

The Equity AGM for 2014 was held in the Project Arts Centre on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was chaired by Pdraig Murray, Irish Equity President.

### **Apologies**

Tom Jordan, Will Irvine, Donna Nicolson, Eimear Morrissey and Glynis Cassin.

### **Welcome**

The meeting was opened by the chairman who welcomed everybody and conducted a roll call of deceased members and called on Laurence Foster to give a remembrance of Ronnie Masterson and on Bryan Murray to give a remembrance of Eileen Colgan. A minutes silence was then called in recognition of all deceased members.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the October 2013 AGM were adopted on a proposal from Dick O' Leary and seconded by Elaine Reddy.

### **Matters Arising**

None

### **President's Address**

The President then addressed the meeting. He informed the meeting that Des Courtney had moved to a different section of the union but remained available to Equity as a resource on individual issues. He thanked Des for his efforts and support over the years. He also advised those present that the AGM was now back on the usual routine of Palm Sunday and the meeting for October would be a general meeting not an AGM.

The president also informed the meeting that Irish Equity had been successful in its bid to host the 2015 FIA Live Performance Conference in Dublin. This is to be jointly hosted with Equity UK and will be in Liberty Hall in early June 2015. The President also gave an update on the TV agreement negotiations with SPI informing the meeting that SPI's position on

wanting to negotiate a full buy film agreement consecutively with the TV agreement was unacceptable to the union and the matter of concluding the TV agreement with royalties was now referred to the Labour Court.

The president then went on to outline the dispute with RTE whereby the union is seeking to have compliance with agreements made part of the tender process and he gave an update on the competition authority position for the meeting. He then called on Gerry O'Brien who read a farewell note from Des Courtney to the meeting.

### **Sectoral Organiser's Report**

The President then called on the Sector Organiser, Karan O'Loughlin, to present her report. At the conclusion of the report Philip O'Sullivan asked about the Competition Authority issue and the Sectoral Organiser outlined that the union had engaged a London barrister who was pursuing the matter through the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the European Court of Human Rights. Karan referred the members to the appendix of the report and encouraged them to read it as it contained a brief on this matter and a direct link to an address made by the barrister at Trinity College.

### **Vice-President's Address**

The Vice-President Gerry O'Brien then made an address on the protection of rights and the equitable evaluation of these rights. He also referenced the rights of actors to be treated equally and noted that a royalty payment system would increase the actors' economic contribution to society. He then called upon all union members to support the cause of actors who are a minority and to support the achievement of rights for this minority in acknowledgement of the kind of society we want to create.

Laurence Foster then commented on EU Legislation on Artists with a reference to painters who are now entitled to a % of the fee from auction houses upon the sale of paintings and that while the auction houses were not happy about this there were begrudgingly complying. The Vice-President then responded through a short discussion about the difference between this and performers rights.

## **Elections**

Nominations were then taken as follows:

### ***Nominations for Officers***

#### **President**

Padraig Murray: Nominated by Gerry O'Brien and Seconded by Sharon Coade. As there were no other nominations Padraig Murray was deemed elected.

#### **Vice President**

Gerry O'Brien: Nominated by Sharon Coade and Seconded by Padraig Murray. As there were no other nominations Gerry O'Brien was deemed elected.

### ***Nominations for the Executive Committee***

1. Will Irvine: Nominated by Dick O' Leary & Seconded by Elaine Reddy
2. Ann Russell: Nominated by Teri Fitzgerald & Seconded by Owen O' Gorman
3. Bob Kelly: Nominated by Sharon Coade & Seconded by Danny Kehoe
4. Stephen Tadgh: Nominated by Elaine Reddy & Seconded by Dick O' Leary
5. Elaine Reddy: Nominated by Bernie Fitzgerald & Seconded by Geraldine McAlinden
6. Brian Murray: Nominated by Padraig Murray & Seconded by Elaine Reddy
7. Sharon Coade: Nominated by Daniel Costello & Seconded by Nuala Kelly
8. Freda King: Nominated by Paul Greene & Seconded by Dick O' Leary
9. Dick O' Leary: Nominated by Freda King & Seconded by Rebecca Blomfield

As there were no other nominations all 9 were deemed elected. It was agreed that the final vacant position would be for co-option by the Executive.

### ***Nominations for Trustees***

1. Annette Kelly: Nominated by Padraig Murray & Seconded by Sharon Coade
2. Eimear Morrissey: Nominated by Teri Fitzgerald & Seconded by Ann Russell
3. Vacant

As there were no other nominations both nominees were deemed elected. It was agreed that the final vacant position would be for co-option by the Executive.

### ***Nominations for the Appeals Committee***

1. Vacant
2. Vacant

### 3. Vacant

The meeting agreed on a proposal from Rynagh O' Grady that the outgoing appeals committee would continue. It was also agreed that the executive could co-opt members on to this committee in the event that one or more declined to continue.

#### **Motions**

*Motion Number 1 Proposed by Stephen Tadgh and seconded by Gerry O'Brien was carried unanimously*

To discuss the implementation of a series of workshops that will aim to educate emerging members and seasoned members of Irish Equity about contracts, tax, payment of fees and the rights of Equity members, to empower all members of the union from the bottom up.

*Motion Number 2 Proposed by Gerry O'Brien and Seconded by Sharon Coade was amended as follows on a proposal from Rynagh O' Grady and seconded by Siobhán Harty*

Change the words "instruct the Executive" to "call on the Executive"

Insert in association with the Arts & Culture Sector after the words "be developed"

Remove the full stop after the word "Future" and insert a comma

*With the support of the original proposer the motion was then carried reading as follows:*

We the members call on the Executive to request from the General Secretary of SIPTU that a fully researched and detailed "Policy Document for the Arts" be developed in association with the Arts & Culture Sector and made available to the members ideally prior to any meeting that will take place in the latter part of the year. Apart from forming a detailed and informed view of SIPTU's understanding of the Arts & Culture Sector and its Vision for the Future, the document must also detail how it will incorporate the development of such a plan and the resources it will put in place to both protect and value fiscally the performance rights of the performer across all platforms.

It was noted by Rynagh O' Grady that any policy developed should seek to create understanding and support from the trade union movement in its totality.

*Motion Number 3 Proposed by Gerry O' Brien and Seconded by Stephen Tadgh was carried unanimously*

We the members request that a workshop be held for the membership explaining the salient points of the UK Agreements, BBC Agreement, PACT Film and Television Agreement and how these agreements impact on the performer. We ask this as it is our understanding that UK financed productions are filmed in Ireland and we feel it is important that we understand the terms and conditions so as to ensure compliance on the ground.

A discussion then ensued on the subject of non-member participation on any workshops that would be developed and it was agreed that the executive would examine the possibility of their participation for a fee. Stephen Tadgh was introduced as the executive member with the youth brief and there was a general discussion on engaging with younger actors and the need to get them to focus on the life long career not just the immediate career.

Following a discussion on two way communications it was agreed that the business of the Executive would be reported each month, albeit not in minute form, but within a week of each meeting. This tied in with a discussion on the development of a newsletter and the Sectoral Organiser advised that if a member or members volunteered for this would could provide the assistance of graphic people. It was agreed that expressions of interest would be sought from the membership.

### **Any Other Business**

Elliot Moriarity raised an issue around working in Canada and the Canadian Actors Equity Association non c-operation with this. It was agreed that the Executive would explore this with the CAEA and SAG/AFTRA

That concluded the business of the meeting