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The magazine from ACTRA Toronto

performers



comedy inc.

the serious business of doing sketch on TV

Chris Owens talks to
Kari Matchett &
Mark Rendall

IPA - the most important
3 letters you need to know

Status of the Artist -
does this country respect you?

AFBS & ACTRA - what's in a name?



ACTRA
TORONTO PERFORMERS

Your next Members' Conference - register now!

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I have a good deal to tell you about. It's called ACTRA.

ACTRA is the name of a deal that Canadian actors have been making with each other for more than 60 years. We make a deal with each other to define terms and working conditions that guarantee minimum standards of dignity and compensation. We make a deal with each other not to accept engagements that do not meet these standards. We make a deal with each other and with our founding members when we agree that individual success founded on concessions that undermine our fellow performers is not worth it. We make a deal with each other that, whatever picture we happen to be working on at the moment, we will remember the Big Picture and do our part to build, nourish and protect the opportunity – for our fellow actors and all the actors that come after us – to dream with confidence, work with pride and retire with dignity. It's a good deal to think about, and well worth the work and planning that your council has put in to make it a good deal... better!

In July, ACTRA Toronto made a presentation to the Ontario government's Subcommittee on Status of the Artist – check www.actratoronto.com for the details of our presentation and read **Christie MacFayden's** excellent article on Status of the Artist in this issue. This legislation is important stuff. If the government gets it right, all artists in Ontario will have something real and lasting to celebrate. We hope to make some noise about this issue at Queen's Park this fall and we will be asking for your help to do so – keep yours ears on!

We make a deal with each other and with our founding members when we agree that individual success founded on concessions that undermine our fellow performers is not worth it.

Last November, our planned demonstration at the Canadian Association of Broadcasters convention had to be cancelled because of security arrangements for a U.S. presidential visit. We still managed to steal the headlines and get our point across by sending **Shirley Douglas, Gary Farmer, Peter Keleghan, Rick Mercer, Leah Pinsent, Fiona Reid, Sonja Smits** and **Julie Stewart** to crash the CAB convention and meet with Culture Minister **Liza Frulla**. As we go to press, plans are being drawn up to mount our most ambitious political lobby effort yet. By the time you read this, with council's approval, preparations should be in full swing for a fall trip to Ottawa. Join the effort to turn things around for our industry. Get on the bus, **HEAD FOR THE HILL** and help us get ACTRA's message out.

Collective bargaining starts next spring for the next **Independent Production Agreement (IPA)**. To identify our negotiating goals, we have been making efforts to get input from as many members as possible. If you are asked to join a focus group on IPA issues, please try to participate. If you have suggestions for the bargaining team, do not hesitate to email them to ipa@council.actratoronto.com

Ballots for the November ACTRA Toronto Council elections will be mailed out towards the end of October. Please read the candidates' election statements carefully and choose thoughtfully those you think best qualified to serve as our elected representatives. To be an effective ACTRA Toronto councillor takes patience, the ability to learn fast and think clearly as well as a deep commitment to work cooperatively for the welfare of the ACTRA Toronto membership. Vote wisely. A good deal depends on the choices you make.

Karl Pruner, President