

**ACTRA TORONTO  
COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020**

**PRESENT**

Theresa Tova, President, in the Chair  
Angelica Alejandro, Vice-President  
Rebecca Applebaum, Vice-President  
Angela Asher, Vice-President  
David Gale, Vice-President  
David Sparrow, Past President  
Richard Young, Treasurer  
Dalmar Abuzeid  
Shereen Airth  
Heather Allin  
Lisa Michelle Cornelius  
Wendy Crewson  
Paul de la Rosa  
Aidan Devine  
Shawn Doyle  
Art Hindle  
Kiley May, alternate for Deb McGrath  
Jack Newman  
Gugun Deep Singh, alternate for Samora Smallwood  
Joanna Swan, alternate for Maria del Mar  
Joy Tanner  
Jocelyne Zucco

**REGRETS**

Kevin Hanchard  
Leah Pinsent

**COMMITTEE & MEMBER CAUCUS CHAIRS, OMBUDSPERSON**

Bree Ali, Acting Chair, Apprentice Caucus  
Karen Ivany, Ombudsperson

**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, Director, Communications, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Ritson, Director, Finance and Administration, ACTRA Toronto  
Nicole Valentin, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto  
Tania Cardwell, Stunt Liaison, ACTRA Toronto  
Taisa Dekker, Industry Relations, ACTRA Toronto  
Cass Enright, Media Relations, ACTRA Toronto  
Victoria Shen, Special Advisor, ACTRA Toronto  
Karen Woolridge, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto  
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order over Zoom at 10:02 a.m. with President, Theresa Tova, in the Chair.

Ms Tova introduced and welcomed all present. She also welcomed Bree Ali to the table as the Acting Apprentice Chair as Nicholas Banks has stepped down. This was followed by the reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Joy Tanner and the Equality Statement by some of the Councillors and Alternates present.

## **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

### **MOTION #1**

**Moved by Angela Asher, seconded by Gugun Deep Singh:**

**“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of September 1, 2020, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **MOTION #2**

**Moved by Angelica Alejandro, seconded by Shereen Airth:**

**“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of August 4, 2020, be accepted.”**

**CARRIED**

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Theresa Tova attended and reported:

- Dues notices have been sent to the Membership.
- Commercial and IPA productions are starting up. Auditions are ramping up too. Staff is very involved with productions and we are getting a lot of positive feedback from Members, however, there is a lot of confusion regarding COVID testing. Some are surprised that they need to be tested and others that they are not being tested. Alistair Hepburn said that, according to the Section 21 protocols, there is no testing requirement. SAG-AFTRA recommends testing three times a week. Testing may be done by a private company on set. This reduces the overburdening of public health testing centres. When testing is done on set Members may not learn the results. Testing is not required on auditions. ACTRA Toronto is planning a *Back at Work* panel which David Gale will report on later in the meeting
- *Anti-Black Racism and Industry Roundtable:*  
ACTRA Toronto has committed resources to fighting anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination in the industry. We are angry and heartbroken to see another Black man shot in the back by police. Jacob Blake’s life and those of his children will never be the same. Racial injustice must stop! ACTRA Toronto leadership supports Black Lives Matter and is doing all that can be done to seek commitments from across the industry to make workplaces more inclusive.

Policies are voluntarily being put in place by leading networks and funding bodies through a diversity and inclusion lens.

- Networks like Bell Media are meeting regularly with Black creators to listen and learn and they have announced new BIPOC hiring policies.
- The Canadian Media Fund (CMF) is working with a Racial Media Collective and has committed to systemic change, collecting data on BIPOC participation in their programs. Although Telefilm is in the middle of an investigation, they have already announced a new Black Film Office and data collection on Diversity and Inclusion in their program supports.
- Jesse Wenthe has been appointed Chair of the Canadian Council.

- The CBC has also begun gathering data and has committed to 33% of all new hires in every department will be BIPOC.
- Casting Directors have announced the hiring of Black Casting Assistants.
- ACTRA Toronto has made the hiring of a new Anti-Black Racism Industry Relations staff person a priority.
- ACTRA National as also made the hiring of a Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion a priority. Tova thanked Councillors Lisa Michelle Cornelius and Samora Smallwood for helping with the interviews. Also, ACTRA National recently hired an in-house Senior Legal Counsel, Darryl Kyte, who is not only the most qualified candidate but also a person of colour.
- The National Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Tristan Lalla, has stepped down and the Committee is recommending that Richard Young assume the position.
- Along with our hard-working committees, ACTRA Toronto has a number of initiatives to support our Diverse members to be more visible to work. ACTRA Toronto has partnered with Ontario Creates to promote Black, Indigenous and Performers of Colour to producers. We are working with the Voice Committee to educate Black voice performers through a series of workshops. ACTRA Toronto has an initiative partnering Black performers with BIPOC writers to create scenes that will be filmed so that they have demo reels they need to be more competitive. ACTRA Toronto is also meeting with Casting Director to educate them on appropriate language to be used in casting breakdowns. All this work will help to promote the hire of Black, Indigenous and Performers of Colour.

Sue Milling reported that Judy Barefoot received two casting breakdowns for voice performers. Ms Barefoot said that the language in both breakdowns was inappropriate. She reached out to the advertising agency for one of the commercials who, in turn, asked the client to change the language and apologize to those affected. Ms Barefoot has yet to hear from the other producer.

The industry is as committed as ACTRA Toronto and will be joining us in an industry-wide effort next month. We have put out a call to the creative industry partners to come together again, to not only report on our individual actions, but to work together to agree to collective measurable actions to fight systemic racism. The response has been very positive. This meeting will take place in September. ACTRA National, through Marie Kelly has reached out to Black leaders to help plan and facilitate this meeting.

- *Ad hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment:* Tova said that the past month she has been talking to a number of Members about the work that we must continue to do to keep our Members safe. Unfortunately, we are dealing with harassment issues – not just sexual but homophobic and bullying. Some Members are afraid of repercussions and, therefore, are not bringing their complaints forward. Other Members are coming forward with accusations, some on social media and some are reaching out to us in confidence.

There is a lot of anger and not a lot of trust in what they can expect from reporting to the police or even to the union. We are restricted as to what actions we can take but we will stand by our Members who are dealing with this. That is a given. We have to support our Members without facing a defamation suit. Our Members have to be able to rely on us.

Ms Tova referred to the threads posted on *Keep Actors Safe* on Facebook and Instagram started by Nikki Bon and Claire Cavalheiro. She cautioned Councillors that there is no safe space on social media, even in a private Facebook group.

An expanded Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment will be meeting this month to focus on self-tape and coaching studios. ACTRA Toronto has also spoken to a number of industry leaders, Agents, Casting Directors and respected Coaches, in the business and wants to impress upon them to be careful who they recommend to their clients. They will be working with us to create safe protocols and a code of conduct for these service providers.

- *CASCU Update:* Tova thanked the Councillors who attended the Extra-Ordinary Council meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup> to support the Motion. CASCU will be holding a General Meeting to approve the move to a stronger financial institution.
- *Report on National Executive and PRS Meetings:* The National Constitution and By-Laws Committee will be meeting to deal with a few membership issues. BC filed a Notice of Motion to offer a first credit to Indigenous Performers. We have received input that this will not serve the Indigenous community. ACTRA Montreal is

looking at the reduction of the 15-day AABP qualifications during COVID and the potential conflict of interest for agents who are also ACTRA Members. This discussion needs to take place in Toronto as well.

PRS has sent out more than \$7 million in residuals since March. The audited Financial Statement was approved at the last Board Meeting.

ACTRA Toronto has asked PRS to hold a Town Hall for Stunt Performers re residual payment and help them better understand those payments. A date for this has not yet been set.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Milling reported.

We are a ways away from recovery. AFC has surpassed \$1 million support from the industry. They have provided much needed support to people in this industry.

There are still not details on the new EI benefits, except that CERB will transition to the Canada Revenue Benefit. This Government has done a number of remarkable things during this pandemic for the individuals in this industry and the industry itself. We are still seeking a solution to the production insurance impasse. Jamie West, a NDP MPP from Sudbury thinks this is a good idea and would like the government to permanently provide production insurance and sees it as a potential competitive location advantage. Ms Milling will re-send to Council a template letter to politicians and the link to ACTRA Toronto's submission to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs.

*Production Update:* Production is getting busy – lots on the television side. September and October are Film Festival time and a lot of panels for Taisa Dekker to sit on.

- Independent Production: Mr. Hepburn reported that there 60 productions shooting or in the process of shooting. He is working on organizing theatrical productions being recorded and shown online. Many big shows are coming or returning to Toronto, i.e. *Star Trek*, *Titans*, *Umbrella Academy*, *Resident Evil* and four Disney productions.

Ms Milling said that the Film, Television, Digital Media Department has reviewed over 100 different COVID protocols so far. Thanks to Tereza Olivero, Mr. Hepburn and his team. In order to keep people safe, productions are now offering exclusivity for Continuity Background.

- Commercial Production: Judy Barefoot reported that commercial production is very busy. There has been an increase in callbacks. The Commercial Agreement has been extended.
- Membership: Nicole Valentin reported that compared to last more members overall from each membership type have paid their dues. Majority of Members have asked for the credit offered. Staff has been amazing. Three Membership Representatives work 2.5 days a week.

Ms Milling said that staff, to better meet the needs of members and productions, will be coming back to the office soon although the building will remain closed to the public and some staff will continue to work remotely.

*Industry Relations:* Taisa Dekker reported.

- On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Industry Relations presented to the WIFT-T Scripted Digital Series Incubator program to discuss the benefits of engaging ACTRA performers on web series productions, how to contract performers under the IPA – Section E New Media, as well as the new Web Indie Production Guideline. There were 15 attendees in the program.
- As a result of being introduced via the WIFT-T Scripted Digital Series Incubator, IR met with a producer on August 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss contracting ACTRA talent on a digital short.
- Spoke with two producers interested in engaging ACTRA performers on a low budget short film. Ms Dekker and Clare Johnston, Senior Advisor - FTDM department, explained how to contract union performers on micro budget content, as well as on-set safety guidelines for covid19.
- ACTRA Toronto spoke on a union & guild panel on August 27<sup>th</sup>. This event was presented by BIPOC TV & FILM and xoTO (City of Toronto) to reach out to the BIPOC community interested in working in the industry. The title of the event was “Meet the Film & TV Unions, Guilds and Associations,” and featured panelists from ACTRA

Toronto (Taisa Dekker) CMPA (Marcia Douglas), DGC-ON (David Seymour), IATSE 667 (David Rumley) & WGC (Natalia Escobar). The focus of this panel was toward creatives – writers, directors, producers, performers. This was the second union & guild panel, as the first session was directed at crew and featured representatives from IATSE 873, IATSE 411, IATSE 667, NABET-M UNIFOR & DGC-ON (non-director roles).

- The “Pilot Program - Diversity in Voice: Virtual Workshops to Empower the BIPOC Voice Performer” sessions took place on Tuesday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday September 1<sup>st</sup>. This two-session vocal training program for BIPOC members instructed 9 members on vocal health and commercial VO. The vocal coaches who donated their time for this pilot program are Alicia Richardson and Tracey Hoyt. This initiative was developed by the Diversity & Inclusion Committee and the Voice Committee. The goal is to host more Virtual Workshops to Empower the BIPOC Voice Performer sessions in commercial and animation performance in the coming months.
- Industry Relations is working with the Diversity & Inclusion Committee on a program to develop demo reels for BIPOC members. Information on “A Different Lens: Demo Reel Creation to Empower the Diverse Performer” is available [here](#).
- August was Animation Month on the #ACTRASpotlight, and the branch promoted various animated productions and the ACTRA Toronto voice performers who bring the characters to life. The following series were promoted:
  - *Agent Binky – Pets of the Universe*
  - *Charlie’s Colorforms City*
  - *D.N. Ace*
  - *Hotel Transylvania – The Series*
  - *Paw Patrol*
  - *Top Wing*
- This summer, the #ACTRASpotlight focused on Audiobooks in June, Web Series in July, and Animation in August. The Spotlight is a great way to promote ACTRA-signatory content and the members that work on the productions. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, there were increases in engagement from this time last year:
  - Twitter impressions: 51% increase from the same period in 2019
  - Instagram impressions: 116% increase from the same period in 2019
  - The top posts on Instagram for the Spotlights was *Hey Lady!* followed by *Slo Pitch* and *Hotel Transylvania – The Series*.
- Reminder to members: all productions featured on the #ACTRASpotlight are available on the Performers Online mega-post, featuring links to podcasts, ACTRA@Home, Audiobooks, web series, award-nominated productions, animation, classic Canadian television and more:  
<https://www.actratorontoperformers.com/actraspotlight-at-home/>
- Upcoming:
  - TIFF 2020 takes place September 10<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and will be mostly digital due to covid19. ACTRA Toronto will be promoting members and ACTRA signatory productions that are in the festival. For information on TIFF 2020 and to see what films are featured in the festival, please visit [www.tiff.net](http://www.tiff.net).
  - Cinefest Sudbury is September 19<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> and will be fully online. Cinefest has invited ACTRA Toronto to speak on various panels throughout the event. Industry Relations will be taking micro-meetings with content creators interested in learning about engaging ACTRA performers from September 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Report from Cass Enright:* Mr. Enright reported that it was been a great summer promoting some awesome content. He has been working with Ms Dekker. He has also worked with Ontario Creates on the *Ready to Roll* campaign and produced a trailer which will play before all TIFF panels and a super cut. Mr. Enright is making a list of TIFF films that are ACTRA Toronto and films with ACTRA Toronto stars in them to spotlight during TIFF. Labour Day will be celebrated virtually. He is also working with the Dear Everybody campaign of Holland-Bloorview. They want to track which brands, shows and films deserve a shoutout for accurately portraying people living and working with disabilities.

## **SPECIAL ADVISOR’S REPORT**

Victoria Shen reported that Human Rights Legal Support Centre has a new sexual harassment and assault resource called SHARE: <https://www.hrlsc.on.ca/share/en/home>. It is free.

The CLC sent out a harassment survey. ACTRA Toronto has given them some advice to be inclusive of people whose work resembles that of our members.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Richard Young reported that our dues income will be down as a lot of our members are opting for the 25% discount. Foreign permit fees are also down. Committee expenses are down and we were able to get rent relief from July to September. We are taking advantage of the wage subsidy, but this will decline as our revenue increases. National has given us a 25% reduction in per capita payment starting in July for the remainder of the fiscal year.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS

**Vice-President – David Gale:** Mr. Gale that he will be recording the first Zoom interview about getting back to work.

The following are the reports under Mr. Gale's portfolio:

*outACTRAto:* Report submitted by Chair, Joanne Vannicola.

The committee has been working on and towards including the educational material and the Inside Out Film Festival, which is coming up in October, with their selected queer filmmaker and their debut of short films in the festival.

*AYA:* The report was submitted by Chair, John McGrath.

- AYA elected not to take its traditional summer break in order to help keep members active during the ongoing COVID situation. They held a very successful Zoom "Improvising for Commercial Auditions" session on August 12<sup>th</sup> with ACTRA member and LA-based coach Wendy Hopkins. They received very good reviews from members.
- AYA also shared an audition opportunity from Jigsaw Casting, which was looking for performers from 50-80 years.
- The Committee has also begun to look ahead to the annual fundraiser held in December and how they may host it this year. An online version is being considered if COVID restrictions continue.

**Vice-President – Rebecca Applebaum:** Ms Applebaum reported:

*Ontario Green Screen Advisory Committee:* On August 11th, Ms Applebaum attended a soft launch version of the OGS Climate and Sustainable Production Course and provided her feedback. This training will be made more widely available with the official Ontario Green Screen launch which is set to happen in September. The OGS Committee has struck several sub-committees that are open to more members, in case anyone on Council is interested: the Communications Plan Sub-Committee, the Strategic Plan Sub-Committee, and the Collaborative Partnerships & Regulatory Sub-Committee.

*TAWC:* Joanna Swan reported.

- It has been a quiet month for TAWC, but we are gearing up for our next meeting in the second week of September.
- The TAWC Film Lab Film, *Rainbow Bay* goes to camera on September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The Femme Filmmaking panel held on August 18<sup>th</sup> was a great success and Gloria Kim was a huge inspiration. The crowdfunding campaign launched in early August and is proving to be quite successful thus far. Please support the team if you are able by donating, or sharing the link or engaging on social media: [https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/rainbow-baby?fbclid=IwAR1T1d2JPRo4PHFPIOk38-bU08PHCtEW71HeaNRRx0mk2xO0HTnhYxS\\_1IU#/.](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/rainbow-baby?fbclid=IwAR1T1d2JPRo4PHFPIOk38-bU08PHCtEW71HeaNRRx0mk2xO0HTnhYxS_1IU#/)
- TAWC will be meeting with WIFT-T to look at potential ways to partner in the future, so more to come on that.
- As the industry begins to come back, please all stay safe!

*Voice Committee:* Co-Vice-Chair, Krystal Meadows, submitted the following report:

Update on the Voice Committee and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee Partnership: Empowering the BIPOC Voice Performer:

About 55 BIPOC members applied for the 2-day virtual voiceover training. Lisa Michelle Cornelius and Samora Smallwood of the Diversity Committee went through the applications and narrowed it down to 10 participants and three people are on the waiting list. The pilot focuses on Commercial voiceover training and the plan is to have three more rounds of training with groups of 10 actors later in the fall: a second round of Commercial voiceover training and two rounds of animation voice training.

Dates for Virtual voiceover Empowering the BIPOC Voice Performer pilot: Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Instructors are ACTRA members Alicia Richardson and Tracey Hoyt

ACTRA Spotlight is focusing on animation production this September with an Animation Lunch and Learn panel followed by a Q & A. The date of this is yet to be determined.

An eblast will go out to members leading up to the event with a link to register for the panel. The panel will be moderated by Cory Doran.

***Vice-President – Angela Asher:*** Ms Asher reported.

YEAA: On August 18<sup>th</sup> Clara Pasioka and Kira had a Zoom meeting with executives at CBC GEM. They are in further negotiations with the CBC about acquiring up to twelve of the YEAA shorts to be screened on the GEM platform. At this time the committee cannot share what those films are due to the logistics of the paperwork being approved by the filmmakers and the agreed to terms of the window of screenings. Council will receive an update in the coming months once all the negotiations are completed.

As of right now, Ms Pasioka and Kira are waiting to confirm two of the YEAA short films for Reelworld. Ms Asher hopes to have an update at the next Council meeting.

In further exciting news from YEAA, one of the short filmmakers is pitching a series to CBC. More to follow.

Ms Asher is beyond inspired by the amazing talent that has come out of YEAA and continues to be nurtured by ACTRA.

***Vice-President – Angelica Alejandro:*** Ms Alejandro reported.

- Creation of a BG Page on the ACTRA Toronto website to help address specific areas, in order to assist our members as more BG Performers return to work (issues, concerns and questions which are specific to Background Performance or Stand-In). Initial draft has been proposed.
- Out on set as an OSLO (On Set Liaison Officer) for our adult and minor performers/parents (cast and BG).
- Next Scheduled Apprentice Caucus Meeting will be September 10, 2020.
- Continue working with Child Advocate to create Zoom sessions for Parents. In conjunction with the ideas, Christina Collins (Child Advocate) that Ms Alejandro have drafted from attending various sessions offered by many in the industry, they would also like to address with Ms Asher some other key subjects like Cyber Safety for ACTRA Toronto's younger performers. Zoom planning is in the works to draft proposal leveraging the benefit of doing in-house for Members, as it is most economical and efficient. They would like to engage parents so they can support their child's return to work as well as the younger performers themselves. (Proposed Topics: Cyber Safety and Media Safety, Returning to Work Safety for Minors, Virtual classes offerings /resources such as – how to support children at home with rehearsals, how to do online auditions (Zoom), self-taping and set-ups, training/coaching how to address what your child needs especially if just starting out or transitioning from another discipline and possibly bringing in a guest speaker to talk and address topics as needed).
- Continue working with Mr. Young for members. Have now completed the 7<sup>th</sup> class offering since we began Zoom classes. With the help of help of ACTRA Toronto Staff revising the Respect on Set (ROS) material and discussion of other offerings. Also providing input as needed for the additional National training initiative.
- Continued to shadow Mr. Young and participate in ACTRA Toronto Diversity and Inclusion Committee meetings and initiatives that encourage, support and opportunities to our members including a wonderful WTSC.
- Attended meetings for: ACTRA Toronto Exceptional Meeting in August, ACTRA National Diversity and Inclusion

(Elections), Joint ACTRA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and ACTRA Voice Committee Pilot Workshop, Academy Talks, BIPOC industry talks with unions and panels, LB BIPOC Committee, Industry Cyber Security and Insurance and Intellectual Property Webinar/ IMDB Google Chime.

- Continued Member Outreach – shifted from initiating from Call Lists and checks/assistance phone calls to members and seniors (as part of our ongoing support starting in March) to responding to more member initiated one-on-one calls or emails with questions or assistance: Safety Training, COVID Testing, Declaration Documents for CRA, Creating Work, Dues and Deadline, CERB and CRB, HST/Tax questions, answering questions on bookings or calls from Set or after OSLO and engaging the assistance of ACTRA Staff to resolve the issue as needed, still some Member Assistance for Delivery Needs and Support.
- Grateful to have Bree Ali fill in as Acting Chair of the Apprentice Caucus. Thanks to Nicholas Bank for his service.

*Child Advocate:* Christina Collins submitted the following report:

The usual email queries have been attended to.

Ms Collins thanked Ms Asher for keeping her abreast of the troubling issues of child trafficking. She along with Ms Alejandro and Ms Asher are planning a zoom meeting to create a formatted zoom Q&A. They are hoping to put together a panel of experts. This will be for parents of minors, to educate them in this disturbing reality.

*Background Advocate – Shereen Airth:* Ms Airth reported.

- Directed a number of members to the Radius Map on the AT website
- Spent time with a member who has opened a new BG Agency with a focus on Rural and/or Local Background performers. The Agent is in the process of developing an App specific to Background Bookings and is hoping to work with ACTRA to further this. She has sent an email to Tova and copied a number of staff as well as Ms Airth.
- Many enquiries regarding the 25% reductions in dues, many members not happy with the amount, however, many others feel it is acceptable and in tune with other industry unions. She has heard from several members who are prepared to or have already paid the full amount.
- AABP and Apprentice members are concerned about the lack of ability to “Withdraw” from membership during the Pandemic.
- Assisted a number of members with registering on the EP Canada data base.
- Many Background members are still concerned about the possibility of returning to any work particularly with regards to various articles and/or the use of “set” Background (i.e. nurses). As you ACTRA knows, she is in support of the use of “set” Background, the reuse of a recurring group of Background who are specific to the production is a safe and positive move and establishes true “bubbles”. It also provides the precedent of showing that using a performer once and not utilizing that performer on another scene or day is not necessary (so no burning the performer from ever returning).
- Responded to the request for Background performers who will work in bubbles. It has been explained what bubbles are based on, separating true bubbles (families, partners, housemates etc.) from constructed ones (i.e. “hey you want to form a bubble?”).
- Still a great deal of concern regarding the use of vouchers and possible contamination spread, received very positive feedback with regards to the electronic version although it is felt to be difficult to maneuver on some smart phones and perhaps a tutorial is needed.
- Many concerned about Preference of Engagement and how these smaller sets will eliminate the use of Apprentices and particularly ACTRA Additional Background Performers.
- Assisted a number of Members with information and/or direction to specific staff (primarily Business Representatives and Membership), as well to various information platforms including ACTRA Toronto, ACTRA National, AFBS, Canada.ca, Haven, and others.
- Consulted with staff regarding a number of items including but not limited to Agent issues.
- Continue to respond to many inquiries and posts regarding return to work and Section 21.

- Ms Airth has been in touch with many Background Performers for wellness checks, both as part of Nicole Valentin's 1,100-member project and general outreach to Background Performers. This is ongoing.
- Continuing to repost ACTRA information notices on her page and on a number of other non-official pages as they come out, in hope that if people do not open their email, they might see it on Facebook.
- As productions are slowly starting reinforced the necessity of updating members profiles on the ACTRA data bases ensuring their availability calendars are current. As well as with Agents, and with casting
- Still many concerns regarding how no or limited contributions this year will affect AFBS standings next year, forwarded AFBS contact information.

*Apprentice Caucus:* Bree Ali, Acting Chair, submitted the following report:

- The Caucus was on hiatus in August and will be meeting next week.
- Both the Secretary (Carina Cojeen) and Chair (Nicholas Banks) positions were recently vacated due to personal reasons and commitments; the new Secretary (Victoria Murdoch) was confirmed during their last meeting in July.
- The Caucus is in the process of building social engagement with our fellow Apprentice Members.
- The priority on the agenda for their next meeting will be deciding on the topic and programming of their new Apprentice members' education/AMA series.

**Treasurer – Richard Young:** The following re the reports under Mr. Young's portfolio:

*Education:* Nothing to report. Online courses are still being conducted.

*Diversity and Inclusion:* Lisa Michelle Cornelius and Samora Smallwood submitted the following report:

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee together with the Voice Committee launched the "Diversity in Voice" pilot workshops. The first one was held last Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> with 9 eager, selected participants. Committee member and coach, Alicia Richardson, lead the charge with an hour of Vocal Health, followed by an hour of Commercial coaching from Tracey Hoyt. Folks were very much engaged and looking forward to Part 2 of this workshop, which continues Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The folks at The Performers Mindset reached out to Ms Smallwood and Ms Cornelius to offer one free scholarship spot for their upcoming "Intro to Mindset" workshop which is scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. They will give this spot to one of their Diversity and Inclusion committee members through their social media this week.

The committee has ended their call for submissions for the upcoming BIPOC Demo Reel Initiative and is continuing to plan for the next steps. Lots of work ahead, so they will be announcing a new committee meeting date soon to gather member support in getting it all done.

**President – Theresa Tova:** The following report is under Ms Tova's portfolio:

*Stunt Committee:* Chair, Steve "Shack" Shackleton submitted this report. He said that like many Members, these have been very difficult and strange times for our stunt community. Despite not being able to meet in person, the Committee has been able to host two virtual town hall Zoom gatherings for their members in the past few months. The committee is also working with ACTRA staff and PRS to hold a webinar to help our community better understand how their residuals are calculated, collected and to learn about the work PRS does on our behalf.

Some of their members are slowly getting back to work on some smaller shows. They are cautiously optimistic about larger, action driven, Hollywood shows starting soon.

## **NATIONAL REPORT**

David Sparrow reported that he, Chris Cornish and Lisa Blanchette have had conversations with the federal departments of Heritage, Labour and Finance to get more detail about the new Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB),

which will replace CERB. CERB ends on September 30th. What is known is that there will be CRB for gig workers who have lost work because of COVID of up to \$1,600 a month, up to \$2,000 a month for people who cannot work because they are caring for someone with COVID, and up to \$2,000 per month if you are sick with COVID. However, as parliament is proroguing, we are not likely to get answers immediately.

ACTRA will participate in Heritage industry-specific roundtables to discuss recovery strategy.

The job description for the Director of Diversity position has gone out. National has hired the services of a HR firm.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Hepburn stated that COVID testing is not transferable from production to production as some productions are providing private testing.
- Joanna Swan was on a set recently and she was impressed with the protocols set in place.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Kiley May moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 p.m.**