

Fellow members,

I've never been more passionate about a union's purpose.

As we prepare for our next contract negotiations, we must unite and fight for AI protections, equitable pay and protection of our audition process. We've all watched our employers slowly disintegrate our working standards, but if we're united in solidarity, we can turn the tide and win the sustainability of this craft we so love.

I'm a longtime UBCP/ACTRA and SAG-AFTRA member who has advocated publicly for the welfare of performers. A decade ago, I founded a theatre company, Mitch and Murray Productions. One of our mandates is to break down barriers of access to the arts and within our work, I particularly champion seniors and neurodiverse people. By extension, I will advocate for these artists as a board member.

I've been outspoken about protecting the value of our auditions. The union should continue to seek dialogue with local casting directors, to revive in-person auditions and meetings, particularly for newer performers. Self-tapes are a valuable mode of casting, but it shouldn't be the only process by which our membership's potential is showcased. Auditions are work and they deserve more dimension, transparency and collaboration than they're receiving.

Our union should strive to support Canadian production in BC. Having a robust slate of Canadian projects will give access to substantial work for the world-class talent of our members and make us less vulnerable to issues south of the border. There are greater heights we can reach.

Thank you for your consideration.