Fish* which screens on Friday, October 20th at 9:15 p.m. Ms Lauzon will be attending the Awards and will introduce Joan Karasevich, August Schellenberg’s wife, and handover the award to this year’s recipient, Tina Keeper.

In the new year we will be helping to support a script lab series and supporting micro meeting with local Indigenous content creators on how to shoot ACTRA.

Ms Lauzon’s short film *Just One Word* done under TiP will have its world premier at the festival on Sunday, October 22nd at 12:45 p.m. as part of the shorts program.

Regent Park Film Festival: We are sponsoring a script lab reading series. Seven ACTRA members will be engaged in a live script reading of a new web series pilot project. Sharon Lewis will be directing an ensemble of six members for an afternoon of excerpts from emerging writers of colour at Daniels Spectrum on Saturday, November 19th from 3:00 pm. to 5:00 p.m.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP): Ms Lauzon has been part of a coalition to investigate and bring about change to the rulings of ODSP for artists living with disabilities. The coalition has started with arts grants and the request to the Ministry of Sport and Culture and the ODSP to make these grants income tax exempt. It is hoped that this will pass in the next few months. Our future goals are to align the CRA’s ruling on acceptable expenses for artists and self-employed workers with that of the ODSP, which currently they are not.

Voice Committee: Linda Ballantyne reported on the successful conference workshop. The next meeting will be held in November.

NATIONAL REPORT

David Sparrow reported. ACTRA has become the go-to cultural voice in Canada. We are doing great things in promoting culture for Canadians. We were the only union whose President was in Ottawa for the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Melanie Joly’s speech. We are pleased that this government is listening and willing to work with our industry although disappointed that there continues to be unwillingness to “level the playing field” when it comes to long term funding. We are still learning the details of the deal made with Netflix.

Mr. Sparrow will be attending the SAG-AFTRA convention.

The ACTRA *Woman of the Year* recipient is Tina Keeper. Ms Keeper will be honoured on October 20th.

Mr. Sparrow reported that the National Women's Committee video, spearheaded by Chair Heather Allin, *Reel Women Scene* was well-received in Beijing and Edmonton. There will be a meeting of CUES: Canadian Unions for Equality on Screen, in mid-October.

Mr. Sparrow will be attending the FIA conference in Zagreb, Croatia, later this month.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The outgoing and newly elected Council will meet together in December. The new Council will elect their Executive at the January 2018 meeting.
- Census deadline is October 8th.
- Dom Fiore reported on the enthusiasm and interest of the ACTRA members in Sudbury.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:45 P.M.