



**ACTRA**

December 5, 2002

**Re: ACTRA PRS Service Charge**

Dear ACTRA Member:

**ACTRA PRS (Performers' Rights Society) collections have more than tripled over the past five years – from \$1.5 million in 1998 to over \$6 million in 2002.** PRS is now collecting substantially more residual and royalty money for ACTRA members. Historically, PRS has been financed predominantly from *non-member* service charges, producer administration fees and interest. Ironically, as member collections increase, PRS earns less *non-member* income – that until now has been used to support it – with the consequence that PRS can no longer fund its current operations. It is imperative that this situation be corrected immediately.

**ACTRA's Finance Committee, the ACTRA PRS Board of Directors, and the ACTRA National Council strongly recommends that the ACTRA membership approve the constitutional amendment included on the enclosed ballot.** This amendment will allow a modest 5% service charge on monies distributed by PRS to members, subject to an annual review of the necessity of such a charge.

Presently, PRS functions are not financed by the members it collects for, unlike every other residual department in every other Performer union around the world. Without funding to pay for the strong pursuit of claims against producers, more frequent forensic accounting and new audits, members will miss out on monies owed to them by producers.

ACTRA PRS has dramatically improved its ability to collect on behalf of Performers over the last five years. To ensure that Performers continue to be paid what they are owed, it is necessary to properly fund the operation of ACTRA PRS.

**We urge you to VOTE YES and ratify the service charge – it will build a stronger PRS to put more money in your pockets.**

Yours truly,

Board of Directors  
ACTRA Performers' Rights Society

Thor Bishopric  
National President

Jefferson Mappin  
National Vice-President (Toronto)

Jamie Bradley  
National Treasurer (Maritimes)

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Howard Storey  
National Executive (UBCP)