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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are cut from strong cloth



September 14, 2006

Dear colleagues, fellow ACTRA members:

The message I hear consistently from fellow performers is that utmost on their minds are real opportunities for work, and proper and respectful remuneration for their performances as skilled professionals. I concur with those goals. I share the ambitions and values of many working performers. Those goals seem self-evident, even simple. But in reality they are challenging, especially leading up to negotiations of the major contracts that we have with the associations representing the producers of film and television.

Over the past few months I have been encouraged and inspired by the determination of our members in British Columbia as they confronted offensive demands from the big Hollywood companies during negotiations to renew their Master Agreement. While a number of other unions in B.C. accepted rate cuts, members of UBCP stood up and said "NO!" The impasse led the parties to jointly seek the assistance of a mediator to help resolve the substantive issues, prior to returning to the bargaining table.

While producers and broadcasters alike wail about their struggle for 'marginal' profit, it's worth reminding ourselves and the industry that despite tightening economies, increased competition, some decreased ad revenue, and fragmented audiences, they are actually continuing to enjoy tidy gains. Would Bell Globemedia (the conglomerate that includes CTV) have been able - and willing - to shell out \$1.4 billion to snap up CHUM if business was going down the tubes? And it's worth noting that, in making their insulting demands in B.C. the major companies declined to present financial reports to support their claims that rollbacks were required.

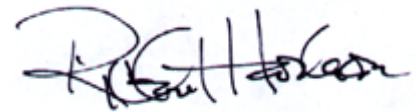
In the U.S., producers and studios large and small, agreed to pay members of SAG, AFTRA, DGA and WGA some very fair increases. Meanwhile, our producers are paying performers in demanding roles less and less. And they, along with the same U.S. studios that agreed to pay increases for U.S. unions, are now demanding that Canadian unions be willing to 'share their pain' by taking deep cuts. What they really want is to bolster their profit margins on the backs of Canadian performers. That is absolutely unacceptable. Canadian performers are second to none. We deserve the same treatment and the same pay increases as our brothers and sisters south of the border. There is no legitimate rationale for us to be treated as second-rate performers.

We went to negotiation sessions in Vancouver and we stood side-by-side with our UBCP colleagues, adeptly led by Rob Morton, Chair of the UBCP Negotiating Committee and Mercedes Watson, Lead Negotiator. We have no reason to think that we won't be facing similarly insulting demands when we face producers this fall to renegotiate our Independent Production Agreement (IPA).

We will be drawing on the vigour shown by the members of UBCP as we go into what might be our toughest round of negotiations yet. And we will be drawing on the total support of our entire membership. I firmly believe that Canadian performers coast-to-coast are cut from the same strong cloth. Our solidarity will give us the strength we need, when following the lead of our brothers and sisters in B.C., we stand up and say "No. Our skill and our work are no less valuable than that of anyone else. We will be treated with the respect we deserve."

I can tell you that our team of performers on the negotiating committee, without hesitation, will be proud to make that statement.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Hardacre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some overlapping letters.

Richard Hardacre
National President
ACTRA