



ACTRA

Gracie

Fall 2007



**2007
ACTRA
AWARDS**

**CAN CON
IN CRISIS**

**COUNCIL
ELECTIONS**

SOME GOOD NEWS FOR BACKGROUND PERFORMERS IN MONTREAL

ACTRA has reached an agreement which clarifies the minimum number of vouchers and payment of Background Performers under the 2007-2009 Independent Production Agreement.

Under the new terms, more vouchers will be available in Montreal for Background Performers on most film and television projects.

On **Feature Films with a budget of over \$35 million, 25 vouchers** will be available for Background Performers (excluding those available for Stand-Ins), compared to 15 in the previous IPA.

On **Productions with a budget of under \$35 million, 20 vouchers** will be available for Background Performers (excluding those available for Stand-Ins), compared to 15 in the previous IPA.

On **Purely Canadian Dramatic Content (qualifying as 10/10), 20 vouchers** will be available for Background Performers (excluding those available for Stand-Ins), compared to 15 in the previous IPA.

On **CIPIP Productions (qualifying as 10/10), 10 vouchers** will be available for Background Performers (excluding those available for Stand-Ins), compared to 15 in the previous IPA.

Cover photo by Robert McGuirk



ACTRA Montreal
Grapevine

Fall 2007

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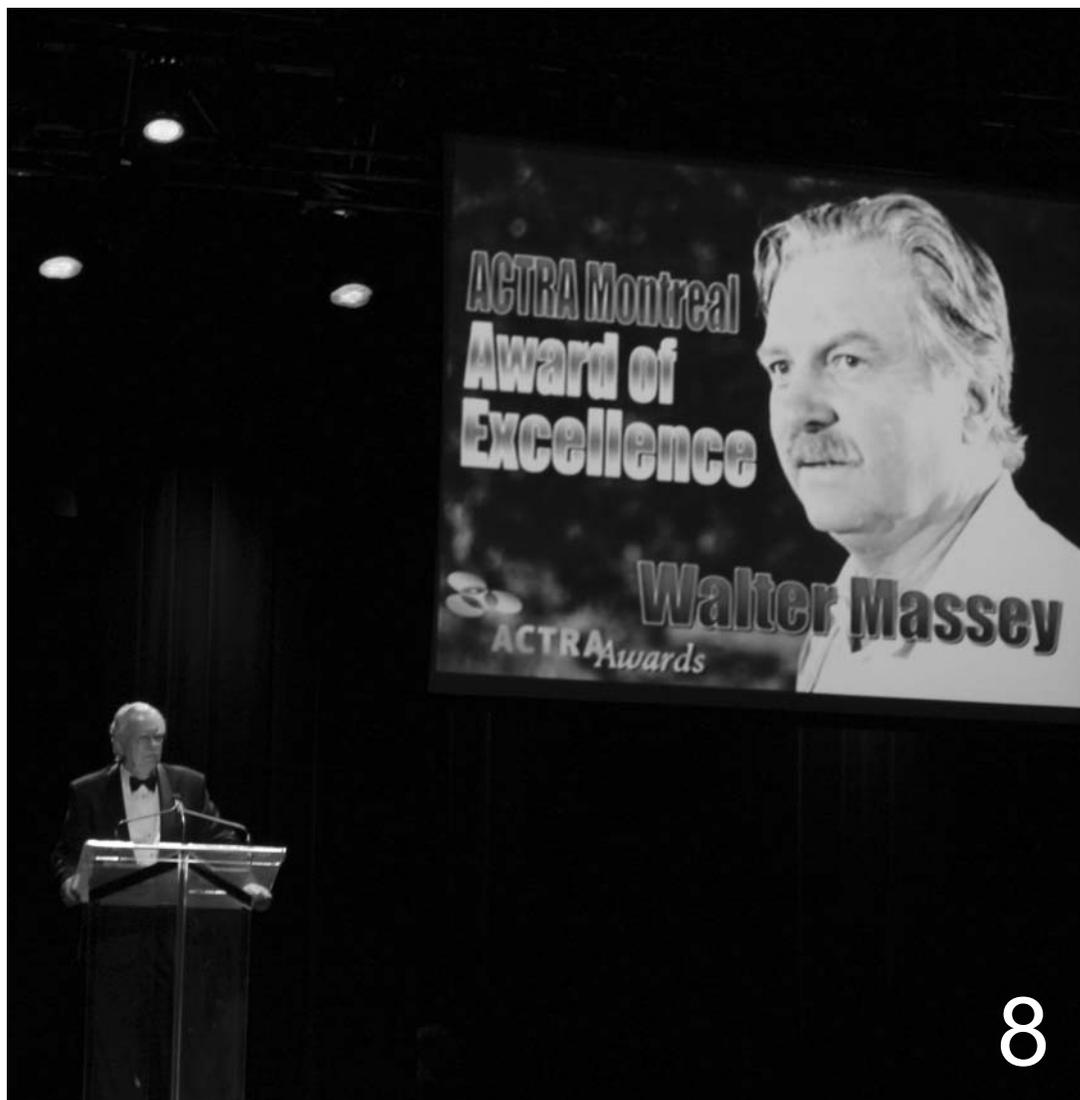
If you're an ACTRA member, apprentice member or ACTRA Extra and would like to contribute news, an article or photos to the Grapevine, we'd love to hear from you! Send us an email at rduniz@actra.ca.

ACTRA MONTREAL

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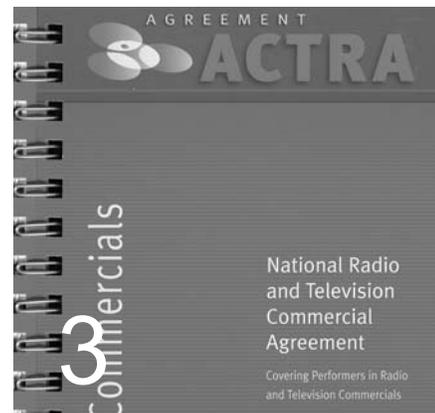
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Our Next Challenge

Dear Members,

I hope that you were able to enjoy and take full advantage of our wonderful, but all too short, days of summer. With the IPA negotiations now behind us, and production in our fair city up from the past few years (more so than anywhere else in the country I might add), it's good to see our community come alive again.

Montreal seems to be back on the map and the greatest need at this point in time is to continue to maintain and attract more work for the membership. We are a talented and professional bunch that stands together in times adversity - fine attributes to possess in our ongoing struggle to earn the respect we richly deserve.

But alas, this good news aside, the plight of the Canadian performer is far from over. There are always more obstacles to overcome, challenges which threaten our careers. And perhaps, there is no greater challenge than the one facing the Canadian film and television industry right now.

While an influx of on-location and service production is always welcome, we cannot ignore the fact that our own indigenous industry is hanging by a thread. And instead of making things better, the powers that be threaten to make things worse.

In a recent report from the Canadian Radio, Television & Communications Commission (CRTC), it was suggested that the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) should lower its standards for Canadian content (Can-con) in primetime projects, and fund programs that score as low as an 8 on the 10 point Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office (CAVCO) scale - thus, in their estimation, making shows more marketable.

Producers argue that lowering the standard would make it easier to their projects outside of Canada and attract internationally renowned talent to their projects - as opposed to creating avenues for our own talent to become internationally renowned.

The argument is, of course, flawed. We are talking about television - a medium which has proven time and time again that it is the successful show that makes someone a star, not the star that makes a show successful - just ask Bette Midler, Ray Liotta and the cast of Seinfeld. In reality, the lowering of Can-con standards will only serve to put accomplished Canadian writers, directors and actors out of work.

At present, Can-con regulations decree that Canadian programs must have a Canadian director, writer and lead actor, and the change would allow one of these to be foreign. Now if you've been allocated money that is supposedly designated for Canadian programming, then shouldn't that be the first priority?

Our Canadian broadcasters already spend enough money on foreign content - buying American shows for hundreds of millions of dollars and then unabashedly throwing themselves lavish launch parties to pat themselves on the back for it. Which raises another question... as a cable subscriber who gets a substantial bill in my mail each month, do I really need to pay for networks running simulcasts of shows I can get on other channels?

Canada does have some success stories. All four seasons of *Corner Gas* (the most watched comedy show on Canadian TV), have been bought by a couple of American networks. And *Trailer Park Boys*, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*, *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, and *Instant Star* have all enjoyed successful runs in both Canada and abroad. So why not invest in building on that success?

There's a lot at stake and ACTRA is preparing for action. How can you help? Check our website (www.actramontreal.ca) regularly and we will have more information outlining our upcoming political action campaign - and where you fit into it! Remember, this is your country and your livelihood... so step up to the plate!

Meanwhile, enjoy the fall in good health and prosperity.

In solidarity,



**Don Jordan,
President, ACTRA Montreal**



ON THE COMMERCIAL FRONT

ACTRA, ACA and ICA agree to extend the current deal with a rate increase.

On May 8th, 2007, the ACTRA negotiating committee, headed by National Executive Director and chief negotiator, **Stephen Waddell**, met with representatives from the Canadian advertising industry represented by the Association of Canadian Advertisers (ACA) and the Institute of Communications and Advertising (ICA).

During this meeting, it was tentatively agreed to a one-year extension of the NCA, which expired June 30, 2007. Included in the Memorandum of Settlement:

- an extension of the NCA from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008
- a 3% increase in all fees and rates in the NCA, effective July 1, 2007
- a 1% increase in Insurance contributions and a conforming increase in Equalization Payments
- enter into non-binding and without prejudice discussions on a short list of key issues to be presented by ACTRA and ICA/ACA (known collectively as "the Parties")

On June 29th, 2007, through a referendum seeking approval, the Memorandum of Settlement was overwhelming ratified by ACTRA members, with a vote of 99% to support.

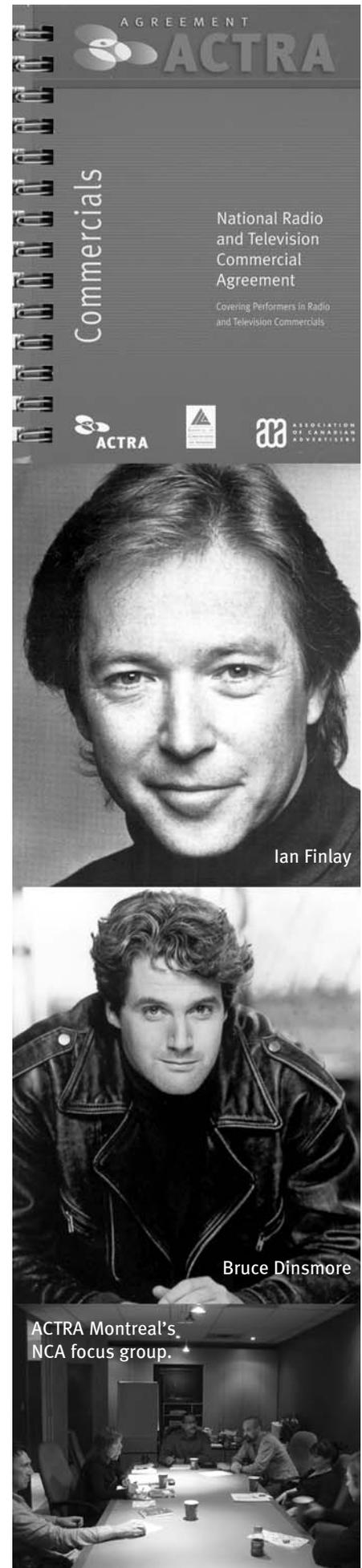
Therefore, effective July 1st, 2007, the rates were increased. The new rates apply to sessions which took place on or subsequent to July 1st, or to residual fees with a cycle date which begins or is subsequent to July 1st.

To assist the Parties in finding solutions during the discussions on the key issues, it has been agreed to engage Labour Management Services through the Ontario Ministry of Labour. The Labour Management Services provide for neutral third-party facilitation and training. They are skilled mediators who understand collective bargaining and several have had experience with ACTRA negotiations and our industry.

The Parties have also agreed that we must begin this process as quickly as possible so that we may begin discussions on the key issues in the fall, which your negotiating committee will be participating in throughout.

Many thanks for their outstanding representation on the negotiating committee go to Montreal members **Ian Finlay** and alternate **Bruce Dinsmore**.

For further NCA updates and the new rates, please visit www.actra.ca.



IT'S MY DAMN UNION!

by Holly Gauthier-Frankel

"On an occasion of this kind it becomes more than a moral duty to speak one's mind. It becomes a pleasure."

Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900

"Speak now and I will answer;
How shall I help you, say;
Ere to the wind's twelve quarters
I take my endless way."

A.E Housman, 1859-1936

As I sit here and write this, it is all I can do not to log on to Facebook for the millionth time today. It calls out to me, taunting me, shining and distracting me from my task at hand, a bulletin board of temptation and voyeurism. If you do not know what Facebook is...well, I just don't think we can be friends anymore...seriously. Stop reading my column. Now. Hee hee...Just kidding!

Though I am hopelessly devoted to Facebook, we can still be buddies because I simply love you all, and appreciate your loyal readership immensely, and could stop logging on to Facebook if I REALLY had to. Seriously. I totally could. But the reason I mention such a mundane and time-consuming, soul-leeching website is also because it has become a place where our far-reaching, varied and stunningly talented community can, well, commune!

For those still in need of some edification, I will be brief: Facebook is an online community website that allows you to find (stalk) people (ex-lovers and enemies) that you know or once knew (hated or once threw a book at), and share the details of your life with them (drunken, unflattering pictures of you, them and/or their friends in many compromising and totally ridiculous situations...for example...ahem). It is both a wonderful and a horrendous thing, for the above-listed reasons and more. But I digress, for a change!

What you can also do on this website is create groups for communities of people who share your interests. And ACTRA members are definitely an interesting and community-minded group, as I am constantly learning!

I am very happy to see that the ACTRA Montreal Facebook group is up and thriving, with new members every day, and new bulletin-board postings that encourage and support all of those who strive for excellence as actors and performers. It has also become a place for members and non-members alike to express their frustrations and difficulties with different work situations, and problems they have with the union.

I am pleased to know that this tool exists, and greatly appreciate those who are running the group because it is difficult to field problems if we don't know what they are; the administrator of the group has made very conscious efforts to encourage honesty, and to keep people on the union side. I am deeply thankful for this, but it raises an issue for me that is longstanding and complicated. Bear with me.

There is still a lot of animosity towards our union, and union-mentality in general and it is frustrating and troubling to me. I understand the difficulties actors face by choosing this profession, and I understand the allure of throwing caution to the wind and going for whatever gig seems most likely to take us directly to the path of success. BUT, to assume that the union does not help, that it is a hindrance, ►►

► that it simply stands in the way of those trying to fulfill their dreams, is not only disrespectful to those who have worked like dogs (DOGS!) to make fair and moral decisions for the greater good of our branch and our national situation as a whole, but is also shortsighted and ignorant.

It is imperative that we educate ourselves to the fullest about what this union has done over time and what it is still trying to do! I, for one, am still learning about what past Councils and members have gone through for fair pay negotiating and our rights as actors and as human beings! It is mind-boggling.

This is not a reprimand, my dear fellow actors; it is a call to action to find out more about the facts, and to become more active if there are things that prove to be problematic. Please keep telling your branch openly and respectfully what the problems you face are, and please understand that the union offices suffer from the same lack of Canadian funding that we all do as actors looking for work and opportunities.

Which leads me perfectly and seamlessly into my next exciting topic, (See mommy? My B.A. is coming in handy now!), the Less Cut, More Action short film contest!

You can get all the info by logging onto Actra Montreal's website, or by contacting Gary Saxe at the Branch offices, but basically this is another form of community action that is fun to do, and in which we can all participate as members.

You read the MIP guidelines, then you write a short film about how Canadians need/deserve/must have more funding for Canadian content on television, you find a bunch of your member-friends, and you make the film! Woohoo! What could be simpler than that? It is yet another way in which we can make a difference, hone our skills as producers, performers, writers, etc, and have fun. Check it out at www.actramontreal.ca.

Another way in which you can do your part to ensure that your opinions are heard is to participate in this year's Council elections! They're here yet again, People! Step up to the plate!

By nominating yourself or your friends for a position on the ACTRA Montreal Council, you

will be participating in an extremely constructive and communicative process that is beneficial to everyone in our membership.

If you feel that you have something special to contribute to ACTRA Montreal's community, or you know that there is something that must be changed/added/worked on/created that you don't see happening now, why not get your ballots and votes in? Be the change you want to see, my friends. Join the Council and ensure that your input is acknowledged on the highest level. Not that we won't notice you otherwise! It would just be wonderful to see more new faces, and to hear more new opinions. The more the merrier, I say!

Now before I leave you and head out into the wild and unpredictable weather, let me remind you about my favourite event of the year, despite gale-force winds and angry clouds! It's time for the AGM again! Woohoo! AGM! The perfect chance to see all your ACTRA buddies in person and not online! And to listen to the sensible words of your Council members, and to those of your National Councillors, and to bask in the flattering fluorescent lighting of our favourite hotel, and to obtain free coffee and drinks!

I know you are all chomping at the bit for the AGM, my dears. You can't fool me! If you're not well-versed in the nuances of my stupid sarcasm yet, let me just say that I am only being slightly facetious.

I really do love the AGM because we get to discuss our hopes, fears and dreams with varied members of the community, and to voice our opinions. This is really the most important aspect of all, folks. And whether we do it on Facebook, or face-to-face at the General Meeting, or on a daily basis over the phone or whatever...we must do it. Do it for your kids, your friends, your family and, most importantly, for yourselves. Because, as we all know by now...say it with me, my beautiful people...

IT'S YOUR DAMN UNION TOO!

**Branch Councillor,
Holly Gauthier-Frankel**

Questions? Comments? Invitations? Gifts? Just wanna say hi? Contact Holly at hollygf@mac.com. She loves you!

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CON

TAKE THE “LESS CUT, MORE ACTION” CHALLENGE

Are you disgruntled by the decline of Canadian television drama? Crotchety about the cutbacks to the CBC and National Film Board? Livid due to the lack of screen time given to Canadian films in our theatres? Steamed by Canadian broadcasters spending zillions to purchase U.S. production, while cancelling shows produced here? Worked up about the weakening of Canadian Content rules? Insulted, irritated and infuriated by the inaction of our governments?

Its time to do something about it! Create a short film about the need for Canadian drama, Canadian stars, and a cultural policy that protects and develops our film and television industry. Get inspired and put your wits to work!

Selected films will be screened at our conferences, shown for educational purposes and as political outreach, and posted on websites such as *YouTube* and www.actra.ca.

MIP Guidelines

ACTRA Montreal's Member Initiated Production agreement (MIP) is our ultra-low-budget agreement. When you make a film using ALL ACTRA MEMBERS, you get to take advantage of an agreement available only to members. All participants agree to share in any proceeds, should you achieve fame and fortune with your MIP film.

You must be an ACTRA member and all performers in the project must be ACTRA members. Films should be 90 seconds or less in length. Please submit 2 copies in DVD format.

For a complete list of guidelines and more information on producing a short for the Less Cut, More Action challenge, please contact Gary Saxe (gsaxe@actra.ca) at the ACTRA Montreal office (514-844-3318).

Check out some of the "Less Cut, More Action" shorts already submitted to ACTRA Toronto! You can find them on the ACTRA Toronto web site - www.actratoronto.com

Hinterland What's What by Leo Petrus, Peter Keleghan and Gordon Pinset.

Shoestring by Pat Lewis and Dominique Naipaul.

CSI by Andrew Bush.



NEW HERITAGE MINISTER NEEDS TO DEAL WITH DRAMA CRISIS NOW

ACTRA welcomes new Heritage Minister Joséé Verner and calls for her to take immediate action to fix the drama crisis in Canadian television and to protect our cultural industries from foreign domination.

"Minister Verner must make it clear to the CRTC that private broadcasters must be required to show real Canadian programming on Canadian airwaves. We are being inundated with U.S. production," said Richard Hardacre, ACTRA National President.

ACTRA has consistently called on the CRTC to reverse their disastrous 1999 Television Policy changes that led to the collapse of Canadian programming.

"Thanks to the CRTC, the broadcasters have a lucrative monopoly over Canadian airwaves, yet they don't even attempt to meet the spirit of the Canadian Broadcasting Act," added Hardacre. "Canadians deserve to tell their own stories and see them reflected on our film and television screens."

ACTRA is also calling on the government to protect Canada's broadcast industry from potential foreign takeovers.

"This is our country and our culture. We will not give it away. Cultural sovereignty is an essential part of nationhood, and our broadcast industry must be protected from foreign takeover," Hardacre stated.

IN CRISIS



BROADCASTERS' DEALS FAIL CANADIAN AUDIENCES

CTV, Global and even CBC announce new American content

Canada's broadcasters are ignoring their obligations under the Broadcasting Act and their responsibilities to Canadian viewers by bringing more U.S. content to a broadcasting system already saturated with Hollywood shows.

"We're inundated with Hollywood celebrity culture in Canada. It's becoming virtually impossible to find any sign of Canadian life on Canadian television stations," said Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director of ACTRA.

Canada's three major broadcasters, including our own public broadcaster, announced a new onslaught of American shows: CTV announced it will stream U.S. content from TMZ.com onto its national entertainment show, website and Star! channels. Today, CanWest Global's CH channels are re-branded as E! with U.S. content from E! networks and CBC has announced it has purchased 180 one-hour episodes of The Martha Stewart Show.

"E Talk Daily and ET Canada's idea of Canadian content is covering Paris Hilton strolling the streets of Yorkville in Toronto. That's insulting. These new programs show a further lack of commitment to Canadian audiences, and a blatant disregard for the Broadcasting Act," said Richard Hardacre, National President of ACTRA.

ACTRA members demonstrate for more Canadian shows on TV

Every year, Canada's private broadcasters go shopping in L.A., spending hundreds of millions of dollars on U.S. programming. Last year Canada's private networks spent \$440 million on foreign drama programming, and only \$40 million on English-Canadian dramas. After their recent L.A. spree in May, CTV and Global held big parties to show off their U.S. purchases to advertisers.

ACTRA handed out flyers outside CTV's launch event and held a demo outside Global's Massey Hall event. Hundreds of ACTRA members and supporters turned up to help get out the message that private broadcasters need to be airing more Canadian shows on TV.

Stars Wendy Crewson, Peter Keleghan and Colin Mochrie and MP Peggy Nash addressed the crowd along with ACTRA National President Richard Hardacre and ACTRA Toronto President Karl Pruner.

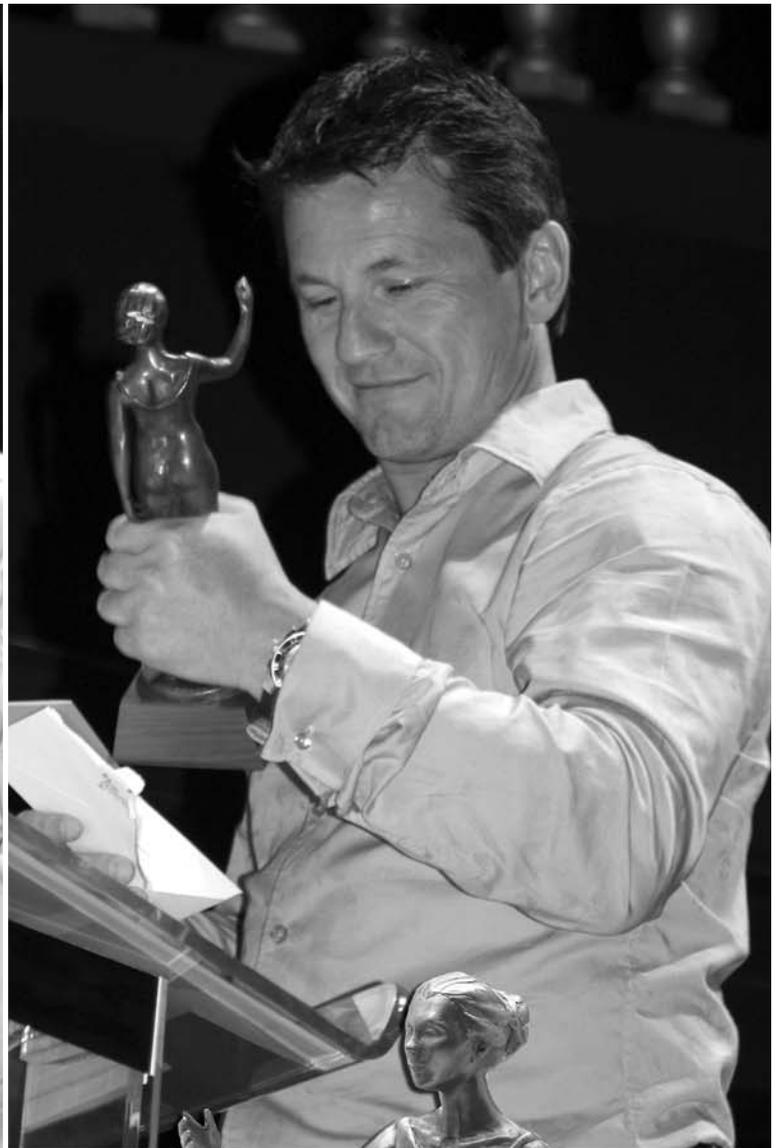
Private broadcasters use our public airwaves to make huge profits airing U.S. shows. While they fill their schedules with U.S. fare, Canadian culture pays the price. Canadians deserve more Canadian drama on primetime TV. ACTRA is asking for CRTC rules to compel private broadcasters to spend 7% of ad revenue on new Canadian dramas.





Laurence Leboeuf, Alain Goulem,
Stephane Lefebvre were the big winners on a hot

2007 ACTRA



Michel Perron and

summer evening in June as ACTRA Montreal held its

Awards.



photos by Robert McGuirk

at the | actra awards

On June 9th, in front of more than 300 members and invited guests at Le Medley, ACTRA Montreal presented the 2007 ACTRA Awards.

Laurence Leboeuf and **Alain Goulem** took the honours for Outstanding Female and Male Performance, **Michel Perron** nabbed the Outstanding Voice Performance award and **Stephane Lefebvre** was the winner of ACTRA's first ever Outstanding Stunt Performance award.

The venerable **Walter Massey** received ACTRA Montreal's Award of Excellence for his incredible body of work, spanning six decades and **Arden Ryshpan** was presented the ACTRA Montreal Community Builder Award in recognition of her tireless efforts in improving the treatment of performers in the film and television industry.



President Don Jordan offers Award of Excellence recipient Walter Massey a congratulatory hug.

Also honoured at the ceremony were former ACTRA Montreal President **Matt Holland** and newly named Life Members of ACTRA **Arthur Grosser, Kathleen Fee, Bill Haugland, Bronwen Mantel, Kelly Ricard, Jeannie Walker** and **David Rigby**.

The gala was hosted by voice performer and director **Richard M. Dumont** and presenters included Montreal branch council members, National Vice-President **Jamie Bradley**, National Executive Director **Stephen Waddell** and last year's winner of the Outstanding Female Performance award, **Claudia Ferri**.

The annual ACTRA Awards in Montreal recognized outstanding performances by ACTRA Montreal members and celebrated accomplishment and excellence in our industry.

The ACTRA Awards were re-instituted in 2003 as part of ACTRA's 60th Anniversary.



Host Richard M. Dumont shows off his legs for the Best ACTRA Short award.



Past President Matt Holland is honoured.



2007 Life Member recipients Jeannie Walker, Bronwen Mantel, Arthur Grosser, Kathleen Fee and David Rigby.

National Executive Director Stephen Waddell with Community Builder Arden Ryshpan.



A LOOK AT THE WINNERS...

Laurence Leboeuf

was the winner of the Outstanding Female Performance award for her role in *Human Trafficking* as Nadia, a teenage girl, lured into an international sex-trafficking ring. Other credits include *15/Love*, *Durham County*, *The Secret* and *The Trouble With Cali*.



Alain Goulem

was the winner of the Outstanding Male Performance award for his role in *The Tournament* as Barry McConnell, a boorish hockey dad with dreams of seeing his 10 year old son make millions in the NHL. Other credits include *The Last Chapter II*, *Nuremberg*, *Proof of Lies* and *Bon Cop Bad Cop*.



Michel Perron

was the winner of the Outstanding Voice Performance award for his role in the animated series *Monster Allergy*. Michel is veteran of both French and English language film, television, theatre, cabaret, dubbing and original voice animation.



Stephane Lefebvre

was the winner of ACTRA's first ever Outstanding Stunt Performance award for his work in *Last Exit*. He is a stunt performer and coordinator with more than 100 credits to his name including *300*, *Timeline*, *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Jumper*.



Council members Gillian Ferrabee and David Schaap present the Outstanding Female Performance Award.



Vice-President Thor Bishopric takes the stage to say a few words about his friend Matt.



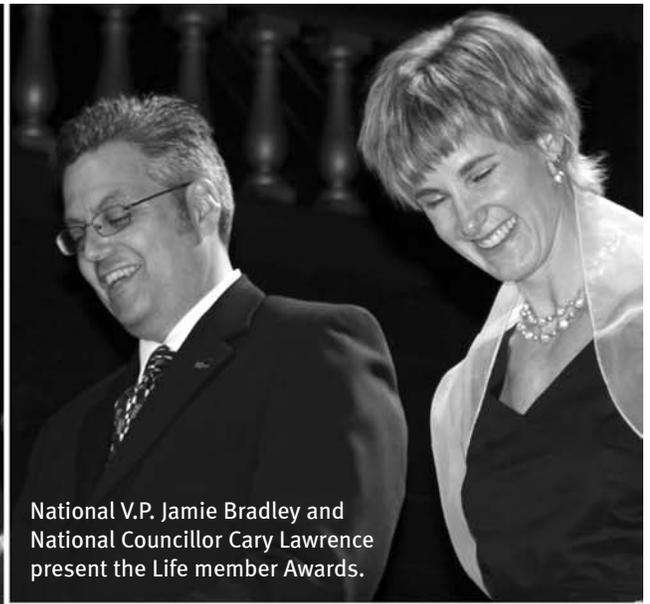
Council member Barbara Bacci with last year's Outstanding Female Performer Claudia Ferri presenting the Outstanding Male Performance Award.



at the | actra awards



Branch councillors Johanna Nutter and Daniel Giverin announce the winner of the Outstanding Voice Performance.



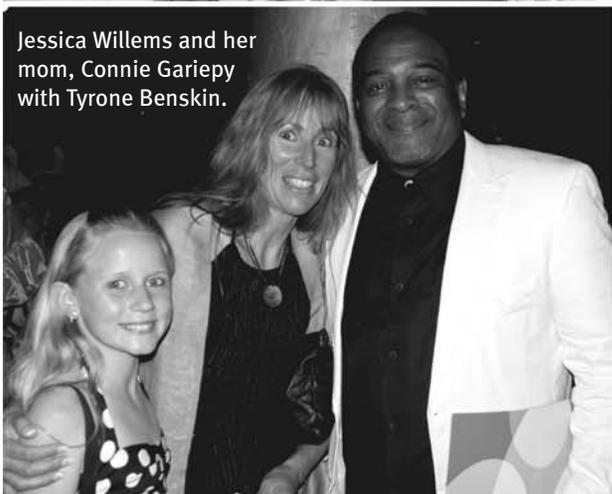
National V.P. Jamie Bradley and National Councillor Cary Lawrence present the Life member Awards.



David Gow, Stephen Waddell and Bronwen Mantel.



Pamela Koren, Mary Morter and Antonina Stabile.



Jessica Willems and her mom, Connie Gariepy with Tyrone Benskin.



The Boys:
Richard m. Dumont,
Alain Goulem and Bruce Dinsmore.

Best Short winner Jimmy Chan with (inset) a scene from his film *The Litterbug*.



CHAN WINS AT 4th ANNUAL ACTRA SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

After finishing in the top three at the last two ACTRA Shorts, Jimmy Chan nabbed the Audience Choice for Best Short at this year's film festival with *The Litterbug*.

It was Jimmy's fifth submission to the ACTRA Short Film Festival, having produced two shorts for its inaugural year and one in each year since.

The other finalists for this year's top honours were *Resolute*, submitted by Marc Trottier and *Haley's Gals*, submitted by Robert Higden - winner of the previous two festivals.



Mark Camacho with membership's Cheryl Alleyne.



National Councillor Tyrone Benskin and council member Holly Gauthier-Frankel.



Kathleen Fee, Victor Knight and Don Jordan.



The esteemed Arthur Holden.



Walter Massey, Erika Klusch and Sharman Yarnell with Vlasta Vrana.



Councillors Paula Costain and Nicolas Wright (also a nominee!).



ACTRA Award nominee Nobuya Shimamoto.



Susan Glenn and Micheline Russo.



Scenes from the Best Short finalists *Resolute* (above) and *Haley's Gals*.

WOMEN IN THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR? IT'S ABOUT TIME!

by Taylor Baruchel



This summer, ACTRA Montreal hosted its second Women in the Director's Chair cocktail reception as well as a casting workshop for some budding female directors. Performer Taylor Baruchel was happy to attend and lend a hand.

I had seen the occasional blurb for the WIDC in the Grapevine. I knew they existed but that's about it. So when I got the email about them holding a Summer Reception at the ACTRA Montreal offices this past August I thought it might be an interesting way to spend a few hours. But when ACTRA Montreal called to inquire if I would be willing to assist the WIDC in a casting workshop being held earlier that day for a group of Montreal based directors and guest Casting Director Lucie Robitaille, my reaction was, "Are you kidding me? A chance to work my craft in a room full of directors AND with one of Montreal's most respected casting directors...I am SO there!

I arrived at the ACTRA office where the workshop participants (both Actors and directors) were being warmly greeted by WIDC Producer Carol Whiteman. Carol had flown in from Vancouver to facilitate the workshop and seemed to take pleasure in chatting and getting to know each of us individually.

The workshop began with Lucie Robitaille giving both the actors and directors an insightful talk about the casting process that was both fascinating and enlightening. On a personal note, it was gratifying to hear that it's not always a performer's acting ability that lands them the role.

It is the casting director's job to find the actor with the personality, physicality and energy that best suits the character as well as the people (producers, directors) the casting director is working for. I mean, I already knew this on an intellectual level, but it was nice to hear it from the horse's mouth, so to speak.

Next the actors were given scripts and shown a detailed schedule depicting various mock auditions. This included all manner of casting scenarios from traditional, scripted auditions with a reader, to improve, to a sort of "meeting with the director" situation.

A child actor was there to give the directors an idea of some of the difficulties that may come with auditioning young children. I found the collaborative atmosphere in which Carol ran the workshop to be both refreshing and effective.

After a very informative afternoon followed a "cinq a sept." While all of us were chowing down on the nice munchies



Some of the participants in the WIDC's Montreal workshop.

ACTRA SLAMS U.S. ATTEMPT TO CRACK DOWN ON MOVIES MADE IN CANADA

Canada's film and television performers condemn the latest attempt by Hollywood to stop productions from being made in Canada. "We will fight this attack on Canada's film industry and insist on the right to provide support to our industry," said Richard Hardacre, ACTRA National President.

The Film and Television Action Committee (FTAC), a single-issue Hollywood organization, has filed a 301a petition against Canada with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). FTAC says Canadian subsidies are unfairly luring productions away from Hollywood.

"The bitter irony in this dispute is that we are drowning in U.S. product on TV and in the movie theatres," said Hardacre.

"Canadian broadcasters spend hundreds of millions of dollars on U.S. TV shows, limiting our own creative talent from being able to work and build our own Canadian industry," said Hardacre. "It's difficult to find a Canadian film in a Canadian theatre with all the U.S. blockbusters dominating our screens. Yet this upstart organization has the nerve to insist we stop filming in Canada," he added.

Studies in Canada have shown that the total direct and indirect impact of U.S. film production in Canada was only a fraction of the amount claimed in U.S. studies. According to a 2004 Canadian report, a leading U.S. private sector study about "run-away productions," called The Monitor Report, is fraught with flaws and questionable data.

"This complaint is without merit or substance and won't succeed under any trade agreement. What's more, if a U.S. complaint were ever successful at the World Trade Organization, which seems to be FTAC's target, the paradox is that Canada would have an even stronger case that U.S. films and television shows are being dumped into Canada and we could retaliate," said Stephen Waddell, National Executive Director of ACTRA.

FTAC claims it has the support of some in Hollywood. However, AFTRA (American Federation of Radio Television Artists) and the Motion Picture Association of America do not support FTAC.

► provided, Carol casually spoke about the Women In the Director's Chair organization and what they offer. For example, in December they hold a weekend workshop in Banff, Alberta where directors get an opportunity to work with professional actors (ACTRA) and crews (DGC, IATSE).

Carol explained that up to 10 actors are selected each year to participate, their travel expenses and per diem are covered by the WIDC and she encouraged us to send in our applications. Once again....I am SO there!

As a parting thank you gift, Carol gave each of us a lovely fashion accessory, a nifty scarf with the WIDC logo. I think I'll wear it to their workshop in Banff this coming year. So I'm a little premature, but I AM going to apply! See you in Banff!!!

Special thanks to the folks at ACTRA who support great organizations like WIDC by hosting events like this!

ACTRA and darn proud of it!

For more information about WIDC and their workshops, please visit:
www.creativewomenworkshops.com
www.banffcentre.ca/bnmi/

NEW IPA PERMIT RATE FEES

New Independent Production Agreement (IPA) permit fee rates are in effect for work to be performed on or after July 18, 2007. The rates are:

Principal and Stunt Performers: \$260 (1st week), \$130 (subsequent weeks)
Actors and other Performers: \$210 (1st week), \$90 (subsequent weeks)
Dubbing: \$90 (per week)

This represents the first increase in IPA permit fees in 12 years. For more details on the cost of work permits, please visit www.actramontreal.ca or consult with your local branch.

IPA permit fees are charged to performers who do not pay working dues when working in ACTRA's jurisdiction. Such performers include ACTRA Apprentices, ACTRA Additional Background Performers, and Non-Members.

When an Apprentice Member attains Full Membership, s/he begins to pay working dues, so the permit fees no longer apply.

Permit fees and Full members' dues provide the financing necessary to support ACTRA's work and programs, including negotiating and enforcing agreements, organizing, research, political and public policy outreach, campaigns for Canadian programming and member services.



To the adorable couple!

Congratulations to our favourite former National Councillor **Maria Bircher** and steadfast past National President (and current Montreal V.P.) **Thor Bishopric** on their recent nuptials.

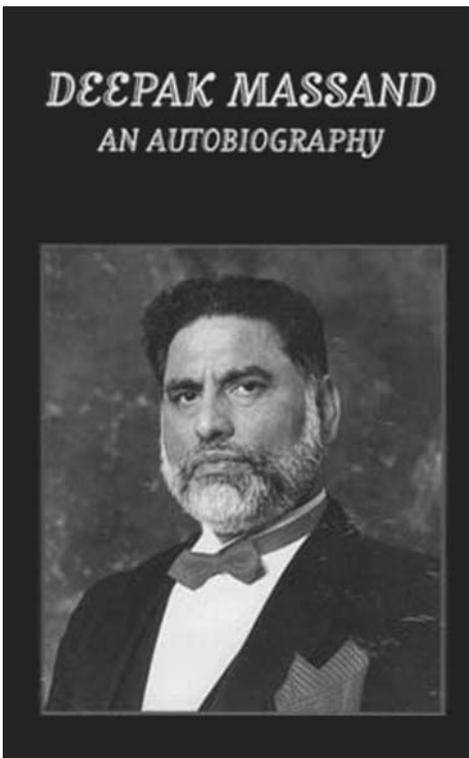
Maria, ever elegant and Thor, always dashing, were married on a beautiful summer day August 4, 2007.



Kudos!

Sharlène Royer was recently named the recipient of S. O. B. (Sound of Blackness Awards) Best Actress award for her interpretation of Juliette in the series **7th Round**.

The S.O.B gala goal is to encouraged the black culture in the arts in Quebec and the rest of Canada.



From Pakistan to Pro Wrestling...

Congratulations to **Deepak Massand** on the success of his autobiography.

Deepak, perhaps better known as the pro wrestling heel Sheik or manager Deepak Singh, offers up a fascinating and absorbing tale of his life in an autobiography recently published in India.



Congratulations

to new ACTRA Montreal members **Elissa Bernstein, Nancy Boulanger, Stephanie Breton, John Churchill, Hazgary Colin, Patrick Costello,**

Neil De Albuquerque, Marie-Alice Depestre, Andrew Farmer, Martin Fortier, Gabriel Gascon, Alexandria Haber, Devery Jacobs, George K., Jarrett Loble, Nadege Maignan, Jarrett Marineau, David Robert McLeod, Tadhg McMahon, Niko Nikolov, Rene Paiement, Luc Pilon, Vicky Plancher, Matthew Raudsepp, Derek Seguin, Gemma James Smith, Paul J. Spence, Leigh Ann Taylor, Philippe Weris, Jean-Loup Yale, Meiko Yasunaka, Ferelith Young.

MELVIN JOHN DOWNEY



Our condolences go out to the family and friends of John, who passed away this summer at the age of 71.

Focus on helping your union:



Join the ACTRA Montreal branch council!

It is time, once again, to elect the eleven (11) members of our local Branch Council.

Once elected, the new Montreal Branch Council will elect - from amongst its members - our President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

As well, the new Branch Council will elect - from amongst its members - two (2) National Councillors, who will represent the Montreal Branch on ACTRA's National Council.

The first step in this process is to identify those members who wish to stand for election.

**Only Full Members may nominate a member.
Only Full Members may stand for election.**

Full Members in good standing who wish to stand for office must sign the form - indicating their willingness to serve, if elected. As well, the names, membership numbers and signatures of the members (also in good standing) nominating and seconding them must be included.

The completed nomination form must be returned to the ACTRA office no later than Friday, November 16, 2007 at 5 p.m..

The ballots, as well as information on the candidates, will be sent out shortly after the nomination deadline.

BRANCH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE: _____

MEMB #: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PROPOSED BY: _____

MEMB #: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

MEMB #: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

If you wish to nominate additional candidates, please contact the Montreal office for additional forms.

ACTRA Montreal

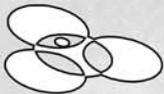
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Email: montreal@actra.ca • www.actramontreal.ca

Publication Mail Agreement #40613589

GET SMART!



ACTRA

...by coming to the...

2007 ACTRA Montreal ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

November 26, 2007
7pm @ Delta Centre-Ville
777 University, Square Victoria metro

This meeting is open to ACTRA
Full Members, Apprentice Members &
ACTRA Background Performers ONLY.

A cocktail reception will follow the meeting.
For more information, contact Randy @
514.844.3318 x223 or rduniz@actra.ca