

ACTRA

2022-24 ACTRA MONTREAL BRANCH COUNCIL ELECTION CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Candidates listed in alphabetical order.



Thor Bishopric

Nominated by: **Maria Bircher**, Seconded by: **Teale Bishopric**

I've been a member since 1971 – more than 50 years. Along the way, I've had the good fortune to always make my living in the film and TV industry here in Montreal, as an actor, writer, director and producer. ACTRA is a part of my family: my late father and sister were members, as are my wife, my daughter and most of my friends. I've served the union as a Montreal Councillor for about 26 years. I served as ACTRA National President for 3-terms (1999-2005) and as an AFBS Governor for 16 years (Chairman of the Board for 7 years).



Stephanie Breton

Nominated by: **Melissa Carter**, Seconded by: **Nicole Leroux**

I have been on council for 5 years and I would love a chance to continue the work! I work in many of the fields that the IPA holds and I have recently been working as Intimacy Coordinator and want to keep assuring we have the safest sets possible. I also chair the Honours Committee and I am passionate about honouring our members. I love this community and I want to see it be the best it can be.



Teneisha Collins

Nominated by: **Amena Ahmad**, Seconded by: **Michaela Di Cesare**

I understand that collectively, we have the power to enact change in our industry. I continuously strive to learn as much as I can about working under ACTRA because I see the importance in understanding our rights as members. Currently, I'm on the bargaining committee for NCA negotiations, and have been working with an American organization to address equity in hair and makeup for BIPOC performers. On branch council, I would continue to seek fair, safe, and equitable working for all members, and to help educate our membership so that we can all advocate for ourselves and each other.



Lucinda Davis

Nominated by: **Simon Peacock**, Seconded by: **Holly Gauthier-Frankel**

My candidate statement is simple: I want to help. Over the years I have participated and volunteered on the Diversity & Inclusion committee, the Casting Standards Committee, and the Ubisoft Negotiations panel. Most recently I moderated the AMA Self-Tapes and Equipment panel, and I was ACTRA Montreal's Woman Of The Year in 2016. I want to add my voice because my years as a professional have taught me the value of ACTRA advocating for artists and also where more work needs to be done - from the changes driven by technology to representing the full diversity of all performers.



Larry Day

Nominated by: **Richard Jutras**, Seconded by: **Jayne Heitmeyer**

I have been an Actra member since 1994 and have been fortunate enough to have worked as an Actor here and abroad. I decided that now would be a good time to give something back to the union that has been so good to me. I also noticed that we are facing some critical times ahead and, being in the business from more than one side, I think that I can help insure that all our members are heard and correct decisions are made so that we have a powerful and dynamic industry in Montreal for years to come.



Christopher de Courcy-Ireland

Nominated by: **Nancy Hood**,
Seconded by: **Meghan Gabruch**

To serve effectively on a council, I feel it is important to be a skilled negotiator, communicator, committed decision maker with business acumen in touch with its participants, that is to be a good listener. As an industry participant for over 25 years, as well as professional experience in various other sectors, I feel that I have the essential skills to effectively execute the mandate of this industry important institution and that of its members.



Alan Duggan

Nominated by: **Abdul Ayoola**, Seconded by: **Mitch Spour**

I'd like to thank ACTRA for accepting my nomination and all whom served before me. Speaking with numerous actors and listening to their concerns and what they would like to be addressed. Some issues: Diversity: complete understanding and explanation. Locals Only: A resolution to excluding actors under this label. Actors feel they should be able to audition across all provinces. QDF: actors what to be able to do theatre with out being punished by ACTRA. THIS IS OUR CAREER AND WE WANT TO BECOME THE BEST WE CAN BE WITH MAJOR RESTRICTIONS. THE MORE WE WORK THE BETTER WE BECOME.



Richard M. Dumont

Nominated by: **Claudia Besso**, Seconded by: **Arthur R. Holden**

I have had the honour of representing you in the ACTRA Montreal Branch Council over the past three years as both a Council Member and as an Alternate to that Council. I wish to continue to serve Montreal Branch membership and it is my hope that you will support me in this cause. These past three years have made me ever conscious to the wants and needs of my fellow union members and I pledge to address your union needs and concerns while continuing to be a member of your Montreal Council. Together, we can make change happen.



Karl Graboshas

Nominated by: **Tyrone Benskin**, Seconded by: **Stephanie Breton**

Fellow Actra Montreal Members, I am excited to submit my candidacy for the upcoming Actra Montreal Branch Council elections. As a long standing member of Actra, a full member of the UDA, and CAEA, and a performer with nineteen years of industry experience, I would greatly appreciate the privilege of becoming a branch council member in order to draw on my industry experience to help shape future policies and to support our local branch members in any way I can. Thank you for your consideration and support.



Matt Holland

Nominated by: **Nadia Verrucci**, Seconded by: **Paul Stewart**

It's been a unique time to be a Council member at ACTRA Montreal. But as Chair of the Professional Development Committee, I am gratified that, despite the temporary loss of work opportunities and the permanent loss of some staff, we were still able to offer some much-needed support to our members in the form of professional development workshops. I am eager to continue this important work and to further other initiatives such as: Diversity & Inclusion, the ACTRA Awards, the short-film festival, etc. I hope I can count on your continued support. Thank you.



Mariah Inger

Nominated by: **Tristan D. Lalla**, Seconded by: **Lucinda Davis**

I have been running the DEIB Committee for 2yrs as Vice Chair. I have built multiple discussion groups so all marginalized communities can have a voice! I have been working within ACTRA and with many other organizations to get BIPOC/ Marginalized artists the equality they deserve in this industry. To create change in front and behind the camera! I mentor emerging BIPOC artists so they gain the tools needed to handle micro & macro aggressions they may face in the current (and past) landscape of this business. I fight for us to be heard, seen & respected. Its time, period!



Richard Jutras

Nominated by: **Felicia Shulman**, Seconded by: **Bill Rowat**

I have been an ACTRA member for close to 40 years. I am passionate about this business of acting and representing our membership. I have seen how our industry has evolved. I am committed to listening to all of our members concerns. I will continue to use my voice and experience in all aspects of our ever changing industry to serve the membership, beyond the Pandemic.



Li Li

Nominated by: **Julie Tamiko Manning**, Seconded by: **Emilee Veluz**

My name is Li Li and I've been serving on ACTRA for 8 years. During my time at ACTRA; I've served on various committees such as PDC, Honours, Parental, Casting standard, Exceptional circumstances, communication, Women, etc. Tristan and I were even the first co-chairs of the Montreal inclusion committee. In the last two years during COVID; it's been extremely hard for our members and at times it feels like the squid game. For our common survival, I hope I can continue to use my knowledge to serve and strengthen our union and our industry in the next upcoming term.



Eleanor Noble

Nominated by: **Katharine King So**, Seconded by: **Gabe Maharjan**

I have been an ACTRA member in good standing for 29 years. As we continue to navigate through these challenging times, working on solutions to help sustain our industry is essential. On Montreal council, I have worked diligently for our membership. I created the Casting Standards Committee. I listen to our membership. I present issues and ideas at the table and work to resolve and achieve them. As National President of ACTRA, I would like to remain connected to my local branch. I'd be honoured to have your vote, continuing to make our union better, safer and stronger.



Simon Peacock

Nominated by: **Jennifer Seguin**, Seconded by: **Chimwemwe Miller**

In my decade on Council I can say we have never faced a more difficult period than the last two years. As President I did my best to keep the membership informed whilst fighting to keep our Union afloat and our members protected. We now emerge with many senior staff having retired which presents us with an opportunity to make our branch stronger, more flexible, and re-energized. If re-elected I will ensure we have the right staff and the right focus to make sure our future is brighter than ever.



Julian Stamboulieh

Nominated by: **Scott Humphrey**, Seconded by: **Elizabeth Neale**

As an alternate member of council for the past 4 years, as well as a member of the Professional Development Committee and current chair of YEAA, I've offered the voice of those working in the indie production agreements (MIP & AIP). My goal is to continue to promote local film projects by bridging the gap between up-and-coming filmmakers and the ACTRA community, and by pushing our ACTRA Film Festival post-pandemic to be bigger and better than ever before.



Kathleen Stavert

Nominated by: **Julie Trépanier**, Seconded by: **Patricia Summersett**

I have sat on the ACTRA council as an alternate for two years and have witnessed the unwavering hard work of council members and ACTRA staff. I have watched and listened and learned and have been inspired to run for council again. I've acted as vice chair of Actra's women's committee and should I be nominated to council, will continue to fight the good fight for better safety in our work spaces, diverse opportunity for women and non-binary folks who've felt unseen in this industry. This moment is a potent one and I sincerely want to support you.



Leigh Ann Taylor

Nominated by: **Helena Levitt**, Seconded by: **Alain Dahan**

I have been an ACTRA member since 2003. I am also a full member of UDA and CAEA. I have volunteered on ACTRA's Professional Development Committee since 2019. Combining careers as both an actress, and a social worker (with 20 years+ experience), I had the great honor of offering our Montreal ACTRA members, essential information, resources, advice and support during ACTRA's Ask Me Anything Mental Health edition; Fall 2020. I am motivated to contribute my time and energy to ACTRA and its members, particularly in the areas of mental health/wellness, and anti-racism & anti-sexual discrimination/harassment policies.



Jen Viens

Nominated by: **Adam Capriolo**, Seconded by: **Kayleigh Choiniere**

I've served on council for the last four years. In that time, I've gained intimate knowledge of how we fight for our members. If re-elected, I would bring this experience to passionately fight for the rights of performers. I'm dedicated to fighting for equity for all diverse and marginalized performers. As a queer individual, I fight for the concerns of not only my community, but as an ally for all individuals who face unique difficulties related to identity. I'm passionate about enacting real change in our industry, and I believe it starts with more diverse voices in decision-making positions.