

Danny Chalifour named AQTIS Executive Director



Since April 6, 2010, the Québec Alliance of Film and Television Technicians (AQTIS) has a new Executive Director, Mr. Danny Chalifour, a seasoned executive who boasts some thirty years of experience in the film and television sector. Danny is already quite familiar with AQTIS, as he has undertaken several mandates on AQTIS' behalf over the past few months.

The Board of Directors warmly applauded the new Executive Director: *"In our mind, Danny is the best possible candidate to deal with the significant challenges that AQTIS is facing in the current economic and technology environment, underlined Brunhilde Pradier, President of the AQTIS Board of Directors. He will quickly tap into his extensive experience as a manager, his knowledge of the challenges facing our industry and his vast network of contacts. In addition, his dynamic personality and leadership skills will enable him to effectively take charge of the major dossiers that will be under his responsibility from now on."*

The new "DG" is enthusiastic about the many projects that await him: *"AQTIS and its members are key partners in this industry, he pointed out. I'm happy to be here to lend my support in these hectic times where the business models, relationships between the various partners and responsibilities for proper representation are all being called into question. With the expert team that I'll be working with, we'll be more attentive than ever to our members and their needs, so that we can provide them with the quality services they expect and deserve."*

General Meeting, May 31, 2010: our annual get together!

The annual general meeting (AGM) of AQTIS members will finally be taking place on Monday, May 31, at Centre Saint-Pierre, 1212 Panet Street (a stone's throw from Radio-Canada). A snack will be served from 18:30 to 19:30, just preceding the meeting which will then begin, as such, at 19:30.



30 years of experience in film and television

Danny Chalifour began his career in the independent audiovisual production sector, where he was a producer for nearly 10 years, notably at Animage, Films de l'Esquif and the ACPAV.

From 1987 to 2009, he held several high-level management positions at Telefilm Canada, notably as Director, Financial Planning and Contract Management, Director of Finance and Administration and finally, as Director, National and International Business Development.



Danny Chalifour has an MBA from Concordia University (1992) and a Bachelors degree in film studies from Ryerson University, in Toronto (1978). A passionate golfer, he is also President of the Club de golf St-Lambert since 2008. Married to Ann, a mathematics teacher, he is the father of two boys, who are now adults, Eric and Alex. He lives in Saint-Lambert.

This meeting is an important one for all of you, in order to:

- Review the main activities and results of 2009;
- Keep you abreast of the major dossiers that AQTIS is piloting on your behalf;
- Defend your interests;
- Exchange ideas with other members, who share your situation and your concerns;
- Find out what's new in the milieu;
- Get to meet your new Executive Director;
- Get to know the full-time team that works for your association a little better.

Upcoming changes to the composition of the Board

Having chosen not to resign as members of another association, Louis Craig, Louis Piché and Daniel Sauvé recently had to leave the AQTIS Board of Directors. The Board will thus be naming new directors in the near future, to fill these three vacant positions.

Last February, we announced to you that, notwithstanding the adoption of amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws regarding directors with dual allegiance, the members of the Board, who were also members of another association and who were elected in 2009, were allowed to stay in office as directors until the end of their mandate.

Since then, our legal advisors have provided us with a more comprehensive legal opinion, which has led us to draw some new conclusions:

- > The February amendments did not annul what was done by the Board of Directors with regard to the directors with dual allegiance.
- > However, these amendments did disqualify the directors who no longer satisfied the eligibility criteria that were established pursuant to the amendments of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- > The Board thus informed its directors with dual allegiance of the new conditions should they wish to maintain their status. They were also offered the possibility of terminating their affiliation with another association that works in the same sector as us.
- > These three people chose to maintain their dual allegiance. They thus had to be disqualified as directors. AQTIS respects the choice made by these three members. The Board thanks them for the positive and enthusiastic role they have played in the past, while still hoping that they will remain active within our association.



The actor, Claude Legault, surrounded by the Les Sept Jours du Talion film crew, by Podz. Photo: Yan Turcotte.

RESOLUTION of the “Spiderwick Dossier”

The AQTIS Board of Directors recently suspended the disciplinary actions taken against the signatories of the Spiderwick petition. This exceptional measure closes the door on a difficult episode in the history of our association. Let's briefly recall what happened.

On November 27, 2006, several AQTIS members working on *The Spiderwick Chronicles* production signed a petition stating that: “We do not want, under any circumstances, to have negotiations begin on our behalf, between AQTIS and our employer, *Spiderwick Chronicle inc.*”. By acting in this fashion, these people breached their obligations vis-à-vis AQTIS, notably by undermining our Union's recognition, the guarantor of our collective agreements. This breach was brought to the disciplinary committee's attention.

A climate more conducive to discussions

However, when the special committee named by Minister Christine St- Pierre was created, the associations in question accepted to suspend all legal procedures, so as to create a climate that would be more conducive to discussions. The AQTIS Board of Directors also temporarily stopped putting all disciplinary notices into effect and taking any disciplinary action, including those addressed to the signatories of the Spiderwick petition.

After numerous chapters in this story, the Board finally decided, on March 23, 2010, to suspend the disciplinary actions in this dossier. Two reasons motivated their decision. On the one hand, a lot of water had passed under the bridge since all this began. On the other hand, some of the signatories affirmed that they were not aware of the implications of what they were doing.

All the member-signatories have since been informed of the status of this dossier. They have however been notified that in the future, they will have to be coherent vis-à-vis the Union to which they have conferred the defence and promotion of their interests and working conditions.





Congratulations to all our members who were honoured with Jutra or Genie Awards

AQTIS wishes to heartily congratulate its members who were named as winners or finalists at the 12th Jutra Awards Ceremony and the 30th Genie Awards Ceremony. Once again, our members have strikingly demonstrated the magnitude of their contribution to the success of Quebec films.



Karine Vanasse, in *Polytechnique*, a film by Denis Villeneuve. © Alliance Films.

Jutra Award Winners

Pierre Blain: Best Sound for *Polytechnique*;
Richard Comeau: Best Editing for *Polytechnique*; **Pierre Gill**, c.s.c.: Best Achievement in Cinematography for *Polytechnique*; **Linda Gordon:** Best Hairdressing for *1981*; **Judy Jonker:** Best Costumes for *Dédé à travers les brumes*; **Colleen Quinton:** Best Make-up for *Cadavres*.

Genie Award Winners

Pierre Blain: Best Sound for *Polytechnique*;
Djina Caron and **André Duval:** Best Make-up for *Grande Ourse, la clé des possibles*; **Richard Comeau:** Best Editing for *Polytechnique*;
Pierre Gill, c.s.c.: Best Achievement in Cinematography for *Polytechnique*.

Report of the L'Allier committee on the status of artists

Last April 9, a crucial document for AQTIS members, as well as for the entire Quebec cultural milieu was made public: the *Report of the L'Allier committee on the deliberative process engaged with the associations affected by the application of the Status of the Artist Act, established by Ms. Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women.*

This report deals with the deliberative process engaged with the associations (including AQTIS) affected by the application of the two Status of the Artist Acts (Bill S-32.1 and Bill S-32.01), within the context of the technological changes and economic transformations occurring in the today's cultural milieus.

The Minister welcomed the recommendations made by the working committee presided by Me Jean-Paul L'Allier positively: "One can clearly read between the lines of this report that the absence of a consensus, notwithstanding the numerous efforts made over the past few years, is very costly to both the artists and the culture industry itself", indicated the Minister. The report contends that "the development of the culture economy is a prerequisite to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the artists. (...) It appears imperative that the actors in each of the sectors will have to work together to identify solutions that will contribute to this development."

According to Danny Chalifour, the new AQTIS Executive Director, this report is a step in the right direction. "We are grateful to the Minister and the L'Allier committee for the thoughtfulness that has gone into the elaboration of this study, he underlined. We are at Ms. St-Pierre's disposal to comprehensively search for and identify solutions. Several of the actions and recommendations formulated by the committee concern us directly. Although it is still too early in the game to take a position on the proposed solutions, it's already apparent that some of them are in line with the submissions made by AQTIS to the committee and thus constitute positive elements in the eyes of our members. We might note in this regard the recommendation that the Minister not amend Bill S.32.1 to exclude salaried workers."

Finally, Danny Chalifour particularly likes the committee's advice, according to which, to effect the proposed change, it will be necessary for all the stakeholders to "think outside the box" and "take the road less travelled". "It would be preferable, he added, that the Minister not get involved in negotiations, as recommended by the L'Allier report."

You can download the text of the L'Allier report at:
www.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca



Permittee technician dues

The dues rate for permittee technicians will be going up from 3% to 4%, as of May 1, 2010. This change comes from certain provisions in AQTIS' annual budget adopted by the Board of Directors.

Payment of annual dues

A friendly reminder to all members: annual dues are payable no later than December 15 every year, for the following year. Any annual dues that are not paid on December 15 will give rise to an administrative penalty. In addition, a member who is not in good standing for over two months is declared to have automatically resigned from the association and his name is removed from the membership list.

Updating the AQTIS Computer System

In order to increase the efficiency of its administrative operations, AQTIS has recently begun a comprehensive update of its computer system. The new platform is scheduled to be operational in January 2011, even though certain modules should be ready before then. In the medium term, this system will enable us to provide new services, such as enabling members to access their own personal information and the data entry of time sheets by the producers directly into the association's database.

Member Assistance Program

The AQTIS has renewed its agreement with Michel Carpentier with regard to the Member Assistance Program. You can contact Mr. Carpentier at: (514) 352-1319 or (514) 814-5539; by e-mail at: paemichelcarpentier@hotmail.com. This service is strictly confidential and no information whatsoever regarding any individuals is ever communicated to AQTIS.

The next AQTIS Info bulletin will primarily be devoted to the services provided to our members.



Guillaume LeBon (alias André Mathieu as a child), in L'enfant prodige, by Luc Dionne.

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