



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Global Rule One - Business As Usual

May 15, 2002 - On May 1, 2002, Screen Actors Guild's (SAG) Global Rule One came into effect. For many ACTRA members, this date came and went like any other. I'm sure the bulk of our membership is not aware of SAG's Global Rule One campaign - and for most of you that's because it likely won't affect your working life.

If you're a dual member of both SAG and ACTRA however, SAG's Global Rule One might be on your mind. Below are some details and resources on the issue.

Back in February, ACTRA hosted our Global Protection of Performers (GPOP) meeting that brought together unions from around the world to discuss issues facing performers. One of the items for discussion was SAG's GR1. At that meeting, ACTRA pressed SAG on how they would handle the issue of dual members. SAG stated simply that they would be considering those situations on a case-by-case basis. ACTRA has continued a dialogue with SAG on the issue of dual members, in an effort to get more clarification from them on how these situations will be handled. In the meantime, we've put out our own statement asserting that dual members, like all ACTRA members, are entitled to work in Canada under ACTRA contracts - just as they always have been.

ACTRA's statement on GR1 came out in mid-April (see links below), and we are continuing to monitor SAG's implementation and enforcement of GR1.

SAG's GR1 has created some media interest because our employer association - the Canadian Film and Television Production Association (CFTPA) - is spending a lot of time and effort puffing hot air about the issue. The CFTPA doesn't agree with our position, and they're trying to make life difficult for us as a result - threatening to sue if a situation arises where they deem us to give away our jurisdiction, which we have clearly stated we do not intend to do.

All this before we even have any concrete examples of how GR1 is actually having an effect on Canadian production. Stay tuned.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thor Bishopric', with a stylized, cursive script.

Thor Bishopric