

First Meeting of... The East Midlands Branch

Eventbrite ticket Short link - <https://bit.ly/equityemb-01>
(x2 option to attend. Venue Ticket or Zoom Ticket)



We hope you received the previous invitation and signup link. If you haven't heard, Equity is opening a new branch for members in the East Midlands.

Attending any of the first 3 meetings will make you a founding member of the Branch. Equity is buying everyone their first drink at each meeting.

This first meeting is for us to meet Equity and each other. Equity members living and working locally, Tim Ralphs and Ben Macpherson have stepped up to run a short workshop to extend a conversation in informal breakout groups to gather questions and suggestions to get the branch started in the best possible way. Pen's and post it Notes! Caron Lyon will be facilitating for those joining via Zoom.

[Tim Ralphs](#) (he/him) is a storyteller and host of Beeston Tales.

[Ben Macpherson](#) (he/him) is a writer, performer, poet and director of Notts improv company - MissImp

[Caron-Jane Lyon](#) (they/her) is theatre stage manager and immersive XR production manager

So... 1st Meeting: Wed 1st February

Where: Nonsuch Theatre - 92 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EH

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Getting to Nonsuch Studios

Here are some links to help you find your way.

<https://www.nonsuchstudios.co.uk/> << venue's website

<https://www.nonsuchstudios.co.uk/visit> << accessibility info (on site parking for blue badge holders)

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

<https://bit.ly/journey-planner-ng1-1eh> << Door to door journey planning

Direct Zoom sign up (Sign up on Eventbrite for Zoom and you will get this link too)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tfuCrrT4sGdxtL4MyAPcnL1r4cbh7XKvt>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If the meeting has started you will join the meeting in progress.

If you have any questions about travel, remote access or venue accessibility contact,

Caron-Jane Lyon (regional member coordinating this open series of branch meetings)

Email - cj.lyon@pcmcreative.co.uk

Mobile / WhatsApp - 07889205914

Any questions about Equity or Industrial matters contact Ian Bayes - Midlands Official

Email - ibayes@equity.org.uk

Mobile - 07912 341534

The East Midlands is quite large. What if I don't live near Nottingham?

Members have made contact about not being able to get conveniently to Nottingham for these first meetings. Requests to host the venue based meeting in Leicester, Derby and Lincoln have been submitted. In the first instance either Zoom from home or gather with colleagues and fellow members in a venue where you can come together around a laptop or screen the meeting in a meeting room together. There will be support to facilitate these satellite meetups going forward and potentially parachute the committee, councillor and our organiser Ian to your doorstep.

Direct Zoom sign up (Sign up on Eventbrite for Zoom and you will get this link too)

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A meeting Agenda from Ian Bayes.

Agenda

7.00 pm Arrive DOORS OPEN - Meet Equity, Meet your fellow members.

7.20 pm Welcome & Apologies

7.40 pm Open Space "What can this branch do for me? What can I do for my branch?"

8.00 pm BREAK

8.15 pm Report Back, What happens next? What to think about for meeting TWO.

8.55pm Conference Motion

9.00 pm Bar & Banter

9.30 pm Good Night. See you in March.

In the first announcement there was information about what a branch is, its role, how it runs as well as an introduction to Ian our region's official and Tonia our regions elected councillor.

[You can read it here >> PDF LINK](#)

Please come to as many of the first meetings as you can.

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Also...

Wheels are in motion.

The union recently negotiated a successful increase to the Independent Theatre Council contract and agreement. Over 10% increase to the minimum weekly salary and over 20% increase to minimum daily fees for performers and stage managers. Over 10% increase to fees for choreographers, designers and

directors. A 20% uplift on meal, daily accommodation, and commuting allowances. A significant uplift to touring and relocation allowances which are now combined into one living away allowance of £447.68 per week in London, and £410 per week outside of London.

At the first meeting we will find out about the union's yearly conference and what is involved being on the branch committee. To get us started because we haven't yet started... a meeting deadline where motions for presentation to the branch for consideration for the annual conference had to be submitted came and went. In order for us to participate in this year's conference I was asked to propose a motion that could be presented to you all at the first meeting. I wanted it to be relevant yet undemanding. I hope this meets with approval in the current climate and starts a conversation about presence 'in person' and the challenges of time specific access challenges.

Title: Virtual Participation in Protests and Marches

This conference calls on Council to investigate and implement a system for members who are not based in London or in locations where marches and protests take place to enable them to virtually participate in such events. This would involve creating a list of members who wish to actively show their support for the causes being protested and the actions being taken, and for this list to be carried on the march.

This motion is important because it allows members who are not able to physically attend protests and marches to still show their support and solidarity with their fellow members and the causes being protested. It also allows members to put their name to the actions being taken, which can be an important form of activism.

This motion requires Council to investigate and implement a system for virtual participation. This could include creating a digital list of members who wish to participate, and ensuring that this list is made available to the relevant branches and organisers of the marches and protests. Council should also consider how to promote this system to members and ensure that it is easy to use and accessible.

Please join the East Midlands Branch. It is important members know they are supported in this union facing activity on your behalf. If you have any feedback contact

If you have any questions about travel, remote access, venue accessibility or feedback contact

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Resources

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

PDF Introduction - <https://bit.ly/equityemb-intro-01>

Eventbrite link - <https://bit.ly/equityemb-01>

Direct Zoom registration -

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20 min Podcast recorded 17th Jan - Very Equity East Midlands focused. I hope it gives a little insight into the formation and the new horizon the branch is presenting us. <https://bit.ly/wppbp25-inclusion>



This graphic can be used to blog, and share on social media.