July 9, 2015

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ACTRA AND EQUITY EXPLORE CLOSER TIES
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ACTRA and Equity have begun preliminary discussions in a small Joint Committee of our respective Councillors on the possibility of a closer organizational relationship. The first discussion the Joint Committee undertook was to revisit and update our longstanding reciprocal agreement. As you know, this work was completed, and the new, modernized and streamlined ACTRA & Equity Reciprocal Agreement was announced to our respective memberships last January. Joint Committee discussion has now turned to a broad-ranging assessment of all aspects of the idea of a closer working relationship between ACTRA and Equity, including a review of organizational and industry differences and similarities. We are also actively looking at our various sister organizations in Canada and around the world – like Equity UK, MEAA in Australia; and Union des Artistes – to examine those models of combined theatrical and media organizations, and learn from both their successes and failures. All Joint Committee discussion is still in the very beginning stages, and no decisions or commitments have been made.

In the end, the guiding principle of our discussions will be to ensure real benefit for the members of both organizations. We’ll keep you abreast of our discussions as we go along. Decisions leading to an enhanced relationship would only be undertaken through consultation with our respective memberships and both elected National Councils. If the idea of combining our organizations proves to be worthy and an agreed plan is approved by our respective National Councils, the decision would be put to a binding referendum of our respective memberships.

ACTRA and Equity have long had a productive collegial alliance; this Joint Committee discussion is an opportunity to potentially take that relationship to the next level.

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Equity is committed to regular communication with its membership as discussions about a closer organizational relationship continue. In the meantime, if you have any questions, suggestions, concerns or ideas, please feel free to email us: jointcommittee@caea.com

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Canadian Actors' Equity Association
44 Victoria Street, 12th floor
Toronto, ON M5C 3C4
http://www.caea.com
communications@caea.com