

Factsheet #8

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ACTRA TORONTO

actratoronto.com

What is ACTRA?

How do I join?

ACTRA is a union of professional performers working together to achieve the *Aims and Objectives*¹ of ACTRA, as set out in **ACTRA's Constitution**. We welcome new members and look forward to working with you as you develop your career as an actor, stunt professional or background performer.

ACTRA Full Members:

- do not require permits to work under ACTRA's jurisdiction
- gain the many rights and protections negotiated through ACTRA agreements, including minimum rates of pay
- enjoy preference of engagement over all other non-member performers
- can participate in ratification votes for ACTRA agreements
- can vote in ACTRA Toronto elections
- can play a direct role in governing their union by holding elected positions at ACTRA Toronto
- receive health and insurance benefits through the ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society
- participate in free professional educational opportunities provided by ACTRA Toronto
- are eligible to nominate fellow performers or to be nominated for the ACTRA Awards in Toronto
- are eligible for consideration by other performers' unions under ACTRA's reciprocal agreements.

ACTRA Apprentice Member Program

ACTRA's Constitution says that an Apprentice member who has obtained three separate and different professional engagements as a performer within ACTRA's jurisdiction (other than as a Background Performer), is qualified to apply for full membership.

How do I become an Apprentice?

Since non-members don't pay dues, they purchase permits to accept engagements in ACTRA's jurisdiction. The first of these qualifying engagements makes you eligible to apply for the Apprentice Program.

A non-member has **six weeks** from the date of purchase of their first "qualifying" permit to join the ACTRA Apprentice Program and make the credit

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.

count as one of the three credits required to obtain ACTRA full membership. Apprentice applicants must pay a **\$75 annual Apprentice Administration Fee** and complete the **Apprentice Orientation Course**.

Currently, there is no limit on the time required after joining the Apprentice Program to obtain the final two qualifying credits and become a Full Member.

NOTE: Apprentices must apply for Full Membership at the time they purchase their third work permit. The Full Member initiation fee is \$1,600 minus permit fees paid for all qualifying credits earned as an Apprentice in good standing, plus basic annual membership dues of \$195.

Recent Graduates Credit

Graduation from an eligible² post-secondary school, college or university with an undergraduate or graduate degree in acting as a major may be used to earn a first credit and join the Apprentice Program, provided it is applied for within **60 calendar days of graduation**.

ACTRA Additional Background Performer (AABP) Credit

200 days or 1,600 hours of work under ACTRA contracts earned as an ACTRA

Additional Background Performer (AABP) member may be used to earn a first credit and join the Apprentice Program.

A non-member who can provide proof that he/she has worked at least **15 full work days** as a background performer in ACTRA's jurisdiction (within the 12 month period immediately prior to application) may apply to join the AABP. AABP applicants must take an **AABP Orientation Course** and pay a **\$30 annual fee**.

¹ ACTRA Constitution: ARTICLE 2 - AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of ACTRA shall include but not be limited to:

- a) organization and representation of its members and all persons eligible for membership, regardless of national or racial origin, sex, age, creed, colour, disability, marital status or sexual preference;
- b) promotion and protection of the economic, professional and social interests of the members, and the establishment and maintenance of unity of action among its members;
- c) promotion and maintenance of high professional standards among its members;
- d) entrance into agreements with engagers and employers on behalf of the members, and the securing and enhancement of the compensation and conditions of employment;
- e) promotion of the well-being of the arts and assistance in the development and perpetuation of the recorded media production and distribution industry;

- f) entrance into agreements, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, with any other organization(s) which share these aims and objectives;
- g) performance of all such lawful acts as are incidental to or conducive to the attainment of these aims and objectives, and performance of any and all things which a professional association or trade union may do on behalf of its members;
- h) through the ACTRA Insurance and Retirement Plan:
 - i. maintenance of an insurance plan to provide life, accident, health and welfare benefits for the individuals belonging to ACTRA;
 - ii. provision for a retirement plan;
 - iii. provision for such other plans as may be beneficial for its members from time to time; and
 - iv. preparation to take any and all action available in the defence of its jurisdiction.

² No institution may claim any entitlement to designation under this Section for any reason. Designation may be assigned and withdrawn by ACTRA at any time and for any reason.