

EQUITY EAST MIDLANDS

Curve Edition 03

Dear EquityUK East Midlands Members,

TLDR Notice!

Next meeting Wednesday 6th September at Curve Theatre, September's guest speaker 'in the room' is Rob Wilkinson from RedTalent Management "Getting your first Agent"



RED *talent*
management

Register to attend 'in the room' or 'via Zoom' through Eventbrite

<https://equityeastmids-meetings-leicester-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

Greetings, Welcome to the third edition of the branch's news and notices, where we bring you the latest updates, reports, important notices, and opportunities for involvement in your branch.

News - Here's what you need to know:

Our Guest Speaker for September is Coventry based Red Talent Management's Rob Wilkinson. Established in 2012 by Robert Wilkinson, RED Talent Management has become the Midlands' premier actors and creatives agency, offering a personal and professional service, providing actors and creative talent for television, theatre, film, radio, and the corporate world. The agency has teams in the Midlands, London and Manchester.

Robert is an actor, writer and producer, with over 30 years' experience in the business. He was a director of the award winning Tic Toc Theatre Company from the early 80s until 1991, producing and performing in all of their plays, notably Hooligans which won a Fringe First Award. He is also chair of Live and Local, an Arts Council funded organisation promoting rural touring across eight midlands counties.

Mapping the industry in the East Midlands

Finding fellow members in relevant sectors is vital to growing the branch. Establishing a networked list of employers in the region is essential too.

Registering to attend meetings helps us begin to tackle the mapping. When signing up you are asked a couple questions. We ask for Membership No# and Postcode . This helps us understand how many attending are members and roughly where you are in the region. For the industry mapping we are asking about the sectors you work in. With this information we can better understand the membership's professional focus.

Current selection options are:

1. Variety / Cabaret / Storytelling / Improv / Comedy
2. Theatre
3. Screen / Film / TV
4. Audio / Radio / Games including motion capture

Register to attend 'in the room' or 'via Zoom' through Eventbrite

<https://equityeastmids-meetings-leicester-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

If you haven't read the first 2 news & Notice edition here they are >> [Curve Edition 01](#), and [Curve Edition 02](#) we look forward to continuing to engage and support all members across the region.

Branch Committee Nominations:

Nominations close on Monday 4th at Midday. The committee term is from Nov 2024 - Oct 2025. This is your chance to shape the future of our branch and advocate for the interests of members in the East Midlands.

Please email our organiser Ian Bayes on this email ibayes@equity.org.uk Any questions do not hesitate in contacting our Secretary Caron-Jane Lyon cj.lyon@pcmcreative.co.uk or via mobile/whatsapp 07889205914

Branch Committee Nomination Form - https://bit.ly/equity_committee_elections2023_nomination_form

- Nominations close at 12 noon Monday 4 September 2023
- Voting opens Friday 8 September 2023
- Ballot closes at 12 noon Friday 29 September 2023
- 1 October Election results announced.
- Branch AGMs held Wednesday 8th November

FOCUS ON... Conversations - Facebook Groups - Midlands Actors & Extras - [link referencing "Equity"](#)

One of the ways the branch is looking to raise its profile is to engage relevant regional forums. Facebook is a great source. This first 'Focus on' comes from an exchange with Midlands Actors & Extras group.

The post - "As a rep (Caron - Jane Lyon) from Equity East Midlands Branch can I ask... where should Equity be focusing attention for you in the region? There has never been a better time to make your thoughts known. Please keep them clean!! Tracey Briggs from [Equity - Birmingham and West Midlands Branch](#) would like to hear responses to the same question."

Thanks go to ChatGPT for assisting in summarising the comments. Here are the highlighted points:

1. **Lack of Workshops and Local Casting**: The initial comment points out the lack of casting and technique-based workshops in Birmingham, despite the city having numerous theatres. It also mentions the absence of a policy for casting locally.
2. **Formation of Equity Branches**: Responders suggest that professionals need to collectively demand and organise workshops and meetings using the resources provided by the new Equity branch structure.
3. **Accessibility for Disabled Actors**: A comment raises concerns about the accessibility of location filming for disabled actors and calls for improvements in this area.
4. **Tackling Exploitative Pay and Conditions**: The importance of addressing exploitative pay and conditions in the industry is highlighted, along with the need for clearer guidance for actors regarding rates and fees.
5. **Improving Communication**: Several comments emphasise the need for better communication between Equity and its members. Suggestions include creating an Equity forum, maintaining an all-members Facebook group, and improving email communication.
6. **Podcast/Webcast**: There is interest in creating a podcast or webcast to discuss these issues and suggestions further.
7. **Branch Newsletters and Web Space**: The discussion also touches on the importance of branch newsletters and the use of web space for branch updates and information.
8. **Addressing Racial Abuse**: A member shares a negative experience with Equity regarding racial abuse on a film set, highlighting the need for Equity to address such issues more effectively.
9. **Diverse Representation**: The importance of having a diverse representation within Equity and its committees is stressed to ensure a broader range of perspectives and lived experiences are considered.

In summary, the exchange highlights concerns about the state of the industry in The Midlands, and members express a desire to take action through the Equity branch structure to address these issues and improve conditions for performers in the region. Additionally, there is a call for better communication and representation within the organisation.

Is there an active Facebook group we should know about? Would you like us to know about the group you think does great work or has points of view the branch can get behind?

Membership Growth and Social Media:

Stay connected with us, invite your industry friends and colleagues:

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EquityEastMids>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/equityeastmidlands>

Website - <https://www.pcmcreative.com/equity-east-midlands-branch.html>

Take part in the branch Loomio polls to vote for the branch to come to your corner of the East Midlands. There is also a mapping of the sector's poll. <https://bit.ly/equityemb-loomio-invite>

Upcoming Events:

Register to attend any of the Leicester meetings via Eventbrite

<https://equityeastmids-meetings-leicester-2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please register to be in the room or attend via zoom. It's important for us to select the correct sized meeting space.

- Next Branch Meetings in Leicester:

- **Meeting 1: Wed 6th Sept**, 7.30 - 9.30, Curve Theatre Board Room
- **Meeting 2: Wed 11th Oct**, 7.30 - 9.30, Curve Theatre in Studio 4 (room capacity 60)
- **Meeting 3: AGM Wed 8th Nov**, **4.00 - 6.00**, **Curve Theatre on the Mezzanine** (capacity TBC)
- **Meeting 4: Wed 13th Dec**, 7.30 - 9.30, Curve Theatre in Studio 2 (room capacity 80)

Getting to the Meeting

<https://www.curveonline.co.uk/plan-your-visit/getting-here/>

Here are some links to help you find your way.

<https://www.curveonline.co.uk/plan-your-visit/getting-here/> << venue's website

<https://www.curveonline.co.uk/access> << accessibility info

<https://bit.ly/curve-parking-3hrs> << pinpoint a place to park

<https://bit.ly/journey-planner-le11sb> << Door to door journey planning

Your Feedback Matters:

If there is one thing you'd like the branch committee to know about you or one thing you'd like the branch to consider campaigning for, what is it?

In solidarity,

Caron-Jane Lyon - Interim Branch Secretary EquityUK East Midlands Branch

Stay connected with us:

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EquityEastMids>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/equityeastmidlands>

Website - <https://www.pcmcreative.com/equity-east-midlands-branch.html>