

INTRODUCTION

PARTICIPATION

Over the year, SHAPE held over 10 industry advisory meetings covering the performing arts and motion pictures. SHAPE conducts these meetings as a forum to bring the industry points of view into the design and execution of programs. In addition to these larger meetings, SHAPE held numerous sub-committees to bring smaller groups of industry professionals together for constructive and focused discussions on selected topics. Examples of issues where these smaller committees have been formed include working at heights in the performing arts, hearing protection for performing artists, the use of pyrotechnics in films and the development of educational and companion materials for the SHAPE safety video.

The SHAPE standing committee membership did not change in 2000. There were no new employer or worker associations, guilds, unions or organisations that either identified themselves, or were identified by SHAPE, as member organisations. The motion picture standing committee did see the introduction of Don Cott as the new Member Representative for the AMPTP and Dennis King, Vice President of the AMPTP, joined our meetings as an observer.

Ian Pratt, performing arts committee representative on the SHAPE board of directors, resigned his board position in 2000 but remains an active participant in the standing committee. The performing arts committee recommended that Burt Harris represent the performing arts as Ian Pratt's replacement on the board of directors.

Jody Kramer, SHAPE's Administrative Assistant, resigned in 2000 to take a position with one of our member organisations. SHAPE hired Monika Majnik as the new Membership and Program Administrator at SHAPE.

PREPARATION

Since incorporation of SHAPE in 1998, SHAPE has supported the idea of open access to safety and safety-related courses and programs as a key in providing service to the employers and workers in the entertainment industries of BC. In 2000, we continued to schedule courses at times that would be traditionally available to our industries and at a minimal cost to the participants.

A total of 665 individuals took advantage of the 71 Occupational First Aid (level 1) , WHMIS and Safety Awareness classes that were offered in 2000. This represents a 43% increase over 1999 participation. The following table shows the participation broken down in to motion picture (MP) and performing arts (PA) related individuals:

- Occupational First Aid – Level1 296 attended (228 in 1999) MPV – 166; PA – 130
- WHMIS training 267 attended (182 in 1999) MPV – 227; PA – 40
- Safety Awareness 102 attended (56 in 1999) MPV – 99; PA – 3

In 2000, the Directors Guild of Canada, BC District Council determined that all entrants into the production assistant program must take the SHAPE Safety Awareness course prior to admittance into the pre-apprenticeship program. Similarly, ACFC West required that all those requesting permit status in their association take the SHAPE WHMIS course as well. SHAPE has identified the performing arts industries as a target for marketing these programs and courses in 2001.

In 2000, SHAPE also offered hearing testing to the motion picture industry to form part of the employers hearing conservation program and to create baseline industry information. Under a BC construction industry model, SHAPE entered into a partnership with Able Mobile Hearing to visit the sets in the lower mainland and to provide testing to those determined to be at risk. The workers tested were presented with the results and summary statistics where accumulated for SHAPE. The testing process also gave SHAPE the opportunity to ensure that the workers were receiving quality education on hearing conservation and the use of protection.

Throughout the year, approximately 750 film industry workers were tested representing over 30 different productions and 65 different occupations. The results show that 64% had normal hearing, 31 % required early warning and 5% were abnormal. 60% indicated that they wore hearing protection devises, the highest percentages being the construction related crafts. In the coming yea, SHAPE will continue to test film industry workers to build a database of baseline in formation and to obtain information on where additional education may be necessary. We will also broaden the scope of the testing to include performing arts workers.

Towards the end of the year, the SHAPE board approved the development of a new safety course for supervisors. Directed at explaining the responsibilities of being a supervisor of workers, this day long program will give those in a supervisory role, some tools to assist them in ensuring that they are fulfilling there duty. This course will also become a prerequisite for advancement in the Directors Guild of Canada. The first course in scheduled for March of 2001.

EXPLORATION

In 2000, SHAPE began to perfect a model whereby industry knowledgeable participants would meet in smaller committees, with consultants or writers, to consider the current practises and specific safety and health issues. This design represented a departure from the original method of using the standing committees as working committees. The former method proved to be inefficient in that the larger groups suffered due to size and the varied areas of interest present. The benefit of this new model is that we can efficiently develop focused information therefore creating access for SHAPE constituents to relevant safety and health information that is directed to them in the language and circumstances that they understand.

One of the major projects to be undertaken in this fashion was - Working at Heights in the Performing Arts. This sub-committee of approximately 8 industry professionals met weekly for several months to deconstruct the various tasks done at heights by crew and performers on the stage and at special events. Working with a facilitator, they began the process of building a compendium of information detailing what is done in their industries, how do regulations apply (or not) and what are the solutions available for the employer and worker to ensure that safety is insured and they are in compliance. The documents was completed in draft at the end of the year and the members will review it in the new year.

Similar projects where started in 2000 that reflect this model. In 2001, we will publish the results of a committee that created a hearing conservation manual for the performing arts. This publication was designed to educate musicians and stage crew, among others, about the mechanics of hearing, how damage occurs and most importantly, what they can do to protect themselves. It has been written in a non-medical, non-industrial, light and somewhat comedic fashion. Members of the industry, audiologist and Marshall Chaisson, a Canadian authority of hearing concerns for musicians, reviewed the draft completed in December. All of the reviews have been complimentary and we expect that there will be a wide distribution of the manual.

Additional sub-committees met in the year to discuss pyrotechnic special effects in the motion picture industry, musculoskeletal injuries in musicians and dancers and the issues surrounding performing arts workers registering with the WCB. These committees met to gather information, set goals and result targets, liase with consultants and review preliminary information.

This year, UBC commenced the Smokes & Fogs study that was funded under the finding solutions grant. After a slower than expected start, the researchers were able to access some

Canadian productions for testing. This study continues to be viewed as having a unique protocol that will allow the results to be extrapolated over differing circumstances of use.

Communications

newsletters

Web site

materials

video (awards) (cohesiveness)

Accidents

crowhust Pyro coroners report

hlicopter crash

stats

FUTURE PROJECTS

Some new initiatives that we are looking forward to in2001 include:

- Curriculum design for safety in the theatre programs in schools
- Fire plan awareness
- Security resources for those working alone
- Model safety programs
- Registration guidelines for performing artists
- Consulting services to assist in compliance

PERSONNEL

SHAPE continues to operate with 3 full time staff and one part time receptionist. Consultants and course trainers are contracted as needed on a project by project basis. The staff works directly with the Board, the two standing committees and sub-committees.

The Directors of SHAPE in 2000 were:

- Mark Thompson, Chair
- Beth Hanham (MPV)
- Burt Harris (PA) (October to December)

- Linda Kinney (MPV)
- James Pollard (PA)
- Ian Pratt (PA) (January to September)

Standing Committee representation in 2000

Motion Picture and Video Standing Committee:

- Mark Thompson, Chair
- Don Cott, AMPTP
- Susan Croome, Motion Picture Studios
- Damon Faulkner, IATSE 348
- Beth Hanham, IATSE 891
- Fred Keating, UBCP (performers)
- Linda Kinney, CFTPA
- Leta Labiuk, IATSE 669
- J.J. Makaro, UBCP (stunts)
- David Ozier, CIFC
- Michele Porter, DGC
- Jarrod Thalmier, ACFC West
- Jack Vlahovic, Teamsters 155

Performing Arts Standing Committee:

- Mark Thompson, Chair
- Colin Campbell, IATSE 118
- Chantal Deeble, CADA
- Burt Harris, PMIA
- David Horwood, Large Speciality Venues
- Martin Huhn, AES
- Prem Marimuthu, Specialty Venues
- Jennifer Mascall, The Dance Centre
- Mary-Ann Moir, Large Ensemble Orchestras
- Mile Muir, Theatre Venues
- James Pollard, VPTA
- Ian Pratt, CITT
- Gene Ramsbottom, VMA
- Ingrid Turk, CAEA

Sub-Committees of SHAPE

Video Development Committee

- Beth Hanham
- Fred Keating
- Miles Muir
- David Ozier
- Ian Pratt

Hearing Conservation in the performing arts

- Burt Harris
- Jennifer Mascall
- Mary-Ann Moir
- Gene Ramsbottom

Musculoskeletal Injuries of Performers and Musicians

- Burt Harris
- Jennifer Mascall
- Gene Ramsbottom

Registration of Performing Artists

- Burt Harris
- Jennifer Mascall
- James Pollard
- Gene Ramsbottom

Working at Heights in the Performing Arts

- Colin Campbell
- David Horwood (1/2 year)
- Devin Jain (1/2 year)
- Miles Muir
- Matt Lees
- James Pollard
- Ian Pratt
- Julie-Anne Soroyan
- Ingrid Turk

Pyrotechnics Steering Committee