

When in Toronto, do as Torontonians do.

Blue Man Group snubs city's traditions of theatrical cooperation

Toronto is second only to New York City in live, professional entertainment productions. There's a reason for this: Torontonians love live productions and support them generously.

Because of that support, Toronto is home base to thousands of talented professional actors, musicians, stage technicians, costumers and others who make all our city's major productions "a great night out."

"We do not understand Blue Man Group's refusal to be part of Toronto's theatrical family."

For decades, Toronto's theatrical associations and unions have worked cooperatively with producers. Our agreements are negotiated in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Our disagreements (they happen occasionally) are similarly resolved. Our traditions of professionalism and cooperation are the foundation of Toronto's well-deserved reputation as one of the world's great theatrical cities.

The Blue Man Group is coming to Toronto to take advantage of that reputation, but without the professionalism and cooperation parts.

Notorious in the United States for its hostility to respected organizations that represent theatrical professionals, Blue Man is behaving the same way in Toronto. Its planned production at the Panasonic Theatre, scheduled to open in June, refuses to employ performers, musicians or stage technicians who are represented by the city's professional organizations: the Canadian Actors' Equity Association, the Toronto Musicians' Association and the International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees.

"We do not understand Blue Man Group's refusal to be part of Toronto's theatrical family" says Susan Wallace, Executive Director of Actors' Equity.

"We have great relationships with every other major production in Toronto. So do the musicians and technicians. Blue Man Group has nothing to fear from us. We want to help the production succeed. That's the way we do business. It's good for everyone."

Global dismay over Blue Man Group's non-cooperation

Blue Man Group's refusal to cooperate with Toronto's professional theatrical associations has sparked worldwide condemnation.

International Federation of Actors

"By aiming to sign up amateurs, the Blue Man Group is discrediting the whole profession [and] is undercutting other producers that have behaved fairly with the talent they have engaged."

FIA represents actors in 75 countries.

International Federation of Musicians

"By refusing to negotiate contracts, Blue Man Group is depriving professional artists and technicians working in live theatre [of fair working conditions] and is undercutting legitimate producers, which provide Toronto with top quality shows that draw audiences from near and far."

FIM speaks on behalf of musicians worldwide.

Canadian Conference for the Arts

"Blue Man Group should respect Canada's rules: every major producer in Toronto adheres to agreements with Equity, IATSE and the TMA. This reflects the Canadian tradition, which has always ensured that our community's artists and technicians are dealt with fairly, equitably and respectfully."

The CCA represents 250,000 artists and producers in Canada.



bluemanboycott.com

