

An Economic Dimension Of Indian Film Industry: Origins Of Character Artistes' Association (C.A.A.) Later Christened As Cine And TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA)

Dr. Manoj Sharma^{1*}

Abstract

The origin of an organization called Character Artistes' Association (C.A. A.) was significant as it was the one which initiated safeguarding the interests of the cinema artistes in an organized way. It was a Trade Union body and its objective was to, primarily, safeguard economic and other interests of its affiliates and also engaged in the welfare of its members. In the research paper, the evolution of C. A. A. from an informal gathering to a duly constituted body safeguarding and fighting for the rights of its members will be discussed. The details of the various meetings conducted by C.A.A. in its initial years will be provided to understand its philosophy and working. It will also convey about the issues which were important and relevant for its members. Moreover, it will also provide information about the contemporary circumstances and their responses to such situations. The involvement of its members in attending the meetings to sort out the various issues of the organization will be described. Also, their inputs to conduct the smooth functioning of their organization will be enumerated so that their contributions can be highlighted and defined. Their realization and commitment to protect the rights and privileges of its members from their employers was their defining feature. Their attempts to recognize the contributions of their fellow members will also be discussed. Their deliberations not only convey the independent voices of its members but also their democratic aspirations. In 1960, the Character Artistes' Association was renamed as Cine Artistes' Association. In 1997, TV was added to it and it was rechristened as Cine and TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) which is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act.

Index Terms: Character Artistes' Association, Cine and TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA), Trade Union, Shree Sound Studios

Introduction

The origin of an organization called Character Artistes' Association (C.A. A.) was significant as it was the one which initiated safeguarding the interests of the cinema artistes in an organized way. It was a Trade Union body and its objective was to, primarily, safeguard economic and other interests of its affiliates and also engaged in the welfare of its members. In the research paper, the evolution of C. A. A. from an informal gathering to a duly constituted body safeguarding and fighting for the rights of its members will be discussed. The details of the various meetings conducted by C.A.A. in its initial years will be provided to understand its philosophy and working. It will also convey about the issues which were important and relevant for its members. Moreover, it will also provide information about the contemporary circumstances and their responses to such situations. The involvement of its members in attending the meetings to sort out the various issues of the organization will be described. Also, their inputs to conduct the smooth functioning of their organization will be enumerated so that their contributions can be highlighted and defined. Their realization and commitment to protect the rights and privileges of its members from their employers was their defining feature. Their attempts to recognize the contributions of their fellow members will also be discussed. Their deliberations not only convey the independent voices of its members

^{1*}Department of History, Kirori Mal College, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007

but also their democratic aspirations. In 1960, the Character Artistes' Association was renamed as Cine Artistes' Association. In 1997, TV was added to it and it was rechristened as Cine and TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) which is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act.

Background of the origin of Character Artistes' Association (C.A.A.)

On 24th February 1958 an informal meeting was held at R.P. Masani Road, Matunga at the residence of Mr. Manmohan Krishna.² A number of members present in the meeting felt that an association of character Artistes' should be created primarily to protect their interests relating to their work, remuneration, terms of employment and others related issues concerning their work.³

In the same meeting, it was also decided that another meeting of a more representative character should be convened on 19th March 1958 at Shree Sound Studio. Before the 19th March meeting, a meeting of the founder members of the Character Artists Association was held at Shree Sound Studios on 17th March, 1958. The members who were present included Jagdish Sethi, Sajjan, Madan Puri, Manmohan Krishna, Mubarak, Bipin Gupta, Dhumal and K. N. Singh while the apologies of absence were received from, Durga Khote, Jeevan, Gajanan Jagirdar and Leela Chitnis. The association was named as Character Artists' Association. In the meeting, a character artist was defined as "one who has been billed as a star or a featured player and has played various types of roles in films."⁴ Regarding the membership fee, it was decided that the Entrance Fee for each member would be Rs.10/- (Ten) while Rs. 5/- (five) will be charged as the monthly fee. To begin with, all the members must pay three months fee in advance and the founder members shall try to pay for the entire year.⁵

An Executive Committee of 16 artists was formed- out of which 14 were elected and 02 co-opted. The office bearers were unanimously elected.⁶

1. Durga Khote	-	President
2. Mubarak	-	Vice President
3. David Braham	-	Treasurer
4. Manmohan Krishna	-	General Secretary
5. Sajjan	-	Joint Secretary
6. Leela Chitnis	-	Member
7. Madan Puri	-	Member
8. Achla Sachdev	-	Member
9. Gajanan Jagirdar	-	Member
10. K.N. Singh	-	Member
11. Jeevan	-	Member
12. Radha Krishan	-	Member
13. Dhumal	-	Member
14. Agha	-	Member
15. Jagdish Sethi	-	Member
16. Bipin Gupta	-	Member

Any character artist who is also a producer or Director will not be eligible to become an office-bearer but can be elected or co-opted on the executive committee. The seven members including the office-bearers shall form a quorum and the President shall have the casting vote.⁷

² Renowned film artist who worked in several popular films

³ Minutes of the meeting held at Manmohan Krishna's house on 24th February, 1958

⁴ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association held on 17th March, 1958

⁵ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association held on 17th March, 1958

⁶ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association held on 17th March, 1958

⁷ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association held on 17th March, 1958

A general meeting of character artists of the film industry in Bombay was held at Shree Sound Studio on 19th March, 1958. Manmohan Krishna, Secretary of Association presented the constitution and aims and objectives of the association. Any character artist irrespective of caste, colour, creed and sex shall be eligible for the membership of the association. Each person shall be proposed by a member and seconded by another member. Applications for members were to be submitted on prescribed Enrolment Form. Every application shall be subject to acceptances of Executive Committee by simple majority.

The Executive Committee was approved by the House but it was decided that general elections be held after six months when the association is more settled. It was also decided that if any Executive Member absented himself from three consecutive meetings, without providing prior intimation or rational justification shall be removed from the Executive Committee. Regarding the issue of no – confidence, it was decided that any member or body of members in office shall vacate the same when in GBM with one fourth of the total member of members must be present; a no-confidence motion by a simple majority is carried. It was also decided to open the bank account in the name of the Character Artists' Association and the cheques for withdrawal should be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary or the Treasurer and the President.⁸

In the meeting, Gajanan Jagirdar suggested that the clear definition decided in the meeting be released to the press so that an open invitation to all who fulfill that definition can join the association. It was approved unanimously by the members.⁹

After 9th April, 1958, an extra-ordinary General Body Meeting of the Character Artists' Association was held at Shree Sound Studio on 18th April, 1958. In this meeting, it was suggested that another type of membership known as Associate Membership be introduced to include those artists who work on daily wages who fulfill the definition of the Association but may not be able to pay the Entrance fee and the monthly subscription. After a thorough discussion, it was decided that the constitution of the Association need not be changed on this issue and a class of Associate Member need not be introduced as it would be likely to cause insidious distinction among Artistes'.¹⁰

Satish Batra suggested that the subscription be lowered so that there is more membership. But it was decided that the subscription was already minimum, keeping in mind, the monthly expenses to be incurred. Veteran actor Sajjan suggested forming various sub- committees such as, Public Relations, Culture Committee, Working of the Association, Publicity and Fund Committee. This issue of creating the sub-committee was assigned to the executive. He also suggested having a Library of the Association. This was postponed to the time when the Association shall have its own premises. Sajjan's suggestions included organizing a grand show immediately to collect funds, to contact various film organizations like IMPPA, Guild, Technical Union, Federation etc. to publish a fortnightly newsletter - to get a standard contract by asking legal experts to secure financial assistance to the needy members, to help members to get their dues from the producers. All these suggestion were referred to the Executive Committee.¹¹

Issues like the announcement of names of the artist without one's consent or knowledge in the Mahurat cards and the change of characters in the film after the artist had put in work were referred to the Executive Committee. While discussion over this was happening, Kanhaiya Lal stood up to speak and differed with the entire house on the formation of the Character Artiste Association and

⁸ Minutes of the meeting 9th April, 1958

⁹ Minutes of the meeting 9th April, 1958

¹⁰ Minutes of the meeting 18th April, 1958

¹¹ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association 9th April, 1958

walked out of the meeting. On Pran's proposal it was decided that no member of this association shall in future work as a Guest Artist.¹²

In one of the meetings, the members passed a resolution of congratulations to Nargis on her receiving the citation for the Best Actress for her performance in *Mother India* (1957) at Karlovy Vary Festival. The Association was registered under the Indian Trade Union Act, 1926 and affiliated to the Federation of Western India Cine Employees.¹³ The Secretary informed the house that since the entertainment tax had not been exempted from the purposed public show on the 9th August, 1958 at C.J. Hall the Executive decided to postpone the show.¹⁴ The Secretary also informed the house about the meeting of delegation of CAA with Roongta, the President of IMPPA. Roongta suggested that the two secretaries of CAA and IMPPA should get together to draft a standard agreement. He also agreed to provide a room for the office of CAA in Famous Cine Studios at half the rent he generally charges others.¹⁵

A general meeting of the Film Industry of Bombay was held on 19th September, 1958 under the auspices of the Character Artistes' Association to mourn the sad demise of Late Yakub Khan and Late Ramesh Sinha.

On 15th October, 1958, the elections for the office bearers and executive of CAA were held in the General Body Meeting. The following members were elected as office bearers: Durga Khote as President, David Abraham as Vice-President, Manmohan Krishna as General Secretary, Sajjan as Joint Secretary and Madan Puri as Treasurer. The secretary requested the members to contribute generously towards the Character Artiste Relief Fund and some members promised to give 1% of their annual income towards the Fund.¹⁶ One of the members, Sundar, requested that the General Secretary's report and the proceedings of the meeting should be in Hindustani rather than in English.¹⁷ The Executive Committee Members who got elected were Agha Jaan, Jeevan, Karan Diwan, Mubarak Merchant, K.N. Singh, Anwar Hussain, Gajanan Jagirdar, Leela Chitnis and Pran Sikand.¹⁸

In another meeting it was decided that the Bulletin should be continued in English and the proceedings of all the General Meeting should be in Hindustani thought they would be documented in English as all other official matters. The Secretary also informed the house about the social get-together held on 24th January, 1959. He also intimated the House about the play that some of the character Artistes' were staging in aid of the Character Artistes' Relief Fund at Rang Bhawan on 14th March, 1959.¹⁹

The clause number 15 of the Constitution was amended. It was decided to delete "or Director of Films" from the clause. The clause would now read as follows: "Any character artist who is a producer shall not be eligible for any office of the Association, but he can be elected or co-opted on the Executive or Sub Committee."²⁰ The secretary then communicated about the amendments in clause number 30 (c). The house agreed to elect only the members of the Executive Committee in the Annual General Meeting and Executive Committee shall elect the office bearers within seven days of their election. An amendment in clause 12 of the constitution was made and it read as

¹² Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association 9th April, 1958

¹³ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association 5th August, 1958

¹⁴ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artistes' Association 5th August, 1958

¹⁵ Minutes of the meeting of the Character Artist Association 5th August, 1958

¹⁶ Minutes of the meeting of CAA on 15th October, 1958

¹⁷ Minutes of the meeting of CAA on 15th October, 1958

¹⁸ Minutes of the meeting of CAA on 15th October, 1958

¹⁹ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of 2nd Feb, 1959

²⁰ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of 2nd Feb, 1959

follows: "The entire management of the association shall be vested in an Executive consisting of 15 members - 13 of that shall be elected by ballot at the Annual General Meeting from amongst the members of the association. The elected executive committee shall elect from amongst themselves the following office bearers within 7 days of their election: One President, One Vice-President, One General Secretary, One Joint Secretary, One Treasurer."²¹

There was an amendment in clause number 17 where the quorum of the Executive Committee Meeting was fixed at 5 members instead of 7 members. It read as, "Five members, including the office bearers present, shall form the quorum."²² The clause number 19 was also amended and it read as follows: "If any member of the Executive Committee, including the office bearers, fails to attend two constitutive meeting of the Executive Committee without giving prior written notice and without sufficient reason or four consecutive meetings even with reasons he shall cease to be a member of the Executive Committee. However, discretion shall remain with the Executive Committee."²³

The House noted that with the change in the clause 19, the clause no.20 is naturally affected and the words except "That of the President" shall be deleted and it will read as follows: "All vacancies occurring in the Executive Committee shall be filled up by co-option".²⁴ Regarding the paying of homage to the memory of departed souls, the house decided to hold it on 19th March, 1959 as on this day the first General Body Meeting of the association was held.²⁵

It was also decided that the duration of any contract in which no time limit was specified shall be considered as one year. It was suggested that all produces shall be informed regarding this through the press and through their respective bodies namely IMPPA, FPGI and Association of Disgruntled Producers.²⁶

In the Extraordinary General Body Meeting of the CAA held on 26th April, 1959, the Secretary clarified the conditions under which the function fixed for 19th March, 1959, to pay homage to the memory of the departed artists was postponed. He also raised concern regarding the non - payment of dues by some members who ceased to be members in accordance with the constitution. They were informed to join the Association by paying the arrears and re-paying the entrance fee.²⁷

The decision of the Executive to honour Ashok Kumar and Leela Chitnis, the former on being awarded the Best Actor of the Year Award from Sangeet Natak Academy and the latter on getting an award from the Bombay State on her play 'Ek Ratri Ardha Divas' was placed before the House.

On this issue, Moti Lal agreed with the decision of the committee and suggested that such receptions, in future, should only be held in honour of members of CAA and in case of non-members, a resolution of congratulations shall be passed and be sent to them. Thereafter, a discussion ensued amongst members on this issue. Finally, it was decided that the CAA shall hold receptions in honour of any artist of the Indian Film Industry who is accorded any recognition in any field of activity from the state, centre or any international body.²⁸

²¹ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of 2nd Feb, 1959

²² Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of 2nd Feb, 1959

²³ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of C.A.A. 2nd Feb, 1959

²⁴ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of C.A.A. 2nd Feb, 1959

²⁵ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of C.A.A. 2nd Feb, 1959

²⁶ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of C.A.A. 2nd Feb, 1959

²⁷ Minutes of the Extra Ordinary General Body Meeting of C.A.A. 26th April, 1959

²⁸ Minutes of the meeting of CAA 26th April, 1959

On the objection of Registrar, Trade Union, clause no. 17 of the constitution was reconsidered. In this context Sajjan suggested that the number of office bearers be reduced from five to four, getting rid of the office of the Joint Secretary. It was decided to abide by the amendment of clauses no. 17, as passed by the last Extraordinary General Body Meeting namely five members including the office bearers present shall form the quorum.²⁹

The monthly subscription was reduced to Rs. 2/- per month while the entrance fee of rupees Rs. 10/- remained the same. This decision would be with effect from the 1st April, 1959. Jagirdar requested that since the subscription was reduced, the members shall ask others also to join the Association.³⁰

One discussion concerned regarding the expenses of the play "Vijay" performed by Rajasthan Kala Kendra in aid of the Character Artiste's Relief Fund. After due deliberation, it was decided that CAA will bear the expenses of the show out of the gate collections of the show held on 14th March, 1959.³¹

The Annual General Body Meeting of CAA was held on 31st May, 1959, in which the Secretary presented the report of the activities of the association along with the audited accounts till 31st March, 1959. The number of members of the CAA stood at 125. The amount of Relief Fund stood at appropriately 20,000/-. Out of the Relief Fund, a monthly installment of Rs. 100/- towards the maintenance of Late Ramesh Sinha's children was being regularly paid.³²

Some disputes of the member of CAA with producers were resolved. The formation of a "Goodwill Committee" as the step towards improved relations and understanding was undertaken as a result of meetings with IMPPA and FPGI.³³ The Secretary reported that during the year a rule was passed that no member of the association shall, in future, work as a guest artist. He also asked the members to follow the mandate of Executive Committee and CAA as it was a trade union and its chief objective was to protect the interest of its members, to help them in securing work and in realizing their fair dues. He also thanked the management of Shree Sound Studio for free use of their Projection Theatre for the CAA meetings and also for using it were as a "Hall of memory" where photographs of late artists of CAA will be placed.³⁴ In the meeting, the portraits of some the deceased Artistes' were mounted on the walls of the Projection Theatre of the Shree Sound Studio. Leela Chitnis and Ashok Kumar were felicitated for receiving awards.³⁵

In accordance with the auditor's recommendation the house accepted to take Admission Fee in the General Fund Account.³⁶ The recommendation of the Executive Committee to change the name of CAA to "The Association of Cine Artistes'" was placed by Gajanan Jagirdar in the House but that was later withdrawn by him when house was not in its favour.³⁷

In a General Body condolence Meeting held on 27th January, 1960, CAA passed a resolution expressing grief over the sad demise of veteran Artistes'- Nemo, Prem Adib, Pessi Patel and Rama Shukla and conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.³⁸ A condolence meeting

²⁹ Minutes of the meeting of CAA 26th April, 1959

³⁰ Minutes of the meeting of CAA 26th April, 1959

³¹ Minutes of the meeting of CAA 26th April, 1959

³² The Secretary Report C.A.A. in the Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³³ The Secretary Report C.A.A. in the Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³⁴ The Secretary's Report C.A.A. in the Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³⁵ Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³⁶ Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³⁷ Annual General Body Meeting on 31st May, 1959

³⁸ Minutes of the General Body condolence meeting, 27th January, 1960

was organized on the death of Radha Krishan and a copy of resolution was sent to the bereaved family.³⁹

The members, in general, were divided amongst the members of the Executive Committee (Non-Office bearers) in a zone-wise manner so as to have a closer contact with the Executive Committee. The main objective was to build a continuous link between the members in general and the Executive Committee. The members were to approach the Executive Committee through the Zone-in-charge. It would be easier for them to contact the person living in their zone.⁴⁰

It was also reported that the Executive Committee passed various rules for the guidance of the Relief Committee in distributing the amount to the needy members. The fund was to be known as the “Character Artiste Relief Fund” and a distinct bank account was to be kept for the same. The account should be operated by the joint signatures of Treasurer and either of the two - President and the Secretary. A sub-committee comprising of five members of the Executive Committee (exclusive of the President and the Secretary who were ex-officio members) was to be appointed every year to go into applications asking for relief. The sub-committee shall have powers to disburse money to the needy subject in accordance with the guiding principles laid down by the Executive Committee.⁴¹ The CAA was magnanimous enough to even allow non-members to be given assistance in exceptional cases.

It was reiterated in the annual report that the Association has decided not to pursue the cases of those films which were released prior to the birth of CAA i.e. 1st April 1958. The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Government of Bombay, imposed a ban on David Abraham’s appearance at Rang Bhawan’s stage. The Association after making necessary enquiries passed a resolution that no member of the association will participate in any stage show sponsored by the Government of Bombay, or any other show staged at Rang Bhavan until such time as the ban is removed.⁴²

On 13th April, 1960, C.A.A. presented a skit *Baisakhi Di Raat* – a function arranged by the Punjab Cultural Society. In appreciation of the contribution of the artists a sum of Rs. 1001/- has been donated towards the Character- Artistes’ Association Relief Fund by the Punjab National Society at the request of the participating Artistes’.⁴³

On 16th April 1960, The Character Artistes’ Association, helping another sister Trade Union Body – “The Bombay Union of Journalists” (B.U.J.) – put up a Skit in their Annual Day Programme the proceeds of which are to go towards the Brelvi Memorial Hall. The Skit was directed by Shri Anwar Hussein and produced by Shri Karan Dewan. On behalf of B.U. J., the Chief Guest Shri Morarji Desai, Finance Minister of Government of India presented a trophy to C.A.A.⁴⁴

On 20th April, 1960 due to combined strength of Associations affiliated to F.W.I.C.E. and press the ban imposed on David Abraham’s appearance at rang Bhawan was withdrawn.⁴⁵ The proposal to rename the Association as the ‘Association of Cine- Artistes’ was discussed. Gajanan Jagirdar, President of Federation of Western India Cine Employees (F.W.I.C.E.) explained to the house the need and urgency, in view of the compulsory membership drive started towards the end of the month. He explained that the main object behind the proposal is to make the Association more

³⁹ Minutes of the condolence meeting, 25th March, 1960

⁴⁰ Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-60 (covering activities from 1st June, 1959 to 31st March, 1960)

⁴¹ Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-60 (covering activities from 1st June, 1959 to 31st March, 1960)

⁴² Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-1960

⁴³ Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-1960

⁴⁴ Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-1960

⁴⁵ Annual Report of C.A.A., 1959-1960

broad based so as to make it possible for all Cine Artistes' to join it. Quite a few heroes and heroines have not joined it as they don't want to be labeled as character Artistes'. He appealed to the members not to stand on prestige but change the name to enable all to join it.⁴⁶

The proposal was very strongly opposed by R.P. Kapoor, P. Kumar, N.K. Misra, Jagdish Sethi and Nadira. They spoke against the proposal. According to them, the Association was started by the Character Artistes' to safeguard their interests. It is just two years old. It has yet to stand on its feet. There are quite a few problems of Character Artistes' we need to be solved first. Heroes and Heroines are also doing same characters in a film. They are all Character-Artistes' – the Constitution and definition of a character artiste welcomes them all. Most of them have joined and others shall also follow. When the proposal to rename the Association was put to vote, it was dropped by majority.⁴⁷

The Secretary proposed an amendment to clause 8/b of the Constitution. It was unanimously decided that "A member failing to pay his monthly subscription for twelve months with the permission of the Executive Committee or three months without the permission of the said Committee, shall cease to be a member of the Association. But he shall be entitled to rejoin the Association on paying his arrears and a fresh entrance fee." It was decided to enforce the decision from 1st April, 1960.⁴⁸

The President then referred to the incident regarding the removal of photographs of departed Artistes' from the Projection Theatre of Shree Sound Studios by the management and Sajjan's proposed hunger strike on that issue.⁴⁹ Jagdish Sethi suggested that with the cooperation of Film Function Committee, a series of shows be organized to collect funds to build a place of their own. In that building, one could also build a Hall of Memory.⁵⁰

Om Prakash agreed to donate Rs. 5000/- in installments of Rs. 100/- for 50 months and appealed others to donate the same way.⁵¹ David Abraham then suggested that there are quite a few significant and exigent problems- standard contract, fixation of working hours (eight hour shift) etc. which have yet to be settled with producers. They should have precedence over all the other things such as construction of a Hall of Memory etc. He suggested that the matter can be left to Executive Committee to deliberate on it and take suitable steps to collect money for the said purpose whenever it considers suitable. His proposal was accepted unanimously and the Secretary was asked to return Rs. 101/- contributed by Sajjan for this reason.⁵²

The 13 members elected to the Executive Committee were Anwar Hussein, Jagdish Sethi, Jeevan, Karan Dewan, Leela Chitnis, Manmohan Krishna, Surendranath, David Abraham, G. Jagirdar, Krishna Kumari, Madan Puri, and Mubarak Merchant.

Gajanan Jagirdar, with the consent of the Chair, requested the members present to cooperate with the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (F.W.I.C.E.) in making the 'Compulsory Membership Drive Week' a success. He said that as a Trade Union body it was required to have hundred percent representations of its members. He requested everyone who was present in the

⁴⁶ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁴⁷ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁴⁸ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁴⁹ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁵⁰ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁵¹ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁵² Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

meeting to see to it that those who have not joined the Association must do so at the earliest.⁵³

Officials of CINTAA

Sushant Singh, famous actor and General Secretary of CINTAA stated that the Artistes' of 1940s and 1950s were aware of the trade union movements across the world. The artistes' at that time, especially the prominent character artistes' realized that they needed unity to come together to tackle any inequality they were facing. He pointed out that in initial days it was just an informal association, then in 1959 registered as a Trade Union.⁵⁴ In the present times, CINTAA has tried to widen its activities. Ravi Jhankal, who has also been associated with CINTAA pointed out that it is trying to archive the material of activities of the association. He, in a way, highlighted the educational concerns and possibilities of providing future research opportunities in understanding of CINTAA.⁵⁵ Abhay Bhargava, an official of CINTAA, argued that in late 1950s, problems on film sets required an artists' association to help each other. Thereafter, the number of members increased and when Television was added the numbers swelled further. In recent times, he talked about an Outreach programme to check the facilities created in the film studios, film city and other shooting areas for cleanliness and other work related issues.⁵⁶

To conclude, one can argue that the origins of the Character Artistes' Association was a landmark in the journey of Indian cinema as their members later broadened their horizon in incorporating other cine artistes. In 1960, the Character Artistes' Association was renamed as Cine Artistes' Association. In 1997, TV was added to it and it was rechristened as Cine and TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) which is registered under the Indian Trade Union Act. Keeping in mind, the rise of Over The Top (OTT) platforms and other channels of media, there is further scope of expansion of such organizations which are not only fighting to safeguard the rights of their members but also dedicated to the welfare of their fellow members.

⁵³ Annual General Body Meeting of C.A.A. held on 10th May, 1960

⁵⁴ Author's Interview of Sushant Singh, film actor and General Secretary of CINTAA in 2019

⁵⁵ Author's Interview of Ravi Jhankal, film actor and Executive Committee Member of CINTAA in 2019

⁵⁶ Author's Interview of Abhay Bhargava, film actor and an official of CINTAA in 2019