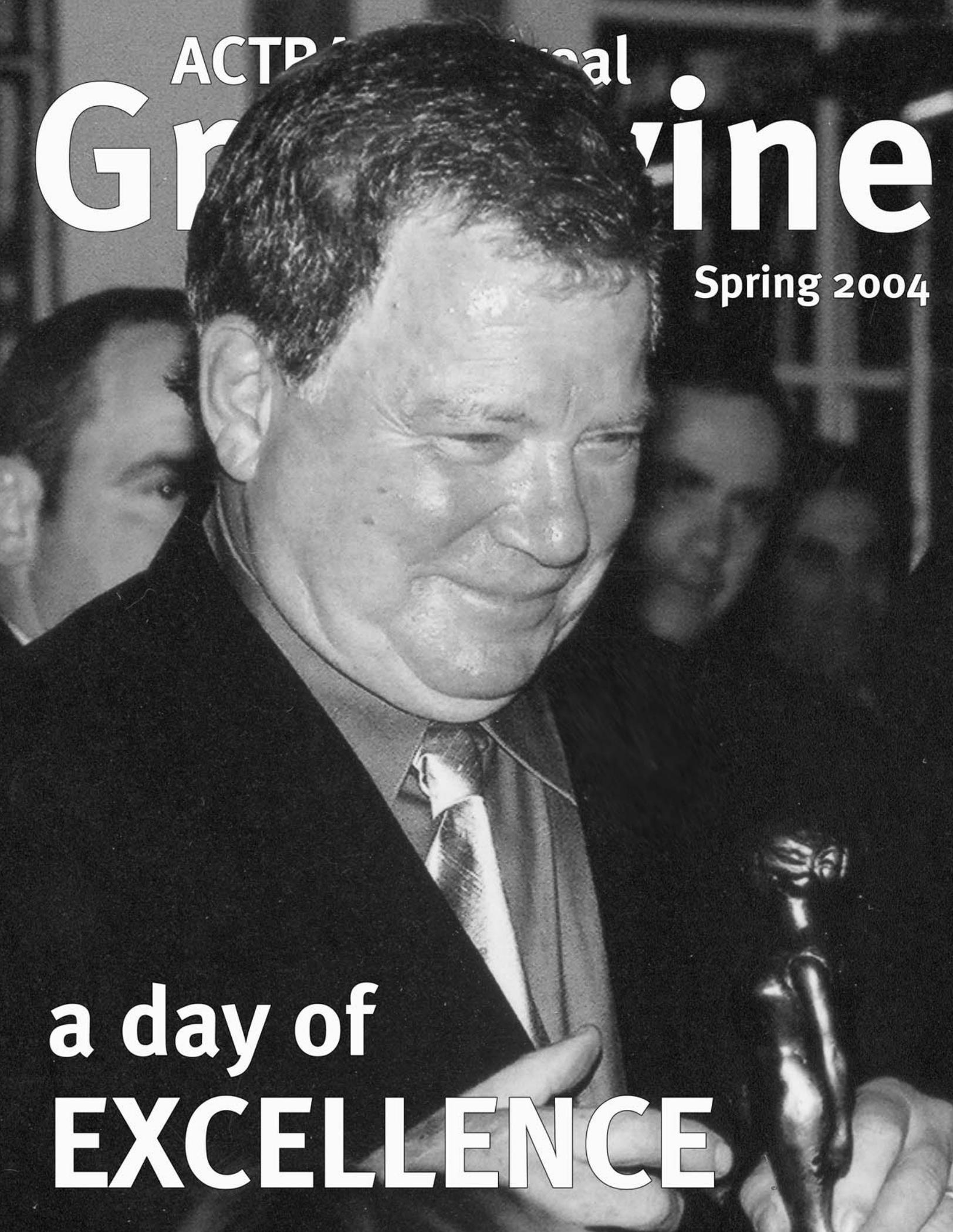


ACTRA / Local

Gravine

Spring 2004

a day of
EXCELLENCE



New National Executive

The January 2004 meeting of ACTRA National Council included the election of a new executive. ACTRA Montreal would like to congratulate and thank the Councilors who now join National President Thor Bishpric to form ACTRA National's elected leadership and Committees.

Vice President

Wayne Nicklas

Treasurer

Ferne Downey

National Executive

Rob Morton (BC)

Linda Kupecek (Alberta)

Wayne Nicklas (Sask./Man.)

Ferne Downey (Toronto)

Richard Hardacre (Toronto)

Tyrone Benskin (Montreal/Ottawa)

Ruth Lawrence (Maritimes/Nfld.)

For a complete list of the National Councilors serving on ACTRA's National Committees, please contact Gary Saxe at the ACTRA Montreal office.

Would you like to write for the Grapevine?

The ACTRA Montreal Grapevine is looking for members who would like to contribute to the newsletter. If you are interested in writing for the next issue of the ACTRA Montreal Grapevine, please contact Randy Duniz at rduniz@actra.ca.

ACTRA Montreal

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

ACTRA MONTREAL BRANCH COUNCIL

President

Matt Holland

Vice President

Thor Bishopric

Treasurer

Pierre Lenoir

Members-at-Large

Tyrone Benskin

Maria Bircher

Gillian Ferrabee

Dawn Ford

Ivan Freud

Don Jordan

Cary Lawrence

David Schaap

Alternates

Barbara Bacci

Robert Norman

ACTRA MONTREAL STAFF

Eastern Regional Director

Raymond Guardia

Assistant Branch Rep.

Micheline Russo

Assistant Branch Rep., Commercial

Daintry Dalton

Stewards

Carmela Algeri

Shannon Joutel

Claire Martell

Branch Clerk

Sabrina Gallo

Administrative Assistants

Cheryl Alleyne

Donna Tinman

Public Relations Coordinator

Randy Duniz

National Organizer

Gary Saxe

THE GRAPEVINE

Editor

Don Jordan

Design & Layout

Randy Duniz

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Daintry Dalton, Randy Duniz,

Matt Holland, Gary Saxe

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Yasmin Salih

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a message from the president...

Dear Members,

This is the first opportunity I've had since ACTRA's 60th Anniversary Celebrations to write to thank you for making all three events a resounding success. The turnout was fantastic and the creative displays encouraging. I was chuffed to see that in ACTRA Toronto's magazine, Performers, they are advertising a similar day of events inspired by our Pitch the Panel Breakfast and ACTRA Shorts Screening.

Due to popular demand, ACTRA Montreal is now looking into the possibility of repeating these events this year, as well as another awards ceremony for early in 2005. We have a few new faces on council, at both the Branch and National levels and we'll be working hard in the coming months to put these plans into practice. Stay tuned to the website and check The Grapevine for dates and details.

Keep an eye out as well for a couple of travelling road-shows: you will have already gotten the information about Jane Nelson's visit to ACTRA Montreal February 23rd-25th. She'll be taking appointments with members to discuss ACTRA Fraternal Benefit Society insurance and retirement plans. Also, we will be convening a meeting for a long-awaited presentation/Q&A session from ACTRA Performers' Rights Society sometime this spring.

I attended a National Council meeting recently and things are looking good on the bargaining and public policy front, with new staff hired to research and lobby on performers' behalf. Just in time too, as we'll be entering negotiations on our commercials agreement this spring and, now that Paul Martin is Prime Minister, we will hold him to his promise of restoring funding to the gutted Canadian Television Fund.

ACTRA continues to speak out against the deplorable situation in English-language Canadian TV drama. While broadcasters in this country are reaping record profits from airing cheap magazine shows, reality series, and simulcasts of inexpensively-licensed U.S. product, Canadian creative talent struggles and our national identity suffers. Alliance Atlantis, hitherto our biggest producer, has recently slashed jobs, closed subsidiaries and reduced its output of drama to a trickle, citing decreased international demand for Canadian shows.

Our press releases now arrive in a timely fashion and don't mince words in the staunch defence of performers' interests when faced with the steady erosion of our employment opportunities. Our voice on these matters is the loudest, our words the most thoughtful and direct. The result is we maintain a sense of urgency on the TV drama front, and keep our members' issues at the forefront of the debate.

In solidarity,

Matt Holland
ACTRA Montreal Branch President

Apprentice Member Initiation Course

Have you taken it yet?
Sign up now for the next date!

Wednesday, February 18, 2004
Saturday, April 3, 2004

**Earn a
Credit!**

Come to the ACTRA office to register in person or download the form from www.actramontreal.ca and mail it back with your cheque!

AMIC

Commercial Agreement Negotiation Update

The National Commercial Agreement for Television and Radio will expire June 30, 2004. ACTRA and the advertising industry represented by the Institute of Communications & Advertising and Association of Canadian Advertisers should begin negotiations in the spring.

To prepare, branches across Canada have begun holding 'focus group' meetings of members. During the meeting in Montreal held in January, many issues were discussed, highlighting the following:

- elimination of the nine hour shooting day; television
- increase payment penalties when Session/Residual cheques are late
- tracking system for the airing of commercials

Commercials continue to bring significant income to the membership and are an integral part of members' livelihood. Have you issues or proposals that you'd like to see addressed at the bargaining table? Now's the time to let us know your concerns!

To download the current NCA, visit the ACTRA National website: www.actra.ca. Also, we invite you to email suggestions to our Assistant Branch Rep/Commercials; Daintry Dalton at ddalton@actra.ca. More information on these important negotiations will follow in the coming months.

They should just hold the Oscars here this year...

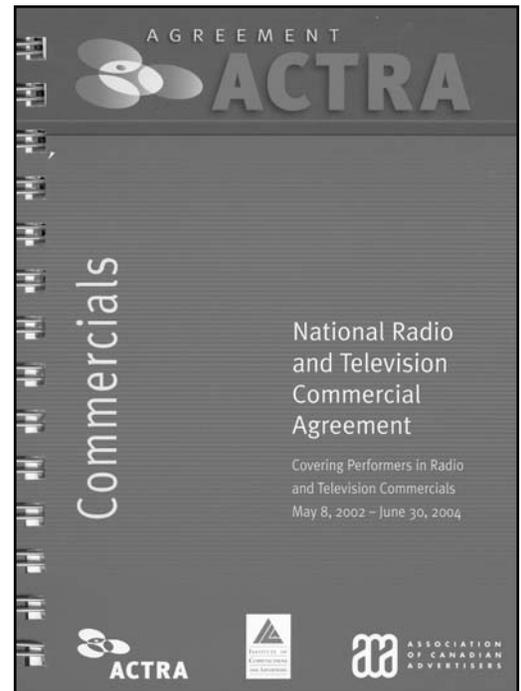
A record number of Quebecers heard their name called when the AMPAS announced their nominations for the 76th annual Academy Awards in February. ACTRA Montreal would like to congratulate animator Chris Hinton whose **Nibbles** is up for Best Animated Short, director **Sylvain Chomet** and music composer **Benoit Charest**, nominated for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Song respectively for **Les Triplettes de Belleville** and of course writer/director **Denys Arcand**, nominated for both Best Foreign Film and Best Original Screenplay for **Les Invasions Barbares**.

"Les Invasions Barbares" has already garnered great critical praise and a number of awards including one for Best Actress - ACTRA Montreal's **Marie-Josée Croze** - at the Cannes Film Festival last May.

Denys Arcand entertained members a few years back as a guest speaker at an ACTRA Montreal Spotlight Series Event.

Congratulations also go out to another Canadian nominated for an Oscar this year - music composer **Howard Shore** - nominated for both Best Original Song and Best Original Score for his work on **Lord of the Rings: the Return of the King**.

The 76th annual Academy Awards can be seen on ABC at 8 pm, Sunday, February 29th, 2004.





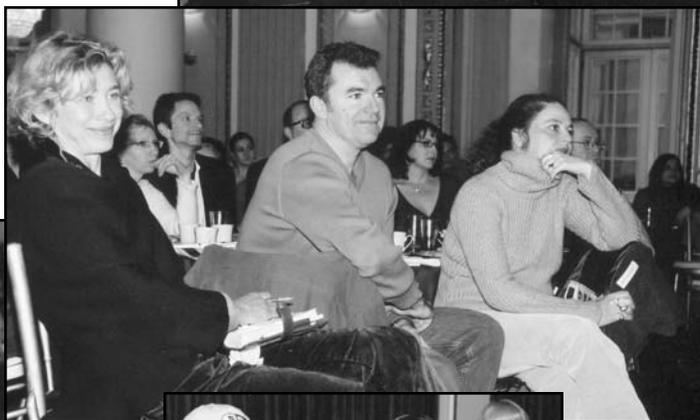
The Perfect Pitch

The ACTRA Montreal 60th celebrations kicked off with a bang early Saturday morning with the Pitch the Panel Breakfast - an opportunity for six ACTRA members to pitch their ideas for a feature film or television series to a panel of industry guests.

Host for the event, **David Acer**, warmed up the 150 members of the audience as they enjoyed their breakfast. (Best line: When I think comedy, I think 10 A.M.) before employing member **Barry Julien** in a pretty cool magic trick (nobody tell Equity, please).

The six pitchers each took their turn at the podium, delivering some wonderful ideas for feature films and television series. They then proceeded to field questions from the panel of industry guests made up of producers, a director and writer before taking questions from the audience. When all was said and done, a sound off was held to determine the room's choice for best pitch. **Pierre Boudreau** won for the crowd pleasing "**Punk Not Dead**" and was welcomed back to the stage to pick up his prize: a really nice basket of chocolate (hey, no one said we had a quarter million in development dollars...).

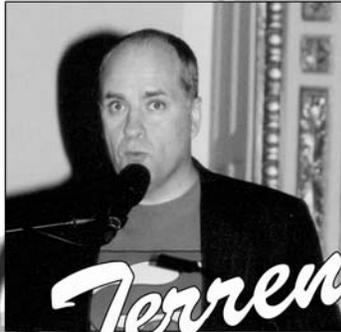
ACTRA Montreal would like to thank the panelists and all six pitchers for putting on a great show for everyone in attendance.



Pitchers



Pierre Boudreau



Terrence Bowman

Jeffrey Charles



Wendy Vowsden



Robert Higden



Rebecca Singh



Panelists



(l to r) Jim Donovan - Director, Irene Litinsky - Producer, Kevin Tierney - Producer, and H. Jefferson Lewis - Writer



Pitching in 2004!

The 6th Anniversary edition of the Pitch the Panel Breakfast was a smashing success and this being the movie business and all - it should come as no surprise that ACTRA Montreal is already planning the sequel for this year!

Details will be released to the members this spring, but as it stands, the 2004 Pitch the Panel Breakfast will start kick off ACTRA Montreal's Member's Conference - a full day affair open to all members which will include the Pitch the Panel Breakfast, ACTRA Shorts, the 2004 Annual General Meeting and of course, the party that follows it each year! Now that IS a Big Day!

If you'd like to find out more about Pitching at the 2004 ACTRA Montreal Member's Conference, contact Randy at rduniz@actra.ca

ON THE BITE SCREEN



Nearly 200 guests attended the day's second event, the first ever ACTRA Shorts Film Festival.

Introduced by comedian **Joey Elias**, the 16 short projects, produced, shot and starring our members were screened for everyone to enjoy. Some were funny, some were thoughtful and all were received with a rousing round of applause.

"**Chute**," submitted by **Jennifer Kierans**, was named Best ACTRA Short by a 5 person panel made up of members. It was a tight race with **Ralph Santostephano's "Cradle of Silence"** coming a close second in the votes and "**The Dragon Boat Racers**" by **Jimmy Chan** and **Matt Holland's "Whistleblowers Anonymous"** sharing third place.

Congratulations to all of the members that took the time, effort and money to go out there and create something to show off their creativity. ACTRA Montreal would like to applaud those who submitted the ACTRA Shorts and everyone who worked on the projects to help make them happen.



ACTRA Montreal would like to apologize to Neil Kroetsch. An error in the transfer of his two ACTRA Shorts led to some technical difficulties during the screening. Sorry about that, Neil.

2003 ACTRA Shorts

The Cradle of Silence

submitted by **Ralph Santostefano**

Some shady characters sitting around a table in a smoked-filled bistro...a tense discussion is heating up about a money game...

The Dragon Boat Racers

submitted by **Jimmy Chan**

A documentary on a man leading his losing Dragon Boat racing team to victory.

Randolph the Brown-Nosed Actor: Nailing the Audition

submitted by **Neil Kroetsch**

A fawning, sycophantic actor, Randolph will stop at nothing in his desire to succeed. Every producer's apple will be polished, every director's boot licked.

Whistleblowers Anonymous

submitted by **Matt Holland**

When digital blurring becomes digital scarring.

Joint Venture

submitted by **Richard Jutras, Arthur Holden, Susan Glover and Holly Gauthier-Frankel**

We all know the effects of marijuana...or do we?

Meow

submitted by **Christine Lan**

Two sisters are getting ready to go out when they notice they are wearing the same outfit.

The Clown That Was

submitted by **Norris Domingue**

A clown looks back on his life with the aid of snapshots, film and video clips and music.

Three's a Crowd

submitted by **Richard Jutras, Arthur Holden, Susan Glover and Holly Gauthier-Frankel**

Household tensions mount as an uninvited feline guest moves in with a married couple.

Rikrap

submitted by **Rikee Madoff**

Using drawings, photographs and poetry created by Rikee, this documentary will be a peek into the "artist's" psyche.

The Journey of a Wallet

submitted by **Jimmy Chan**

The adventures of a magical wallet and the people it comes in contact with.

The Audition

submitted by **Marc Viger Denis**

An actor's fears destroy his opportunity of getting a role.

Cheerleader Chronicles: Where There's a Will, There's a Whale

submitted by **Rebecca Singh, Stephanie Buxton, Lissa Hostland, Paul Van Dyck, Nathalie Stechysin, Gelnda Braganza, Shannon Topinka and Anthony Patmore**

An action packed comedy that chronicles the adventures of a zany group of superhero-cheerleaders who are called into action when a bumbling film technician's mishap threatens the entire city.

The Job

submitted by **Sacha Pommepuy**

A mysterious job. A mysterious package. A messy ending.

Randolph the Brown-Nosed Actor: The Audition

submitted by **Neil Kroetsch**

Part two in the adventures of everyone's favourite sycophantic actor, Randolph.

You Better Go Now

submitted by **Felicia Shulman**

A musical dream which explores the images, stories, myths and memories the song evokes in Felicia.

Chute

submitted by **Jennifer Kierans and Barry Julien**

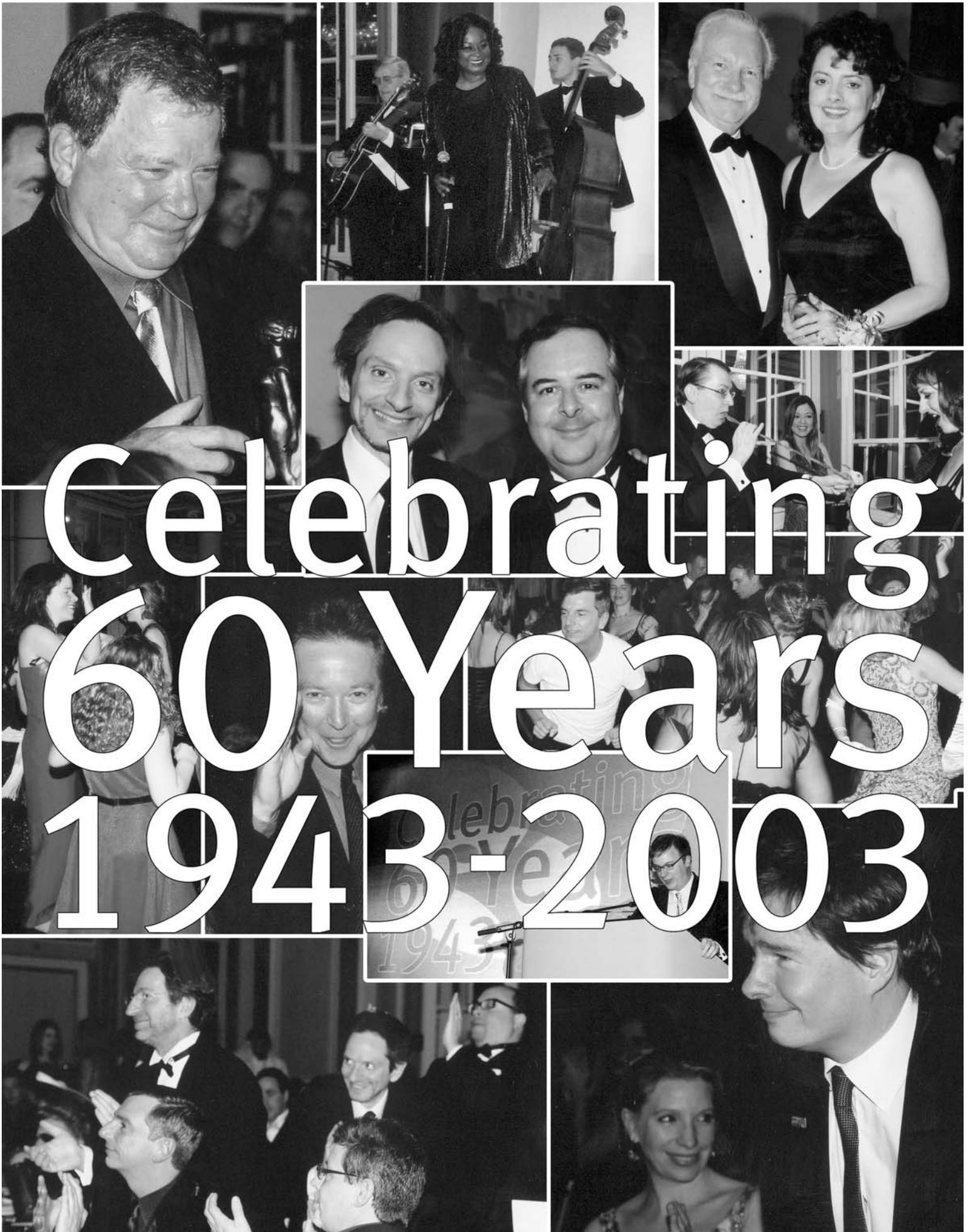
A clash over cleaning habits ends with one roommate sending the other down a garbage chute.

Showing your Shorts in 2004!

People loved making their own ACTRA Shorts. People loved watching all of the ACTRA Shorts. So it stands to reason that this year, ACTRA Montreal would hold - wait for it - a 2004 edition of the ACTRA Shorts!

Details will be released to the members this spring, but as it stands, the 2004 ACTRA Shorts Festival will centre the ACTRA Montreal's Member's Conference - a full day affair open to all members which will include the Pitch the Panel Breakfast, ACTRA Shorts, the 2004 Annual General Meeting and of course, the party that follows it each year! Now that IS a Big Day!

If you're interested in creating an ACTRA Short for the 2004 ACTRA Montreal Member's Conference, contact Randy at rduniz@actra.ca



Celebrating 60 Years 1943-2003

November 22nd, 2003

It was a night for the red carpet and television cameras. Tuxedos and ball gowns. ACTRA Montreal's 60th Anniversary celebration was an evening filled with glitz and glamour at the Windsor. More than 300 members and industry guests were on hand to enjoy an evening of fine dining, live performances and award presentations.

After being interviewed on the red carpet by **Eramelinda Boquer** and entertained by some magic tricks from **Nemo Turner**, the crowd finally took their seats in the elegant ballroom.

ACTRA Montreal Branch President Matt Holland welcomed the full house and took the opportunity to thank many of the guests in attendance - members, who themselves, had laid the foundation for the 60 year history of our organization.

The evening's celebrations began with internationally renowned jazz vocalist **Ranee Lee**. By the time her four song set ended, her soulful performance had earned her a well deserved standing ovation.



As the evening continued, **Joey Elias**, host of the afternoon's ACTRA Shorts Festival took to the stage to introduce the screening of **Jennifer Kieran's "Chute,"** selected earlier in the day as the Best ACTRA Short.



With ACTRA's 60th Anniversary at the forefront, the evening was still very much a celebration of the entire Montreal film and television community - from producers to performers, casting directors to talent agents - many of whom were in attendance. Never was this more apparent than in ACTRA Montreal's honouring of the late **Nicolas Clermont** - in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the industry in Montreal. Branch Councilor **Don Jordan** spoke on the life and work of a man who meant a great deal to our profession and presented the award to **Nicolas' widow, Janet**, who's moving acceptance speech brought the room to its feet.



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on page 10.

celebrating 60 years...

"An Award of Excellence. I don't know what to say. What is excellence?" asked Shatner.
"A Lifetime Achievement Award I can understand. This is what I achieved. It took a lifetime. But excellence?"

The dinner concluded with National President Thor Bishopric presenting the 2003 ACTRA Montreal Award of Excellence to William Shatner - honouring Montreal's native son for his illustrious career and 50 year contribution to the film and television industry.



The self-effacing actor who has - for some time now - made a career of playfully mocking his own image, delivered a tongue in cheek acceptance speech, truly befitting the occasion.

"An Award of Excellence. I don't know what to say. What is excellence?" asked Shatner. "A Lifetime Achievement Award I can understand. This is what I achieved. It took a lifetime. But excellence?"

Shatner continued to play to the crowd, reminiscing on stage about Montreal days gone by and calling on help from the audience for his walk down memory lane.



"I think he really enjoyed coming back to Montreal," said one member, "remembering where it all began."

The crowd enjoyed it as well and once the formalities and thank you's were over, most were ready to continue celebrating well into the night on the dance floor.

Added another member, "Montreal certainly does know how to throw a party."

Special thanks to those instrumental in realizing this event...

David Acer, Joey Elias, Ranee Lee, Nemo Turner, the Clermont family, Lance Jones, Sophie Roy, Kevin Tierney, Irene Litinsky, Jim Donovan, H. Jefferson Lewis, Valerie White, Robyne Ropell-Baruchel, the ACTRA Montreal staff, National President Thor Bishopric, Branch President Matt Holland, the entire Montreal Branch Council and of course, the 60th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, Don Jordan and David Schaap.

AGM 2003



Well over 200 members turned out October 20th for the 2003 ACTRA Annual General Meeting.

Branch President Matt Holland welcomed the room, introduced the other members of the Branch Council and delivered his President's remarks; touching on many of the accomplishments and difficulties faced in 2003.

Finances

Pierre Lenoir, Branch Treasurer, began his financial report with a review of 2001 and 2002 - tough years for production in which the branch suffered losses totaling \$400,000. The decision was then made to cut expenses in 2003. At the time of the AGM, halfway through the fiscal year, Pierre was pleased to announce that we were well on our way to finishing the year in the black.

"We told the membership we would not have a deficit in 2003 and halfway through our fiscal year, I am confident that we won't," reported Lenoir.

One reason for the branch's renewed success in 2003 may be attributed to the increase in production volumes. After four straight years of falling numbers, Montreal hosted 39 film and television projects - up from last year's low of 30.



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2003 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING...

Opportunity Project

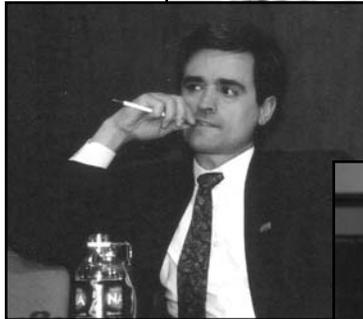
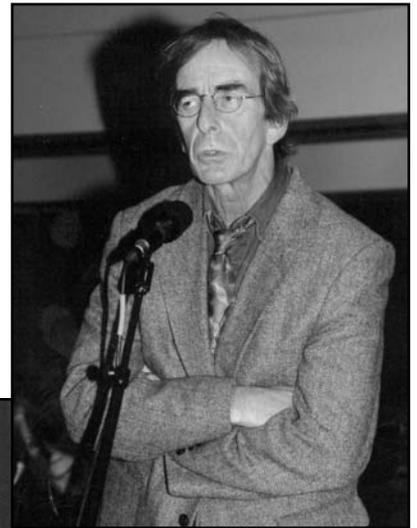
Once again, the Opportunity Project maintained a near 1:1 ratio on American productions - meaning for every day worked by a foreign performer, a Canadian performer had one workday as well. This ratio was made more difficult to attain in 2003 with the substantially large portion of star-driven vehicles that filmed in Montreal. Projects like **Secret Window**, **Taking Lives** and **Wicker Park** - limited in characters beyond the one or two 'stars' - do not offer many work opportunities for our members.

On a positive note, a surprisingly high number (24) of the 39 productions were Canadian and as Eastern Regional Director Raymond Guardia explained to the members in attendance, one contributing factor to our increase in indigenous projects may be our "Quebec distinctiveness," which lead to four 'double shoots' being filmed here last year.



Double Shoots

In addition to offering work to our members, those 'double shoots' provided us at ACTRA Montreal with our greatest threat to our jurisdiction this past year. Quite simply, a jurisdiction is a union's turf; a piece of real estate that belongs to the members of that union. Our turf is all recorded performances in English. 2003 saw three producers assert that a Union des Artistes contract could cover performers for the English portion of an English/French 'double shoot' and sought a Provincial ruling allowing them to pay those performers only once for their work in both languages. Thanks to a strong response from ACTRA, our members and their agents, we were able to fend off this attack and achieve a full and unconditional surrender from these producers.

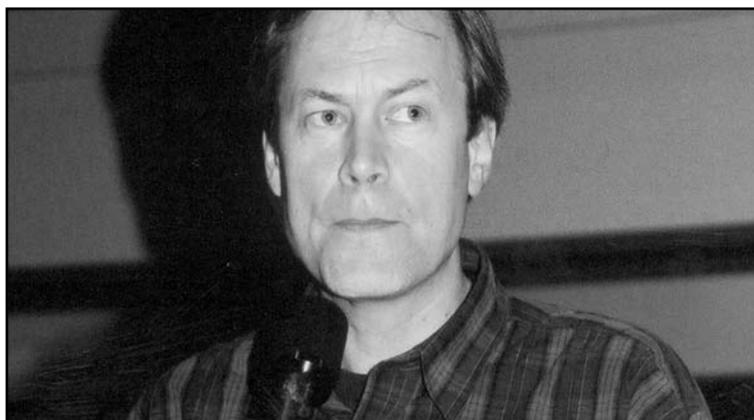


Coalition Building and Political Action

National Councilor Maria Bircher and Political Action Committee Chair Tyrone Benskin then walked the room through some of the progress the Montreal branch has been making on the new initiatives front - namely, the consolidation of the Montreal industry's promotion efforts and our support of the National campaign to save Canadian production. There is still much work to be done, but for an organization which became politically active less than two years ago, the progress we have made and the recognition we have received for our efforts is most encouraging.

The meeting was concluded with an informative look at the state of the National organization by National Executive Director Stephen Waddell and National President Thor Bishopric. Very much like our own branch here in Montreal, ACTRA National has undergone some significant changes in recent years, faced some serious difficulties, but is focused on maintaining and improving the lot of ACTRA members.

A streamlined approach helped the meeting flow and allowed members more time at the mike to ask questions of the panel. From there, members adjourned to the foyer for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and of course some chit chat.



Representing you...

January 2004 marked the start of a new term for ACTRA Montreal Branch Council. A number of returning faces and some new blood have stepped forward to represent the Montreal membership.

Matt Holland returns as President of ACTRA Montreal and Thor Bishopric and Pierre Lenoir are back as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Maria Bircher continues to serve the Branch as a National Councilor and will now be joined at the table by Tyrone Benskin. Tyrone's work as Chair of the Political Action Committee has been greatly appreciated and both he and Maria will no doubt be contributing to the organization at the National level.

Returning as Members-at-large will be Gillian Ferrabee, Dawn Ford, Ivan Freud, Jon Jordan, Cary Lawrence and David Schaap. Joining the council this year as alternates will be Barbara Bacci and Robert Norman.

The ACTRA Montreal Branch Council would like to thank the out-going council members, Susie Almgren, Richard M. Dumont and Helen King for all their hard work and dedication last term. We're excited about the opportunities and possibilities in the coming year.



**ACTRA Montreal Branch President
Matt Holland**

**ACTRA Montreal Branch
Vice President
Thor Bishopric**

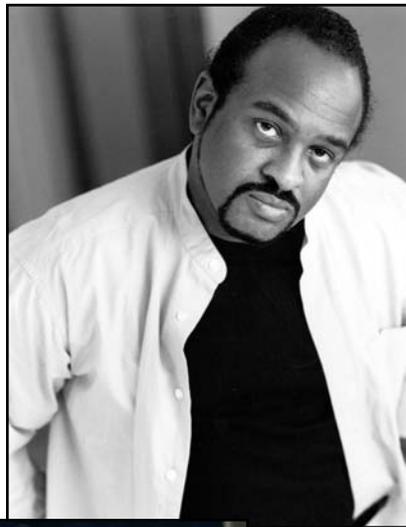


**ACTRA Montreal
Branch Treasurer
Pierre Lenoir**

**NATIONAL
COUNCILORS**



Maria Bircher



Tyrone Benskin

**MEMBERS
AT LARGE**



Gillian Ferrabee



Dawn Ford



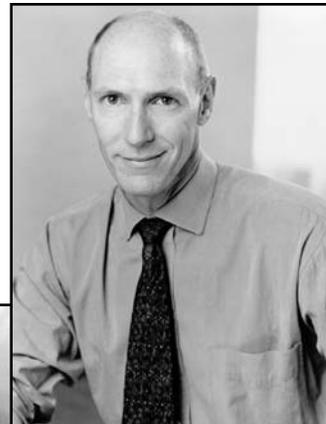
Ivan Freud



Don Jordan



Cary Lawrence

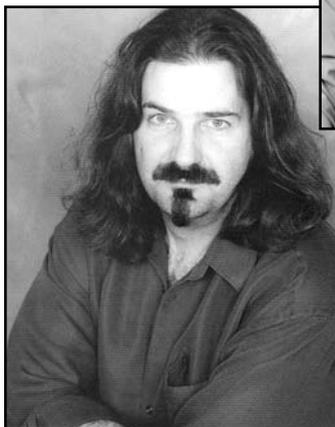


David Schaap

ALTERNATES



Barbara Bacci



Robert Norman

**ACTRA
Montreal
congratulates
our new
Full Members**

Allen, Sarah
Banner, Steve
Berndsen, Nathalie
Blanchet, Bruno
Braganza, Glenda
Brosseau, Claire
D'Amico, Frank
De Verger, Myriam
Di Gennaro, Christina
Downing, Melvin
Echeverria, Carmen
England, Yan
Gadzala, Yanek
Gaudreault, Jean Yves
Goodleaf, Kwettio
Hilaire, Stanley Francis
Lagarde, Nicole-Sylvie
Lamoureux, Philippe
Lane, Janet
Lapina, Marina
Le Breton, Julie
Lemessurier, Hubert D.
Li, Li
Lim, Jonathon Antonio
Longpre, Denis
Malka, Jessica
Marleau, Elizabeth A.
Montesano, Franco
Noel, Natacha
O'Donnell, Winston
Opadtchii, Maxim
Paquette, Helene
Pierre, Lindsay Owen
Raich, Rebecca
Raphael, Mark Charles
Rheume, Francis W.
Richards, Adrienne
Rigby, Michael
Roberts, Marcus
Roy, Luc
Savoie, Eloi
St Jules, Manon
Tang, Nancy
Van Blokland, Tanya

Double Double Toil and Trouble

Unsatisfied with one humiliating defeat, the Quebec producers' association again attempts to challenge ACTRA's jurisdiction.

According to Greek mythology, the Gods condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of a mountain, at which point the stone would fall back on its own weight. They correctly believed that such a difficult and futile task is a fitting and deserved punishment.

In a Sisyphean act of reckless folly, the Quebec producers' association (APFTQ), bloody and bruised after failing to undermine our jurisdiction last summer, has inexplicably licked their wounds and decided to come at us once again.

You have probably all heard of the sad and ill-fated attempt last summer by the APFTQ to challenge ACTRA's jurisdiction on projects filmed in both English and French at the same time. For over 30 years, such productions, known as Double-shoots, fell under the jurisdiction of both ACTRA - for the English language performance, and the Union des Artistes - for the French language performance.

The APFTQ wanted to have all performers work in both languages, but exclusively on UdA contracts. We rallied the support of performers, talent agents and the UdA. We made sure that no performer would accept a contract under their terms. With the remarkable solidarity of all involved, the producers had no choice but to surrender when they were unable to cast their projects.

The APFTQ recently sent a lawyer's letter to both ACTRA and the UdA demanding that future double-shoots provide only one union contract to performers. Again, we're ready for the challenge. We will be discussing strategy with other unions in order to assure that your rights are protected. We'll keep you posted as the story develops.

- Gary Saxe,
National Organizer

ACTRA PDC presents

The Business of Acting: Getting Started

Robyne Ropell-Baruchel teaches how to launch
and maintain a successful acting career.

Tools of the Trade, Finding an agent, Set Smarts and more.

Monday, March 8 @ 6pm - 9pm
or Monday, May 10 @ 6pm - 9pm
Registration fee: \$20

a word (or two) from the branch...

Background work pays. It pays relatively well, in fact. Which may go a long way to explaining why nearly 600 members have registered on Face to Face Online as Background Performers and why one of the most popular words among a section of the membership happens to be 'voucher.'

The story goes - there are 15 vouchers available on set each day which pay ACTRA scale (considerably more than 'cash extras' make). Needless to say, everyone who does background work and their grandmother - member or not - wants a voucher when working as an extra. These vouchers, however, are intended for our members. It says so in the collective agreement. Four years ago, our first efforts at ensuring our members were getting the vouchers resulted in a modest 33% success rate. Nearly three years ago, with the unveiling of the Background Database, we managed to raise that number to over 50%. The past few years, thanks to more aggressive policing, we've held a steady rate of 70% of those vouchers.

Nowadays, there are generally two types of calls that come into our office regarding background work. One is the non-member, phoning to tell us he can't get a single voucher anymore. To him, we say, 'sorry, but that's life.' Our members come first and if a non-member is not getting a voucher, that means we're doing our job right.

The second call, however, is from the member. He wants to know why he didn't get hired as a background performer on *Day After Tomorrow* or *The Terminal* or *Last Casino* or whatever else is shooting. To him, unfortunately, our answer is much the same, 'sorry, but there's nothing we can do.' The Montreal branch represents nearly 2,500 members and one of its primary objectives is to ensure work opportunities for all of its members. Not member. *Members*. Not *you*, but all of you. We can't create jobs for members - only work opportunities. That means that while we work hard to ensure it is our members being hired, we never cross the line of telling the Casting Director *which* member to hire.

If you are thinking that there should be someone who represents your personal interests and convinces Casting Directors to hire you specifically, you must be thinking of someone called a Talent Agent - after all, that is essentially their job. Those of you without benefit of a Talent Agent have effectively chosen to represent yourselves and have therefore, essentially made it part of your job.

So rest assured, the numbers have gotten better, are getting better and (we hope) will continue to get better. But remember, that doesn't necessarily mean *you* will get more work. It just means that the members will.

DYNAMIC THEATER FACTORY



Building Character

Montreal's premiere training ground for actors -
now in its 6th year!

WORKSHOPS

Screen Acting with **Gilles Plouffe**, advanced level starts
February 16th
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SCENE WRITING CONTEST

Dynamic Theater Factory invites writers to submit
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and not longer than 7 minutes in performance length.

**Winners will receive \$100 and their script will
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June 2nd to 5th, 2004. Deadline is March 1, 2004.**
E-mail info@dtfactory.com to request full contest rules.

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