

Factsheet #3



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ACTRA Additional Background Performers' Advantage

Why join AABP?

If you're a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident and you work as a background performer under the Independent Production Agreement (IPA), you should consider joining ACTRA as an ACTRA Additional Background Performer (AABP) and becoming a member of Canada's professional performers' union.

ACTRA Full Members, Apprentices and AABP members may not work on non-union productions.

As an AABP member, you can attend ACTRA Toronto's Member Conferences and Awards, enjoy ACTRA member discounts, participate in TiP and ACTRA Co-op films and accumulate background hours towards a first Apprentice Credit.

To keep your ACTRA Additional Background Performer membership in good standing, **you must work 15 days as a background performer each year** (from March 1 to the last day of February) and pay an annual **basic fee of \$30**.

How to Qualify

To be eligible for AABP membership, performers must provide proof that they have worked 15 days as a background performer on an ACTRA set in the 12 months prior to their application.

Apply in person at the ACTRA Toronto Membership Department by completing an application form, presenting proof of Canadian citizenship (or Permanent Residency) along with vouchers (itemized and in chronological order) verifying 15 background work days in the previous 12 months. Upon payment of a \$30 fee, you will receive an AABP membership card with your new member number.

How do AABP Members become Apprentices?

When a performer accumulates **1,600 hours or 200 Background (BG) days** as an AABP Member, they can apply for ACTRA Apprentice Membership.

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.

Documented proof of hours or days must be submitted to ACTRA, itemized and in chronological order along with an application for Apprentice membership. **Please allow two weeks for your application to be processed.**

Once accepted into the Apprentice program, there is a **\$75 annual Apprentice Administration Fee.**

Know Your Rights

AABP Members are protected by ACTRA's Independent Production Agreement (IPA).

AABP Members benefit from the union's negotiating power with producers resulting in better wages and working conditions, improved job opportunities and better protection.

AABP Members who qualify can register to participate in ratification votes on ACTRA agreements and serve on ACTRA Toronto's various committees. AABP Members do not have voting rights in elections and can't hold elected positions at ACTRA except on the AABP Committee.

AABP Committee

The ACTRA Additional Background Performer Committee is an elected group representing the concerns of AABP Members within ACTRA. The committee addresses issues concerning AABP members, monitors relations between performers and agents, advocates ways to better protect and promote background performers, and debates and presents proposals for ACTRA's negotiating committees.