



ACTRA

Ottawa

# News

## TIME TO FIX CANADIAN BROADCAST SYSTEM

*What use is a Canadian broadcasting system if it only brings us foreign content?*

Canadian performers have provided the CRTC with a prescription to rejuvenate Canada's ailing broadcasting system. ACTRA's proposal would ensure that Canadians can see our own dramatic programming in prime time while making sure broadcasters and cable companies do their fair share to support the broadcasting system that serves them so well.

It's clear TV's status quo isn't working. However, rather than tear down our regulatory system like the broadcasters and cable companies would have us do, we should work together to build and improve the system. We're urging the CRTC to seize the opportunity presented by these hearings to take a bold and creative approach.

In its submission to the CRTC's wide-ranging broadcasting policy review

**ACTRA proposes:**

- keeping Cancon spending and programming rules in place

- setting broadcast-group-based expenditure and exhibition requirements for drama, docs and children's programming; and
- requiring cable companies to pay conventional broadcasters fairly for their signals if broadcasters commit to spending the new revenues on Canadian programming.



**ACTRA members and staff joined with IATSE and CAEA members in this year's Ottawa Labour Day parade.**

for speciality TV channels and expanding that model to conventional broadcasters;

The Canadian broadcast industry has been facing economic challenges just like other industries in this recession. Unfortunately the dearth of Canadian TV drama in prime time is the biggest challenge over the past ten years and broadcasters don't want to talk about it. Canadian English-language drama has been a rarity on prime time since 1999 - the year that the CRTC relaxed the rules for

*Continued on page 2.*

### Inside

President's Report.....2

Remembering Les Lye.....3

Members @ TIFF .....3

Your 2009-2011 Branch Council..4

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## Shorts Night & Social



ACTRA Ottawa presents an evening of short films by local producers, friends and fellow performers. Short films produced under ACTRA's AIP and MIP agreements will be screened with intros by their creators.

**8pm Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

For more information, contact ACTRA Ottawa @ 565-2168

*Friday,  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>*



*Club Saw  
67 Nicholas*

*Downstairs at  
the Art Court  
(enter off Nicholas)*



## President's Report

I'm excited to be writing my first report as President of ACTRA Ottawa and am grateful to my fellow members of council who have entrusted me with the honour of serving as your president. I'd like to thank former president Guy Buller for his hard work on your behalf and I look forward to working with the council in the months ahead. We've included a full list of our new council along with short bios on page four of the newsletter for you to get to know us better. I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts and ideas regarding all things ACTRA.

The production scene was relatively slow in Ottawa this summer, as it was nation-wide, but we look forward to improved opportunities this fall with some new projects on the horizon. We rounded out the summer by joining with our colleagues in Equity and IATSE in the annual Labour Day parade where we flew the ACTRA flag with our fellow trade unionists and members of the community while receiving good coverage in the local media.

We have a busy fall ahead of us with a number of professional development opportunities and activities planned for members beginning with an auditioning workshop with Elite Casting on the weekend of October 24th. It should prove to be a great opportunity to hone your skills with one Montreal's most accomplished casting agencies. In November we have lined up a tax workshop on the 9th where members will have the opportunity to learn all things tax related for performers from a professional accountant.

On the political action front we will be joining with members from across Canada in a rally at the CRTC headquarters in Gatineau to demand tougher content regulations for broadcasters. On December 11th we will be holding a Shorts Night and Social at Club Saw in the Arts Court for members to come out and socialize and see great local works by fellow performers and filmmakers. We are hoping that this will become a regular event.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and encourage you to get involved and keep in touch so we can serve you better.

In Solidarity,

*Sally Cleford*

President, ACTRA Ottawa

### Continued from front page....

private broadcasters. Since then, private broadcasters have been filling Canada's prime time schedules with U.S. shows. Last year they spent \$740 million on U.S. and foreign programming and just \$54 million on Canadian English-language drama.

What use are Canadian broadcasters if they only air foreign content? It's time to end the free ride for broadcasters and big cable and make them earn the money Canadian consumers give them by giving

something back. Instead of licensing high-quality, distinctive Canadian drama to attract audiences, the broadcasters consistently whine about their current minimal regulatory obligations. And big cable is poised once again to pass the buck to Canadians if fee-for-carriage is finally approved - that's wrong. It's only fair that those profiting most from the system should be reaching into their own pockets to contribute back to its ongoing vitality.

## Welcome Aboard!

ACTRA Ottawa is continuing to grow and we are pleased to welcome new members and congratulate those becoming full members.

### FULL MEMBERS

CINTHIA BURKE  
ALEX CARDILLO  
JODI LARRATT  
THEA NIKOLI

### APPRENTICE MEMBERS

JENNA CALVANO  
BRETT GEDDES  
DENNIS LAFOND  
JENNILEE MURRAY  
ARIANE SEGUIN  
CHRIS WYLIE

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Contact: [ottawa@actra.ca](mailto:ottawa@actra.ca)

OUR CULTURE. OUR VOICE.  
**OUR TV.**  
ca

**STAY TUNED**  
Rally in Support of  
Canadian Drama  
**November 16**  
**OTTAWA**  
[www.actraottawa.ca](http://www.actraottawa.ca)

# OTTAWA BIDS FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

## *Bill Luxton on the passing of performer and comedic legend Les Lye*

When my old friend and long-time partner Les Lye left us on July 21st I also said goodbye to Floyd Swayne, Morley the Mailman, Captain Aubrey Fatch, Granny Bernice, Dr. Raby the Vet and Philby Ciswell the poet, all members of the *Willy and Floyd Show*. From *You Can't Do That On Television*, an international audience remembers Barf the Chef, Dad, Lance Prevert, TV Director, Ross Sewage and the Schoolmaster. And let's not forget Abercrombie, his alter ego from his radio days on CFRA.

In 1961 CJOH went on the air and Les and a very young Rich Little made frequent appearances on my first magazine show *Compass*. Together, they produced Rich's first best-selling album *My Fellow Canadians*. In 1966 Willy and Floyd made their debut and ran in various formats for 22 years.

Les did not have to hide behind a character to prove his many talents; however. He was a gifted comic writer providing material for TV, radio and newspaper. As a movie reviewer on my morning show, he once commented on a terrible Jerry Lewis movie saying "I've seen better film on a wino's teeth".

Les was a founding member of ACTRA Ottawa in 1958 and 45 years later, in 2003 Les was honoured with an ACTRA Lifetime Achievement Award at a gala at the National Arts Centre.

In 1976, Les and I were cast as the feuding Vaudevillians in Neil Simon's "The Sunshine Boys" at the Ottawa Little Theatre. As the cantankerous partner I am asked "why did you work with him for 43 years?" my reply



Photo courtesy of the Ottawa Citizen



**Clockwise from top - Les and Bill with a photo of "Willy and Floyd" from a full page spread on the duo receiving ACTRA Life Time Achievement Awards in 2003. Les and Bill at a roast for Rich Little in the mid-seventies. Les "On the Air" (undated).**

echoes my feelings for Les, "Because he was terrific, nobody could say a line the way he said it, I knew what he was thinking, he knew what I was thinking,

one person, that's what we were... he was the best!"

**Bill Luxton**  
ACTRA Ottawa

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT...



Two ACTRA Ottawa members had their performances viewed by international audiences at this year's Toronto International Film Festival. Tommie-Amber Pirie and

Claudia Jurt both appeared in films screened at this year's festival.

Tommie-Amber appeared in Jacob Tierney's *The Trotsky* along with Jay Baruchel and Colm Feore. Claudia made her TIFF debut in Alexandre Franchis', *The Wild Hunt*, winner of the Sky Vodka Award for Best Canadian First Feature Film at TIFF.

### CONGRATS!

Councillor Guy Buller tied the knot with Katie Betts in September.

Best wishes from your friends and colleagues at ACTRA.



# 2009-11 Ottawa Branch Council

## EXECUTIVE



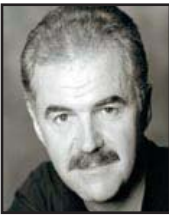
**President**  
Sally Cleford

Sally Cleford is an actor/writer who has appeared in film, television and performed in theatre for over 15 years. A strong supporter of the arts and actors in Ottawa, she is working towards producing several MIP's over the next two years. When not appearing on screen, Sally is kept busy with Face 2 Face, an event planning firm she founded in 2006



**Vice President**  
Karl Claude

Karl has been acting professionally since 2001 in both theatre and film/TV. He's appeared in various shows and films on CBC, Space Channel, Radio-Canada, A-Channel and The Movie Network. He's also started his own production company in 2006 in hopes of getting various film and commercial projects of the ground using local talent.



**Ntl Councilor**  
Barry Blake

Barry has been acting in the Canadian and international film and television industries for over 30 years. Fluently bilingual, he is also well known for his work in French-language productions. First elected to ACTRA Ottawa's local council in the late '80s, Barry has served as our National Councilor for more than ten years.



**Treasurer**  
Florence Moore

Florence has been an actor in Ottawa for 40 years and a member of ACTRA for 21. Besides film and TV, she and her sister have formed the group 'More Theatre' where they perform plays for 2 ladies. She has appeared at the Fringe, Dinner Theatre, and drama festivals where she has won many awards.



**Secretary**  
Rick Kaulbars

Rick Kaulbars is an actor/writer who has been working in Ottawa for 20 years. He wrote and voiced the popular comedy network series *Kevin Spencer*, as well as working for Yuk Yuks as a stand-up comedian. Besides ACTRA Branch Council, Rick also sits on the Algonquin College Scriptwriting Advisory Board.



**Past Pres.**  
Guy Buller

Guy made the drive from Whitehorse, Yukon 12 years ago to make Ottawa his home. Recently he finished training at the Ottawa Theatre School conservatory program this past spring. He has been on council for close to five years in various capacities with the most recent being that of Branch President.

## MEMBERS AT LARGE



**Nicole**  
Blundell

Nicole has been working as an actor in theatre, film and television for the last ten years in both English and French. Artist, teacher, wife and mother of three, Nicole is very honoured to serve ACTRA Ottawa's branch council.



**Peter**  
Dillon

Pete Dillon has been a member of ACTRA for 20 years and has enjoyed acting in dozens of film, television, animation and industrial video and voice projects. As the founder of BigTime (Murder) Productions, Pete received a Top 40 Under Forty award from the Ottawa Business Journal in 2005.

### Apprentice Voice



**Katherine**  
Dines

Katherine Dines began acting in grade school when she found out she was permitted to be loud and silly on stage. She jumped into Broadcast Journalism as a tangible and family appeasing way of escaping the fish factory life of her Maritime roots. Radio and TV reporting and anchoring since 1988, she currently plays the role of Kitty, on Virgin 106.9 FM's Rude Awakening.



**Paula**  
MacPherson

Paula MacPherson feels most creative when parenting her three kids, Christopher, Joshua and Amber. She came back to acting just seven years ago after a long hiatus. Serving on Council has been an excellent opportunity for her to connect with Ottawa's artistic community.

## Lives Lived

### Les Lye 1924-2009

Ottawa legend Les Lye Actor and broadcaster Les Lye passed away this July at the age of 84.

Les got his start at CFRA Radio, in 1948 where he served listeners for more than a decade.

In 1961, he joined CJOH-TV as a freelance writer and performer. It was here, that he forged a long-lasting partnership with Bill Luxton. Together, they created the popular 'Willy & Floyd,' which ran for more than 20 years. Such personalities as Alanis Morissette, Klea Scott, Bruno Gerussi and Margaret Trudeau had guest appearances on the show.

Les also became a household name in Canada and around the world on the acclaimed children's comedy show *You Can't Do That on Television*.

Lye is survived by his wife Johnni, three children Brett, Daralyn and Emily.



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