

Online Work History:

Did you know that you can view your work history in your ACTRA Membership System Profile?

Effective this year, AFBS will no longer be responsible for work histories – ACTRA is. The ball is now in ACTRA's court as we move from snail mail reports to instant online work histories on ACTRA's Membership System (AMS).



No matter where you are working, no matter how far home, AMS and your current work history are available to you. Every member is encouraged to get into the groove of viewing your work history on a monthly or quarterly basis. And not just to please your accountant – to please yourself.

It's also a wonderful way to keep current with your PRS income. And being able to print out an accurate work history for your year end will make life *somewhat* less stressful at tax time. (If your year end is not Dec. 31, you have the flexibility to print it whatever way serves your need.)

[How to view your work history:](#)

To access AMS and your work history, you need a password. (If you are a Face to Face Online user, you already have one). If you need your login information, send an email to fff@actra.ca. Please include your membership number in the email.

Go to the sign-in page: <https://www.actra.ca/actra/control/signin> (LIVE LINK)

- Enter your username and password and select login
- On the left hand side, click on "ACTRA Membership System"
- Select "view your work history" (you can view your work history info. by date range or assessment year)
- Select "print" to print your work history

Film Industry Holiday Party

YOU ARE INVITED!

Thursday, December 18th

CRAVE Restaurant

1925 Victoria Avenue

6-9 pm

come and greet your friends and colleagues from
SaskFilm, IATSE, DGC, SCN, SMPIA and
ACTRA!

Saskatoon members
free bus transport
available!
call 525 9899



The President says - Alan Bratt



I have been going to auditions for a long time. Indeed, I used to think of myself as quite an actor. This was bolstered by actually getting work. I had my little résumé and my little headshot which I would proudly present at auditions and I thought I actually had some business being there. I would run into other actors and I would chat with them as though we had something in common and though deep down I felt I was a total fraud it did not stop me from opening my big mouth and talking like I had something to say. It was all very sad.

So what caused the scales to fall from my eyes? It wasn't that I was lazy, fat and stupid. I mean I am lazy fat and stupid but those are not necessarily bad things. Lots of people manage very well like that and in fact those can be very useful attributes. Sort of behavioural green practice if you will.

What happened was that I would go to auditions and not even get a call back. At first I thought that they were making a terrible mistake and just couldn't recognize talent. Then I thought I just had a bad day. Then I thought that they just didn't get my interpretation. Then I blamed the Americans. It's nice to have the Americans. You can always blame them.

But the truth was worse than that and it was all around me. Somehow in the last few years more people with real acting ability had been sneaking into the auditions I was going to and stealing my jobs. I was furious. To think that middle aged guys with actual talent were going after the same parts was nearly as upsetting as when my wife suggested I should quit children's theatre because I wasn't lovable. In the old days I used to worry when Ian Black or Kent Allen would show up because they were really good but there were only a few guys like them. Now there were people I didn't even know who were showing up loaded with talent and good looks and charm and getting my jobs. I tell you friends it was a sad day.

What has happened is that there has been a burgeoning of talent in this province and, though it has been bad for me, it has been good for the industry and the craft of acting. People come here and are delighted with the skilled and talented people they find and that in turn will bring others. Even though we are going into hard times and even though our Prime Minister despises what we do I suspect that we will continue to build a successful industry. And if there is enough work maybe I will get some.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Christmas party. Saskatoon members please contact Megan at the SMPIA Office (525 9899) to arrange a spot on the bus which will be coming down and going up for the party.

State of the Union- Mike Burns

Its quiet out there...too quiet. Uncertainty is one of the certainties of the film industry and as this year winds down we are seeing that reality play out. We had a productive year in 2008, but as of the end of September production ground to a halt. Many factors can be considered as major contributors to this production lull. The economic downturn and banking crisis are clearly factors as was the sky high Canadian dollar of the first half of '08. Labour uncertainty in the US for the past several months have had an effect on our side of the border too.

So is the sky falling? Maybe, but probably not. We have reason for optimism. Our industry is said by economists to be somewhat recession proof. While people stop eating out, traveling, buying big things when recession hits, they always always go to movies and watch TV. The dollar is once again in the range where American film producers like to see it. SAG's situation surely will be resolved before the winter is over and we have all of you... the performers of ACTRA Saskatchewan. Keep your fingers crossed and have a very happy new year.



Department Of Culture



On Tuesday evening October 7, 2008 at the Cathedral Village Freehouse - a week before the election - a group of artists, cultural workers, art and culture lovers came together to participate in the inaugural Department of Culture, Palliser Division event. A crowd of 250 plus was on hand and there was magic in the room - laughter, joy, and beauty - caused by people banding together to have a voice.

I first heard about the Department of Culture from my friend, Franco Boni, at the Theatre Centre in Toronto. "What are you guys doing in Saskatchewan?" he asked me. He told me a little about the Department of Culture, how they were mobilizing in targeted ridings and working to make arts and culture an election issue, and sent me some information.



This Is Not a Conservative Party - Michele Sereda

I was sold - I knew we had to do something here to show the federal Conservatives how wrong they are about culture, that Steven Harper's opinions about art being all about galas for the elite are not based in the reality of how hard artists work in this country. But I needed help, and it came in the form of a chance meeting with a friend at the Farmers' Market, who pointed me in the direction of Ken Mitchell, a fellow ACTRA member and rabble rouser, who was already itching to do something in Palliser. A quick call to the ACTRA office got Mike Burns and Anna Baker on board, and we were off and running.

Ten days later, the freshly formed Department of Culture, Palliser Division threw a heck of a party and rally at the Freehouse. Local A-list musicians & artists filled the air with songs and talk about the importance of culture in the lives of the people in Palliser and in Canada. We heard from the likes of Joe Fafard, Kate Davis, Charity Marsh and the fabulous (Extra-) Ordinary Person, Jean Freeman. We also enjoyed musicians Jack Semple, Dagan Harding and Marshall Burns, among many more. All these people gave their time and energy to the Department of Culture to make the point that arts and culture are part of our everyday lives and that the people who produce culture are ordinary people, too. Also in attendance were a number of candidates from Palliser and other Regina ridings, including Cal Johnston, Don Mitchell, Larissa Shasko and ACTRA apprentice Janice Bernier.

So although we didn't oust the Conservatives, we can take great pride in having worked to raise the profile of arts and culture as a political issue. The



michele sereda and ken mitchell

Department of Culture is continuing its activities (checkout www.departmentofculture.ca) and continuing to ensure that the political leaders in our country and our communities understand that artists are ordinary working people and that culture matters to everyone. Whether they attend galas or not.

