

EQUITY

EAST MIDLANDS

Curve Edition 04

Dear EquityUK East Midlands Members,

TLDR Notice!

- Oct 11th, the guest speaker at the next branch meeting is Liam Budd from Equity's Screen & Media Department "Artificial Intelligence in our industry: what is happening and how to protect yourself."
- DRAFT Minutes from the last meeting - <https://bit.ly/emb-minutes-230906-curve01>
- YouTube link for Septembers Guest Speaker - <https://bit.ly/Curve01-speaker-RobWilkinson>

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

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

Greetings, Welcome to the fourth 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:

Next meeting is scheduled for Wed 11th October, 7:30-9.30pm at Curve Theatre. Zoom is also available. Liam Budd from Equity's Screen & Media Department will talk about "Artificial Intelligence in our industry: what is happening and how to protect yourself."

Our AGM is on Wed 08 November at Curve from 4.00-6.00pm (I suspect the business bit to be over by 5pm) on the mezzanine at Curve. Following the AGM there is an opportunity to attend the evening performances that night at a discounted price. The cafe will be open for drinks and food. There are 2 shows 2.22 - A Ghost Story at 7.30 and Paul Zerdin - Puppet Man at 7.45.

If you would like the code to get a super discounted ticket price for either show email the secretary - Caron Lyon on equityeastmidlands@gmail.com



Equity Campaigns for Fair Pay on Student Films

Long-time Equity activist Claude Starling recently shared an update on Equity's efforts to ensure actors are paid fairly on student films. This is part of an ongoing nationwide campaign by Equity's Screen & New Media Committee (SNMC).

In the East Midlands, the University of Derby is one of the film schools that appears to mandate payment of at least minimum wage to actors. However, we know many student filmmakers still try to avoid paying actors.

Claude has championed the issue of fair pay on student films for over 20 years, meeting with the Low Pay Commission and representing Equity on matters like the Taylor Review into the gig economy. Equity has passed several motions over the years calling for action on the student film pay issue.

Specifically in the East Midlands region, universities that have not yet committed to fair pay include the University of Nottingham, Loughborough University, De Montfort University, and the University of Lincoln. We aim to focus advocacy efforts on these institutions.

The East Midlands branch is currently mapping our local landscape to better understand where we stand and how Equity can support members here. We plan to focus on universities in our region who have not yet committed to paying actors a fair wage. Claude has generously offered to speak with our branch virtually to share more details about this important Equity campaign.

If you have experiences with student films in the East Midlands, either positive or negative, please contact us. Together we can continue pushing for fair treatment and pay for all members.

Equity Resource Hub - A guideline for student film engagements

<https://www.equity.org.uk/advice-and-support/know-your-rights/student-film-engagement>

Mapping the industry in the East Midlands

Join Our Next Branch Meeting and Help Map the East Midlands!

The Equity East Midlands branch is kicking off an exciting new project to map the performance industry landscape across our region. We aim to spotlight the range of work members are engaged in, as well as identify gaps where we can better support and advocate for artists.

Our branch meetings will be the first step in this mapping initiative. When signing up via Eventbrite, you'll be asked to select the sector(s) you currently work in:

- Variety / Cabaret / Storytelling / Improv / Comedy
- Theatre
- Screen / Film / TV
- Audio / Radio / Games including motion capture

This initial data will provide key insights into where our membership stands today in the region. Your participation will be invaluable as we embark on fully mapping the East Midlands in order to strengthen our community.

In addition to contributing to the mapping project, the branch meeting will cover other essential branch business and offer plenty of opportunities for member engagement. We hope to see you there!

[Sign up to attend 'in the room' or 'via Zoom' through Eventbrite using this link](#) to register your interest in attending and have your sector experience counted in our mapping initiative. Together, we can build a clearer picture of the East Midlands entertainment world and expand support for regional artists.

From the Archive



If you haven't read previous News & Notice editions here they are >> [Curve Edition 01](#), [Curve Edition 02](#), [Curve Edition 03](#), also the [DRAFT Minutes from Meeting 6 which took place Sept 13th](#).

Our September Speaker was Actor, Agent and Equity member Rob Wilkinson. [Here is the recording](#). It is an audio podcast

We look forward to continuing to engage and support all members across the region.

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 2: Wed 11th Oct**, 7.30 - 9.30, Curve Theatre Board Room
- **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

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>

Our October speaker is our first “Branch Talks with...Industrial Officials” guest. Liam is joining us on Zoom. The use of Artificial Intelligence across the audio and entertainment industry is on the rise.

EQUITY Branch Talks
with... Industrial Officials

East Midlands

Artificial Intelligence in our industry:
**what is happening
and how to protect yourself.**

11th October 2023 - Curve Theatre, Leicester

Liam Budd
Audio and New Media

Liam Budd is an Industrial Official in Equity's Recorded Media Department, where he supports and organises performing artists working across a broad range of disciplines. He is also the Industrial Official for Audio and New Media, where he supports Equity's audio artists working across Audiobooks, Commercials, Video Games, ADR, Radio Drama, or Podcasts. Liam is the lead on policy, political, parliamentary, lobbying, and campaigning work of the union, across parliament, devolved administrations, and within the broader union.

Liam is a strong advocate for the protection of performers from unregulated technology. In June 2023, he called on the government to “step in with robust measures to properly regulate the use of AI in the

entertainment industry". He has also been involved in the creation of an AI toolkit by Equity, which aims to protect performers from unregulated technology.

Liam has been involved in various campaigns and consultations related to the entertainment industry. For example, he was involved in Equity's submission and supporting evidence to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport open consultation on a potential new public service media organisation to replace Channel.

In a recent interview, Liam highlighted the importance of diversity in the entertainment industry, particularly in the context of AI. He noted that there is perhaps less scrutiny on how diverse the profession is because performers cannot be seen.

Overall, Liam Budd plays an important role in Equity's Screen & Media Department, where he works to protect performers and promote diversity in the entertainment industry.

RESOURCES

["Guidance on Artificial Intelligence work for artists"](#) is one of the resources produced by the department. Equity has also compiled an [AI Toolkit](#) to help members begin to give context to this new technology and help you understand how to recognise and manage it as it impacts and integrates into our working lives. It will affect everyone differently.

[Visit Equity's website](#) to change your membership details.