

Curve ed.08 - News & Notices

**TDLR!** Next meeting, 10th Jan, is on Zoom for everyone. 7.30 start. Guest Speaker Brendan Bradley, LA based Actor, Film Maker, Storyteller and immersive online live performance Theatre Maker.

Register to attend <a href="https://bit.ly/equityeastmids-zoom">https://bit.ly/equityeastmids-zoom</a>

To get the year started for the branch collective consciousness we'll be going through this document. Midlands Region 2024 - Meeting Dates and Union Business Deadlines (live document) <a href="https://bit.ly/EquityEastMids-2024-order-of-business">https://bit.ly/EquityEastMids-2024-order-of-business</a>.

Key deadline of consequence is 12 noon on Friday 1 March; this is the closing date for motions from branches and committees to reach head office.

Minutes & Notes from December's Seasonal Social >> Link to PDF on Google Drive

December Seasonal Social Guest Speaker video >> <a href="https://youtu.be/c9ccwYwJAEo">https://youtu.be/c9ccwYwJAEo</a>

Eventbrite Ticket Sign Up >> <a href="https://equity-eastmidlands-meetings-2024.eventbrite.co.uk">https://equity-eastmidlands-meetings-2024.eventbrite.co.uk</a> Zoom Registration >> <a href="https://bit.ly/equityeastmids-zoom">https://bit.ly/equityeastmids-zoom</a>

## **Highlights from December's East & West Midlands Meeting**

The East and West Midlands Equity branches held a joint December Room & Zoom meeting at Curther Theatre featuring disability activist and drag performer Emma "Crip Ladywood" Round as a guest speaker. Emma spoke about her background and advocacy work, then detailed her efforts to increase opportunities for marginalised artists in the drag community. Branch business items included upcoming motions, meetings, and new Equity Midlands resources.

Review the prepared minuted notes of December's Meeting. <u>Link to PDF on Google Drive</u> Any questions please email Caron (Contact Secretary) - equityeastmidlands@gmail.com



Equity's East and West Midlands branches held their festive December Room with Zoom meeting and the turnout was excellent. 3 members joined the Zoom with several members travelling from the West Midlands. Our accessibility activist and drag performer Emma Round aka "Crip Ladywood" guest speaker opted for Zoom. So there are video visuals this month. Do you prefer having visuals or have the audio recordings been OK? In case you were wondering, The room we host meetings in at Curve doesn't facilitate videography, just Zoom and I've been trying to minimise the amount of tech I take with me and manage during the meetings. Their talk educated and inspired members while highlighting key issues our industry is facing.

Emma spoke passionately about her personal journey, the lack of opportunities for marginalised artists, and the support Equity can offer variety entertainers. The meeting covered Equity's efforts around accessibility and diversity. Plans for new Midlands resources like the Birmingham office and organiser roles signal exciting growth enabling stronger representation of our region's workers.

Watch Emma's talk >> https://youtu.be/c9ccwYwJAEo

Key takeaways included how we consider getting active with Equity's Drag Networks in the region, submitting motions to the March regional meeting taking place in March at Birmingham Rep.

Our East & West Midlands community is made stronger through solidarity. By supporting one another, campaigning for equity, and advocating for the most vulnerable performers among us, we lift up all in our creative fields. Let's keep this momentum going into 2024!

The branch is taking shape at a foundation administrative level. Next step is to consider collective action and common goals. Workshops for SelfTaping, VoiceOver and AI for Business will be running in early Spring. These will be free to Equity Members but a fee will be charged to non members.

If any of these are of interest please share your expression of interest with Caron. If there is a workshop you would like to run or have a skill set you'd like to develop let them know.

**GUEST SPEAKER with Q&A: Brendan Bradley** is an accomplished actor and storyteller who has performed in over 100 TV shows, movies, video games, and immersive experiences. He's shared the screen with Hollywood stars, while also creating his own original content.

Currently based in LA, Brendan has been on the frontlines of the recent SAG-AFTRA strike serving as a strike captain making daily videos explaining the common sense demands that actors and writers are fighting for.

Brendan is a pioneer in live virtual reality performance, having acted on 3 continents in real-time VR. He's supported 50 XR prototypes at the Innovation Lab he founded at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts

Join Brendan as he shares insights from his wide-ranging acting career on stage, screen, and the metaverse. He'll pull back the curtain on the actor's life in 2024.



