

Factsheet #1



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Full Member Advantage at ACTRA

Why become a Full Member?

ACTRA Toronto is the largest organization within ACTRA, representing over 15,000 of Canada's 22,000 professional performers working in the English-language recorded media in Canada. As an advocate for Canadian culture since 1943, ACTRA is a member-driven organization that continues to secure rights and respect for the work of professional performers.

ACTRA full members are paid fairly and on time not only for the recording of their performance but also for its use. Through the collective bargaining process, ACTRA members participate democratically in the decisions that determine their working terms and conditions and are protected against exploitation, harassment, abuse and other hazards in the workplace. They receive insurance and retirement benefits, access to an arts-friendly financial institution and a great many other benefits that flow from membership in a community of performers.

Full Members of ACTRA enjoy **preference of engagement** over all non-member performers. Full Members in good standing can also **participate in ratification votes** for ACTRA agreements, vote in ACTRA Toronto elections, **hold elected positions** at ACTRA Toronto, attend ACTRA Toronto's free **member conferences**, and take advantage of **discounts** available exclusively to ACTRA members.

To join ACTRA you must be a **Canadian citizen or landed immigrant**. As a condition of membership, all ACTRA members **agree not to work on non-union productions**.

How to Join ACTRA

Membership in Sister Organizations

If you belong to a professional performers' organization like **Canadian Actors' Equity Association (CAEA)**, **SAG-AFTRA** or **Equity (UK)**, where we have a reciprocal agreement with the organization, you may be eligible to join as a Full Member on your first engagement in ACTRA's jurisdiction. Please contact us for more information or visit actratoronto.com.

ACTRA Apprentice Program

ACTRA's Apprentice Program allows performers who are new to ACTRA to work on ACTRA sets

ACTRA Toronto has more than 15,000 members and is the largest organization within ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists). As an advocate for Canadian culture since 1943, ACTRA continues to secure the rights and respect for the work of professional performers.

and earn credits toward full membership. Please contact us for more information or visit actratoronto.com.

Dues and Fees

To become a Full Member, the initiation fee is \$1,600 plus \$195 for basic annual membership dues. Permit fees paid as an Apprentice for qualifying credits and the Full Member course fee (if paid prior to application) are deducted from the initiation fee.

Full Members pay working dues of 2.25% of gross earnings each year, up to a maximum of \$4,000, in addition to basic annual membership dues (\$195), which are assessed every year in March.

CAEA (Equity) members receive a \$475 reduction on the initiation fee.

Reality Check

Working as an actor is a challenging profession that requires discipline, commitment, continuous training and hard work. Performers are always competing for roles and know there is no such thing as a guaranteed part. Most have years of experience and have trained at top theatre schools. Their work experience includes theatre, television series, commercials and feature films. Bringing a character to life on screen can give you great joy and personal satisfaction – but it also entails personal sacrifices. Consider the commitments involved before you become an ACTRA member.