

performers

THE SKINNY ON SKIN

the naked truth
on sex scenes

- Getting personal with Maria del Mar and Mpho Koaho
- ACTRA crashes The Hill — meets with 80 MPs!
- **GET EXCITED ABOUT FEB. 24!**
Your next conference & ACTRA Toronto Awards Gala



Your Conference
Keynote Speaker
Toronto Mayor
David Miller



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Graham Greene



THE NAKED TRUTH ON SEX SCENES:
Leslie Hope and Peter Outerbridge in *Paris, France*.



LAST CONFERENCE: Mark Rendall and Christopher Turner co-hosted
the BEING A CHILD ACTOR workshop.

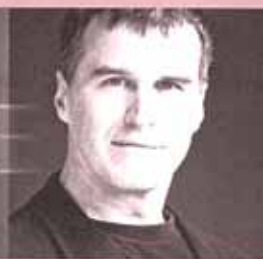
We Want You To Yell At Us!

(though hugs are good too)

This is your magazine from your union. What do you like? What do you hate? What do you want more of? Less of? Your editor is begging for feedback! Help get him off his knees and send us your thoughts in a quick email to:
whatperformersshoulddo@actratontoronto.com

If you exist in a world without computers, you can write to:
Performers Feedback, ACTRA Toronto Performers
625 Church Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 2G1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By the time you read this, winter will have us all securely in its grip, and the days will be lengthening towards spring... and a new awakening. The new council will be hard at work shaping the roadmap that we will follow in the year ahead: our new ACTRA Toronto Performers operating plan for 2006! Preparations will be well underway for our members' conference on February 24 where the new operating plan, the budget, and the new council will be introduced to the membership for your approval.

But all of that is still in the future. As I write this, we have only just had our first big snowfall and the days are still getting shorter. The old year is dying and it's a time to pause and reflect; to look back on what we've done and look forward to what lies ahead.

A year ago, 14 months of lobbying culminated in our rally outside Queen's Park. Shortly after that, the Ontario Government announced a significant improvement to the film and television production tax incentives. A month later, ACTRA Toronto participated in a FilmOntario marketing trip to Los Angeles. The result? Near record levels of production returned to our city. We have demonstrated our commitment to one of our three key strategic objectives: **to compete successfully for our share of a fully globalized film industry.**

In April, ACTRA signed a strategic alliance with the United Steelworkers that created a framework for cooperation

How will we realize our objectives? How can we make our vision real? The answer is simple. We can make all these good things happen by staying focused and working together.

between the two organizations. Immediately, plans were drawn up for joint political action. Last November in a three-day marathon of lobbying Parliament Hill, ACTRA and USW members teamed up and presented our message to 80 M.P.s on the eve of the election - a stunningly successful proof-of-concept for the alliance. We demonstrated our commitment to a second key strategic objective: **to push hard for the regulatory and legislative changes needed to nourish and protect our Canadian industry.**

Since September, we have been busy preparing for the next round of bargaining for the Independent Production Agreement (IPA) that is expected to start in March. In an increasingly "scale only" environment, members have realized that the only way they can make more money is if ACTRA negotiates effectively for them at the bargaining table. With input from member focus groups from across the country and interpreted by ACTRA National's research staff, the IPA negotiating committee will determine the final list of our bargaining priorities. We are demonstrating our commitment to a third key strategic objective: **to negotiate effectively at the bargaining table in order to improve wages and working conditions for all of our members.**

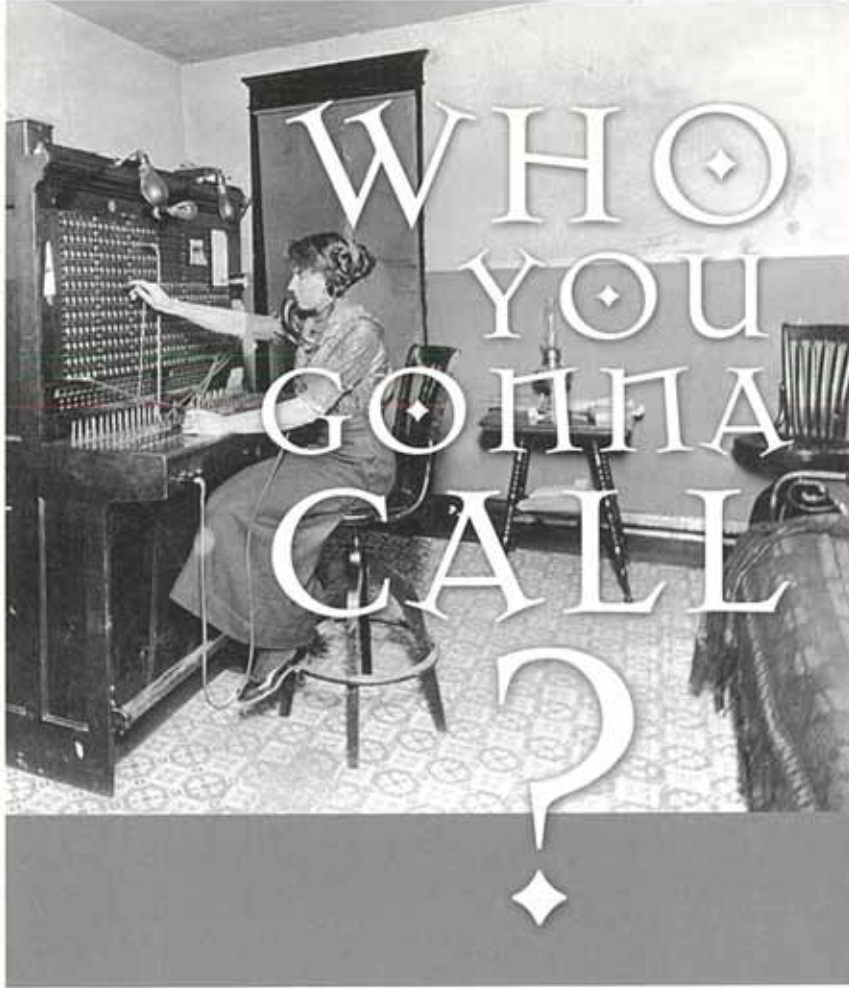
I have no doubt that these three strategic objectives will find expression in our operating plan for 2006 along with many other wonderful initiatives. But how will we realize these objectives? How can we make our vision real?

The answer is simple. We can make all these good things happen by staying focused and working together. We elect the council to steer but the engine is you, the membership. That is where ACTRA's considerable power comes from. From us.

If we are going to have a fair share of international service production work, if we want to have a strong, vibrant, and independent Canadian film and television industry and, above all, if we want to win at the bargaining table, then we all need to do our part to make it happen.

The new council and I are doing everything we can to help us achieve our goals. How do *you* want to go? What are you going to need your help with this year? What's your vision? What will you say?

Karl Pruner, President



**GOT A PROBLEM?
ACTRA TORONTO STAFF IS HERE FOR YOU.**

**ACTRA TORONTO PERFORMERS
GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION**
Tel: 416-928-2278 or toll-free 1-877-913-2278
info@actratortoronto.com
www.actratortoronto.com
625 Church Street, 1st floor, Toronto, ON M4Y 2G1

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT INTERPRETATIONS
Judy Barefoot (Manager)
Tel: 416-642-6705, jbarefoot@actratortoronto.com
Kelly Davis (Steward)
Tel: 416-642-6707, kdavis@actratortoronto.com
Cathy Wendt (Steward)
Tel: 416-642-6714, cwendt@actratortoronto.com

COMMERCIAL AUDITION CALLBACK INQUIRIES
Claudette Allen
Tel: 416-642-6713, callen@actratortoronto.com

COMMERCIAL CHEQUE INQUIRIES
Timmy Boyer (Examiner)
Tel: 416-642-6730, tboyer@actratortoronto.com
Lyn Franklin (Examiner)
Tel: 416-642-6730, lfranklin@actratortoronto.com
Brenda Smith (Examiner)
Tel: 416-642-6729, bsmith@actratortoronto.com

COMMERCIAL PAYMENT INQUIRIES
Patricia McCutcheon (Coordinator)
Tel: 416-642-6731, pmccutcheon@actratortoronto.com
Laura McKelvey (Coordinator)
Tel: 416-642-6725, lmckelvey@actratortoronto.com

COMMUNICATIONS AND ORGANIZING
Dan Mackenzie (Manager)
Tel: 416-642-6706, danmackenzie@actra.ca
Joy Corion (Web Communications Coordinator)
Tel: 416-642-6745, webcwr@actratortoronto.com

Kim Hume (Public Relations Officer)
Tel: 416-642-6730, khume@actratortoronto.com
Norm MacAskill (Organizer)
Tel: 416-642-6721, nmacaskill@actratortoronto.com
Carol Taverner (Public Relations Officer)
Tel: 416-642-6751, ctaverner@actratortoronto.com

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Karen Ritson (Director)
Tel: 416-642-6722, kritson@actratortoronto.com

INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION AGREEMENT (IPA), CBC TV & RADIO, CITY-TV, GLOBAL & TVO AGREEMENTS
Eda Zimler (Manager)
Tel: 416-642-6717, ezimler@actratortoronto.com
Indra Escobar (Senior Advisor)
Tel: 416-642-6702, iescobar@actratortoronto.com
Barbara Larose (Steward, IPA, Co-op, Student Films)
Tel: 416-642-6712, blarose@actratortoronto.com

Noreen Murphy (Steward, IPA, Animation, Documentaries)
Tel: 416-642-6708, nmurphy@actratortoronto.com

Richard Todd (Steward, Audio Code, CBC, City TV, Global & IPA)
Tel: 416-642-6716, rtodd@actratortoronto.com
Karen Woolridge (Steward, CTV & IPA)
Tel: 416-642-6709, kwoolridge@actratortoronto.com

TORONTO INDIE PRODUCTIONS (TIP)
Tasso Lakas (TIP Coordinator)
Tel: 416-642-6733, tip@actratortoronto.com

MEMBER TRAINING INTENSIVE & GORDON PINSENT STUDIO BOOKINGS
Stephanie Stevenson (Administrative Assistant)
Tel: 416-642-6735, sstevenson@actratortoronto.com

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT DUES & PERMIT PAYMENTS
Contact: **Membership Department**
Tel: 416-928-2278, membership@actratortoronto.com
Dan Mackenzie (Manager)

**ACTRA Toronto Council
WHO'S WHO**

TORONTO COUNCIL AND NATIONAL COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Karl Pruner E: kpruner@council.actratortoronto.com
Aidan Devine E: adevine@council.actratortoronto.com
Frene Downey E: fdowney@council.actratortoronto.com
Dom Fiore E: dfiore@council.actratortoronto.com

TORONTO COUNCIL

Heather Allan E: hallan@council.actratortoronto.com
Joanna Bennett E: jbennett@council.actratortoronto.com
Bob Collins E: rcollins@council.actratortoronto.com
Brad Bothridge E: bbothridge@council.actratortoronto.com
Tom Elbwand E: telbwand@council.actratortoronto.com
Lyn Mason Green E: lmgreen@council.actratortoronto.com
Richard Hardacre E: rhardacre@council.actratortoronto.com
David Macniven E: dmacniven@council.actratortoronto.com
Eric Murphy E: emurphy@council.actratortoronto.com
John Nelles E: jnelles@council.actratortoronto.com
Tara Pearson E: tpearson@council.actratortoronto.com
Priya Rao E: prao@council.actratortoronto.com
Maria Ricossa E: mricossa@council.actratortoronto.com
Wayne Robson E: wrobson@council.actratortoronto.com
Austin Scharz E: ascharz@council.actratortoronto.com
Anne Marie Scheffler E: amscheffler@council.actratortoronto.com
Stephen Graham Simpson E: sgsimpson@council.actratortoronto.com
David Sparrow E: dsparrow@council.actratortoronto.com
Theresa Tova E: ttova@council.actratortoronto.com
Ron White E: rwhite@council.actratortoronto.com

Shereen Airth, ACTRA Apprentice Acting Chair
sairth@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6621

Cheryl Hancock, ACTRA Apprentice Secretary
chancock@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6617

Katherine Bignell, ACTRA Extra Caucus Chair
kbignell@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6620

David Riess, ACTRA Extra Vice-Chair
driess@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6613

Ismay Pascall, ACTRA Extra Secretary
ipascall@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6622

Theresa Tova, Children's Advocate
ttova@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6605

Priya Rao, Diversity Chair & Advocate
prao@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6618

Jani Lauzon, Diversity Vice-Chair
jlauzon@actratortoronto.com

Leesa Levinson, Diversity Advocate
llevinson@actratortoronto.com, ext. 6619

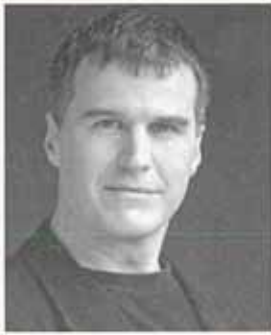
Shawn Lawrence, Ombudsman
416-422-4554

Visit the ACTRA Toronto website at
www.actratortoronto.com

**Who's doing what
for you at
ACTRA Toronto?**

To find comprehensive reports on the goings-on of ACTRA Toronto's committees go to
www.actratortoronto.com

Toronto Council and National Council:



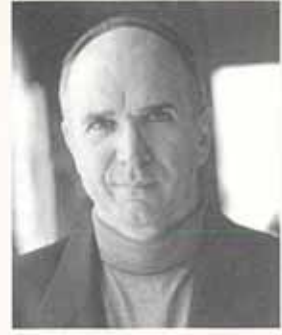
President Karl Pruner



Aidan Devine



Ferne Downey



Dom Fiore

Toronto Council:



Heather Allin



Joanna Bennett



Brad Borbridge



Bob Collins



Toni Ellwand



Lyn Mason Green



Richard Hardacre



David Macniven



Eric Murphy



John Nelles



Tara Pearson



Priya Rao



Maria Ricossa



Wayne Robson



Austin Schatz



Anne Marie Scheffler



Stephen Graham Simpson



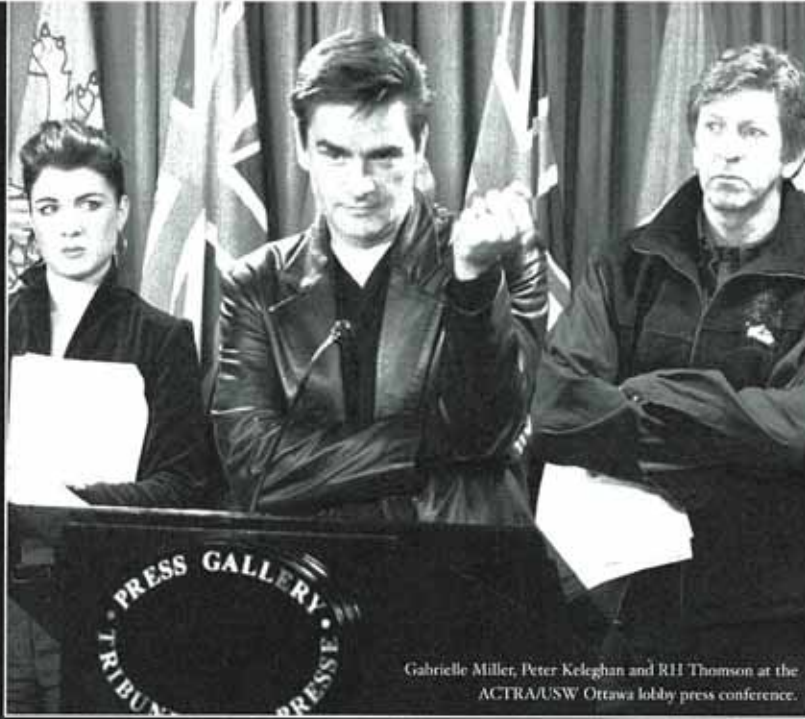
David Sparrow



Theresa Tova



Ron White



Gabrielle Miller, Peter Keleghan and RH Thomson at the ACTRA/USW Ottawa lobby press conference.

ACTRA CRASHES THE PARTIES ON PARLIAMENT HILL

ACTRA and Steel Lobbyists meet with 80 MPs!

In November of 2005, members of ACTRA and our alliance partners the United Steelworkers teamed up and swarmed Parliament Hill for a weeklong lobbying effort to fight for a strong cultural and national identity.

Throughout the week, we met with more than 80 ministers and MPs to present a list of demands that would benefit all Canadians. We argued for MPs to: fix the CRTC and make them live up to their legislated responsibility to get more Canadian stories on the airwaves; we presented our ideas for a fairer way to tax artists; we encouraged them to invest in culture, health care and post-secondary education; and to make key legislative reforms to protect workers and maintain limits to foreign ownership of telecommunications companies.

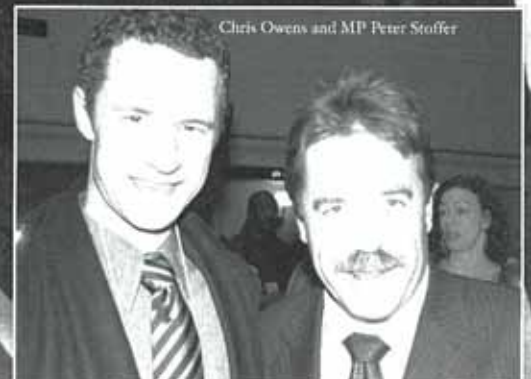
An extra special thanks to those of you who volunteered to go to Parliament Hill to lobby MPs: Heather Allin, Tyrone Benskin, Thor Bishopric, Barry Blake, Ferne Downey, Thelma Farmer, Dawn Ford, Richard Hardacre, Matt Holland, Peter Keleghan, Dan Lett, Gabrielle Miller, Chris Owens, Leah Pinsent, Karl Pruner, Priya Rao, Austin Schatz, David Sparrow, Julie Stewart and RH Thomson.

Thank you for so generously sharing your passionate voices and your time!

For more information on ACTRA Toronto public policy positions and political outreach please go to our website www.actratoronto.com



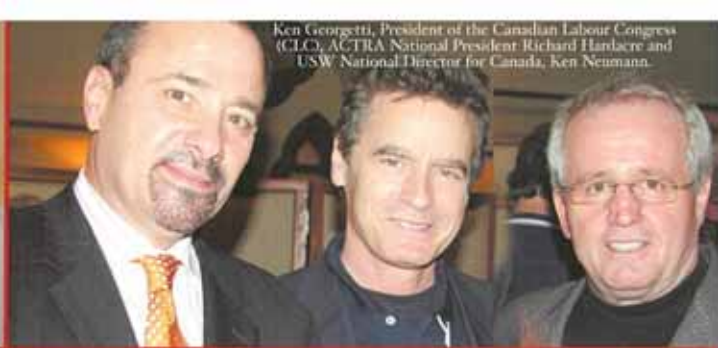
Julie Stewart waiting her turn to speak at the press conference.



Chris Owens and MIP Peter Stoffer



ACTRA Toronto President Karl Pruner and Julie Stewart.



Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), ACTRA National President Richard Hardacre and USW National Director for Canada, Ken Neumann.



Gabrielle Miller speaking at the press conference.



MP David Christopherson and Leah Pinsent.



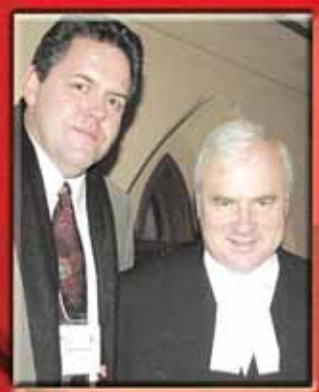
Jack Layton with Julie Stewart and Dan Lett.



Tyrone Benskin and MP Peter Julian.

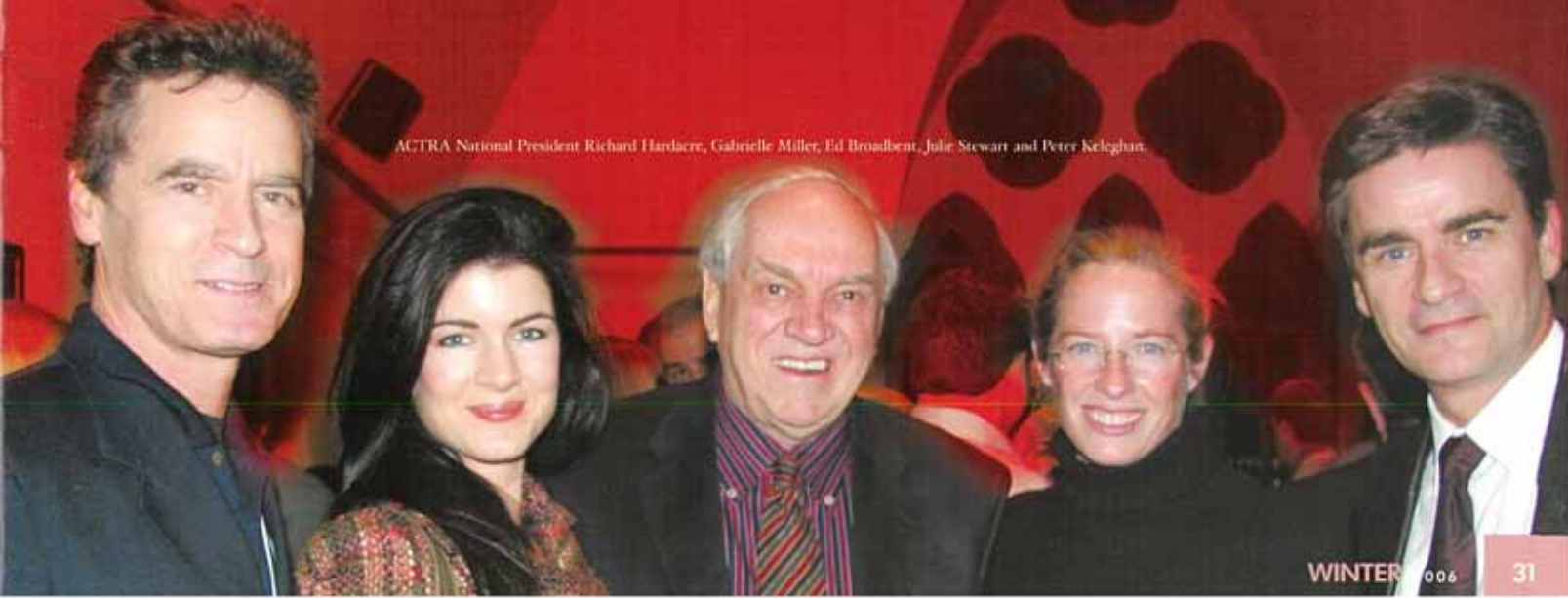


Julie Stewart speaks out at the ACTRA/USW Ottawa press conference with Gabrielle Miller and USW National Director for Canada, Ken Neumann.



David Sparrow with House Speaker Peter Milliken MP.

TAKING THE HILL



ACTRA National President Richard Hardacre, Gabrielle Miller, Ed Broadbent, Julie Stewart and Peter Keleghan.

You're invited to the **ACTRA AWARDS** in Toronto 2006.

Friday, February 24

7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

This elegant evening at The Carlu is an invite only event and an exclusive gala for Toronto actors to celebrate our best.

Rub shoulders with the best actors in Canada!

Register early, space is limited!
Free for ACTRA members
(no door crashers... YOU MUST REGISTER)

**GET
DRESSED
UP!**

... from head to toe.



The Carlu, College Park, 7th floor

• Awards Presentation • Party into the night!

Feb. 24 also marks your next Members' Conference: meet your new council; listen to Mayor Miller; win a luxury night at the Fairmount Royal York!! - see page 16 for details.



ACTRA Toronto Performers
625 Church Street, 2nd floor
Toronto, ON
M4Y 2G1

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