



*Carpenters' Union,
Central Ontario Regional Council*

222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 9T2 • Tel: (905) 652-4140 or (416) 749-7440 Fax: (905) 652-4139

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

April 28, 2005

Blue Man Group
c/o PANASONIC THEATRE
651 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
M4Y 1Z9

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Blue Man Group at Panasonic Theatre

This correspondence is to advise you of the concerns of the Carpenters Union with respect to the item noted above. Firstly, I should note that we appreciate your contracting to unionized employers and trades for the renovation/construction of the Panasonic Theatre facility. For over 100 years members of our Union have been 'building' Toronto and investing in skills development and training for the next generation of carpenters. The Carpenters Union places a high priority on the value and maintenance of area standards, known in the industry as the "fair or prevailing wage". Employing union firms is the most efficient way in which to meet and maintain area standards, as well as to make use of the highest skills available in Toronto's construction market.

As I understand it, maintaining area standards is one of the crucial issues brought forward by local entertainment unions such as IATSE, the Canadian Actors Equity Association and the Toronto Musician's Association in their ongoing dispute with the Blue Man Group Toronto.

How this issue impacts on local theatrical and entertainment organizations is also an issue to the Carpenters Union. During the worst years of the recession of the early 1990's when we had membership unemployment of 50% and many members were without work for up to two years, the construction of the Princess of Wales Theatre by Mirvish Productions provided needed employment during a time of crisis! It put our members back to work employing our skills in the life of our city.

We respect the decision of the Mirvish organization to build union during that time and there is a real loyalty from the Carpenters for this choice. Therefore any development that may undermine the vitality of the local theatrical industry (which includes Marvish Productions) thru the lowering of area standards by use of non-union performers and stage hands is of great concern to us. We call on you to engage in discussions with our local theatrical unions resulting in a resolution of differences.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,

Mike Yorke
Director, Political Action

c. Canadian Actors Equity Association
Mirvish Productions

COUNCIL OFFICES

LOCAL 27

LOCAL 675

LOCAL 785

LOCAL 397