**CAMPAIGN COMMUNIQUÉ**

**FOR**

**MATTHEW JACKSON**

**FRESH MEAT**... no... I’m not moonlighting as a butcher in my all too rare spare time.... I am Matthew Kelly Jackson and I am running for the National Executive Board for the Central Region in the Assistant Category of the International Cinematographers Guild, Local 600. I am also running as an IATSE Delegate...

Please allow me to explain. I have been in the film industry for the past fourteen years... that’s fourteen years in the business itself... the last ten have seen me as a proud union member. I have been blessed with amassing consistent, critically vital experience on set as both a working member and an interested, involved, student of film, and have paid attention to inter-professional relationships. I’ve observed the process we go through to advance the causes of the union conscience and I believe I am well suited to support the membership with local and national issues.

I am fortunate on many levels... I have almost never had a break in service time and I have had the opportunity to work with some of the best and brightest in most facets of our industry. I have worked under tier zero contracts as well as many Hollywood basic contracts. I have dedicated the last fourteen years of my life to my craft and as I work to train myself to be the best assistant cameraman I can be, I use what I’ve learned... I’ve taken the insights from observations and witnessed results from implementation, and it is my intention to serve on the executive board for the Central Region, sharing my experience, weighing options, and being the eyes, ears, and voice of my fellow union members. Since I began my career, I have been committed to learning as much as I can from my colleagues... I believe in having a strong, informed foundation, and whether you interpret that to represent my skill sets as a cameraman or as a concerned and proactive advocate for our union, you’d be right on either count.

I believe it’s time for me to give back to those who have invested time, patience, and faith to train me. I also believe that I serve a unique purpose... as an advocate young enough and curious enough to maintain optimism... to identify real, critical, contemporary issues that need to be addressed, and as someone with enough experience to know that we must maintain open minds... we **ALL** have so much to learn. ... and while I have referred to myself frequently in the first person, let me clarify... my intention is to represent **OUR** community... to bring a voice to the issues that face our membership... to the debates and decisions that will impact our livelihoods. I read a quote the other day from former United States Navy Captain, Astronaut Mark Kelly who is currently running for the US Senate. “I’ve flown in combat thirty nine times and into space four times. **NOT ONCE** did I fly alone. This is our **SHARED MISSION**.” It’s the same with us.

Before getting involved in the film business I spent time in college traveling the country, working to organize groups of people around the city of Atlanta, as well as other cities, in order to advocate against the potentially damaging politics that, at the time, I felt were jeopardizing the well being of communities and citizens of this country. That set the tone for my commitment to group advocacy.

As my career in film took off, I maintained that same passion and focus...that the conditions of this country’s workers needed to improve. With thirteen locals representing the negotiating efforts with the AMPTP, we **MUST** work together for any gains to be made. I intend to work with the membership, the other locals, and the I.A. (The International - IATSE) to ensure we make responsible, broadly based, empowering decisions... the **RIGHT** decisions, and the **REALISTIC** decisions, that will lead us to success in future contract negotiations.

During the last contract negotiation we gained more then we had ever gained in the last twenty years, however, in my heart, I thought that what we gained wasn’t enough. There is room for greater discovery, more efficient negotiation, and even more improved conditions for all of us. We need to focus on the core issues, work harder, and bring our locals closer together so that producers do not succeed in dividing us again. Only with unity and strength in numbers will we be able to gain **MORE** for our members, as well as for the members of the other locals. Our membership is growing at a much faster pace than ever before. We must continue inspiring, informing, and training our constituents, we must educate and train at **EVERY** level... national, regional, and local levels. It’s urgent that we continue to work with manufacturers as well as the other locals in mentoring our members, as well as encouraging the other locals to do the same. I may have not been around for the merger of the three locals in 1996, but what I am is a product of the results of the aftermath. I am a product of both the film and digital aspects of our business.... a **WORKING** member. I am involved in, and aware of, both perspectives. I will do everything in my power to assist in bringing the locals together to advocate for better contracts for **ALL** within the AMPTP.  I am not aligned with any faction, but I am aligned with one idea, and that is to unite people to establish and protect the right to better working conditions.  Having been invited to NEB meetings in the past, but having never campaigned or been elected, I may be perceived as an unknown entity, however, many of our members around the country know me, and those that do, know I speak my mind... something that has, more often than not, been a source of strength.  In order to take a stand and have our voices be heard, it will take members from all three regions willing to commit to working together to get things done for the better.

As an example of my commitment to our constituents, a few years ago I started the expendables drive in Atlanta which gave many new members the necessary tools they needed to jump start their careers.  This is something of a passion project of mine, one that I want to implement on a national level... Members donating to members. We raised thousands of dollars worth of expendables, tools, and hand me downs that many of our members continue to use today.  We “repurposed with a purpose” and the process yielded wins for all involved.

Diversity is something we as a local, and the film industry as a whole, is dedicated to implement. The days of misplaced nepotism and unwarranted exclusivity are over. Diversity needs to be practiced and expanded within our local as well as within the other locals with whom we work..

We also need to expand the shop steward role within local 600 as well improving he working relationship and interaction with the shop steward of the studio mechanics. It’s important to train and coach our members to effectively discuss issues on set with producers as well as to train our own members to do the same with **OUR** contracts.

Our members deserve representatives that believe in ownership of responsibility, accountability for their advocacy, an openness to serve, and a willingness to learn while making a difference. I am committed to bringing all of those qualities to the table in order to adequately and proactively represent **YOU**. Thank you!!