



Directors will re-unite within Teaterförbundet

Sveriges Regissörer (SRe), a trade union for theatre and film directors within the umbrella organization Ledarna, voted unanimously in favor of re-unification with Teaterförbundet at its annual members meeting last month. If this proposal wins a majority at a second meeting in the autumn, the two Unions will once again become one.

Sveriges Regissörer broke away from Teaterförbundet 10 years ago following years of discontent with the Union's leadership. Directors felt that in collective agreements negotiations, their demands were all too often forgotten in favor of the larger employee groups within the Union. Important issues such as copyright and licensing were ignored. Director's demands for greater autonomy within Teaterförbundet were met with compact resistance.

A major investment in employment security and competence development, Teateralliansen, was created for actors only. None of the film or theatre workers with claims to authorship (directors, designers etc.) were included in this settlement. Skill development has for a number of years been at a standstill, despite an enormous technical development and with a number of new work arenas opening up for directors.

Sveriges Regissörer, run entirely by its members, has been active throughout the ten years of its existence. Engagement in issues such as gender equality, competence development, workshops and events at the larger national film and theatre festivals witness to this. Nordic and international involvement has also been prioritized, for example international conference on the art of the director the SRe arranged, featuring among others Heiner Goebbels. Even so, close collaborations with Teaterförbundet concerning the next agreement negotiating round for theatre workers and talks regarding national funding for film production, have proved that we stand so close, that a pooling of our strengths is once again possible.

At the invitation of Teaterförbundet we began in August 2009, a series of discussions to investigate the possibility of re-unification. We discovered that with the establishment of two new sections within Teaterförbundet, one each for theatre and for film directors, Teaterförbundet redressed some of the issues that vexed us 10 years ago. We felt that our colleagues in Teaterförbundet as well as their new chairman, Anna Carlson, received us with openness and respect. After a number of meetings we were able to produce a plan for future efforts towards improvements within our professions.

We now look forward to meeting the challenges of the future together, in one Union.

The Board of Directors of Sveriges Regissörer

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