

EQUITY

EAST MIDLANDS

Curve Edition 06

Dear EquityUK East Midlands Members,

TLDR Notice!

- At Nov 8th AGM branch meeting our guest speaker was Chris Stafford, Curve Theatre's CEO (Chief Executive Officer) [available as an audio podcast on YouTube](#)
- DRAFT Minutes from the Nov 8th meeting - <https://bit.ly/3SOuasi>
- Next meeting, the final meeting of 2023 Wednesday 13th December 6.30 - 7.30pm at Curve Theatre. Midlands End of Year Social welcoming Birmingham & West Midlands. There will be a guest speaker (think after-dinner rather than keynote) and fuddle food provided. Each member will get a drinks token for a drink of their choice from the bar.

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

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

Greetings, Welcome to the sixth 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 13th December, 6:30-7.30pm at Curve Theatre. Zoom is also available. Our speaker will be a fellow member from the wider midlands region. The speakers at the Curve meetings have been curated to shape the branch. The "Branch Talks with..." series has established 4 focus topics: Industry Experts, Industry Officials, Industry Executives and Industry Peers.

Our guest to be announced early in December for the Seasonal Social branch meeting will be an industry peer, a fellow creative or performer working in the industry and sharing their perspectives, insight, trials and tribulations.

Our first meeting of 2024 will be exclusively on Zoom put Wednesday 10th January from 7.30 - 9.00pm in your diaries. The Union's Winter edition magazine should be arriving on your door mats any day so those using the Equity Diary make the 2nd Wednesday of each month a milestone marker in your schedules. Room or Zoom it's a time to check in on yourself and align your monthly objectives and personal goals.

Email the secretary on equityeastmidlands@gmail.com
or book a short video call <https://calendly.com/pcmcreative/30min-video>

- Caron Lyon

FOCUS ON... Conversations. From the Meeting

The November meeting was our AGM. The official business was very brief. It was quorate. The branch's committee has transitioned from an interim to a formal committee. Five members stood unopposed in the recent election held in accordance with the union's rules with officer roles and responsibilities to be determined.

The 2023-2025 Committee: Kim Gillespie, Caron-Jane Lyon, Gillian Geddes, Elizabeth Clough, Carol Leeming. Co-opted and awaiting Equity Council approval Michelle-Louise Wright.

From the discussion arising from our speakers insights, there is a full overview and extended notes on the highlights of his talk in the minute (DRAFT Minutes from the Nov 8th meeting - <https://bit.ly/3SOuasi>) Expressions of interest on the following points are encouraged across all industry sectors and can be facilitated on an individual member level while the branch is growing.

These emerged from Chris Stafford's points about Curve's community engagement, talent development, accessibility for local creatives, and evolving relationship with Equity.

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or book a short video call <https://calendly.com/pcmcreative/30min-video>

- "Curve Connect" was noted as a free membership scheme for local artists to access opportunities, rehearsal space and open meetings with Curve's leadership. <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/artists/get-involved-call-out-for-artists-curve-connect/>
 - First Fridays offer half-hour meeting slots with Curve creatives for any local artist to share ideas or work. <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/whats-on/workshops/first-friday/>
 - Upcoming open auditions days planned in coordination with Derby and Nottingham were mentioned as ways to better connect with local talent.
 - Self-taping workshops for members were also suggested. Caron has delivered a Self-Tape workshop for BECS (British Equity Collecting Society) and has agreed to run the workshop for East Midlands Members.
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Mapping the industry in the East Midlands

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

Ongoing efforts to map the entertainment industry, community, employment opportunities, fellow professional creatives and facilities in the region will be presented to the branch early next year.. This work was seen as a way to better serve local members.

Our branch meetings are the first step in this mapping initiative. This is how you can make a difference. 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 members professional interests lie today in the region. Your participation will be invaluable as we embark on industry mapping the East Midlands in order to strengthen our community.

[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

Speakers uploaded as Audio Podcasts

Branch Talks with...

Industry Experts	Industrial Officials	Regional Executives
		
<p>Listen to "Getting your first agent"</p> <p>- Rob Wilkinson</p>	<p>Listen to "AI in our industry: What is Happening and how to protect yourself."</p> <p>- Liam Budd</p>	<p>Listen to "Curve's approach to casting, community engagement, and relationship with Equity"</p> <p>- Chris Stafford</p>

If you want to catch up on previous News & Notice (N&N) editions here they are >> N&N [Curve Edition 01](#), N&N [Curve Edition 02](#), N&N [Curve Edition 03](#), [Minutes from Meeting 6](#), N&N [Curve Edition 04](#), [Minutes from Meeting 7](#), N&N [Curve Edition 05](#),

Guest Speaker Report - Chris Stafford, CEO of Curve Theatre - [available as an audio podcast on YouTube](#)

Curve Theatre's CEO Chris Stafford was invited to address the branch meeting as a guest speaker. The intended scope was to provide an overview of Curve's approach to casting, community engagement, and relationship with Equity.

In the meeting, Chris emphasised his desire for an informal, conversational format rather than a presentation, to allow for more insightful feedback. While unable to cover all intended topics in depth due to time constraints, he provided a broad outline of Curve's commitment to nurturing local talent, reflecting diversity on stage, and serving the Leicester community through arts initiatives targeting deprived areas.

Chris highlighted Curve's positive relationship with Equity, citing his involvement in recent UK Theatre union negotiations. He discussed efforts to improve creative staff's work-life balance by trialling 5-day rehearsal weeks. The conversation touched on the challenges of declining drama audiences post-Covid, balancing prudent finances with producing new works, and dealing with disruptive audience behaviour.

Branch members Gillian Geddes and Siobhan Cannon-Brownlee asked questions about accessibility for those reliant on public transport and gender diversity in creative leadership roles respectively. Chris acknowledged the transport issues and explained Curve's approach to assembling creative teams based on individual suitability, while aiming for gender balance across productions.

The guest speaker segment provided an open forum for the branch to engage with a leading regional theatre's CEO, gaining insight into Curve's inner workings and strategic outlook. Chris Stafford's presence facilitated a productive discussion at the East Midlands branch's November meeting, held in Curve Theatre's boardroom.

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>

Dates for the diary.

2nd Wednesday Branch Meetings: Jan 10th (all Zoom), Feb 14th, Mar 13, Apr 10th
Region Wide Meeting in Birmingham: Friday 22nd March (TBC)

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>

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