

New for 2023 - The East Midlands Branch

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



Equity is opening a branch for members living, working and visiting the East Midlands. It will be the place looking out for your professional interests and a collective presence for action to campaign and champion cause that matter as they arise.

You are invited to be a founding member of the East Midlands Branch of Equity.

This is the first in a series of emails for the first 3 meetings. Members attending the first 3 meetings will receive an East Midlands founding members badge and participate in the generation of a limited edition postcard.

1st Meeting: Wed 1st February

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

Time: 7pm - 9pm

A few nibbles (crisps etc) and 1 FREE drink

First THREE meeting dates for your diary

- Wed 1st February - Meet Equity, Meet your fellow members.
- Wed 1st March - Meet to form a committee
- Wed 5th April - The first member organised meeting of the Branch

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

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

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

There will be remote access for the East Midlands Branch. In the first instance Zoom will be facilitated by Caron, an Equity member and previous chair of the union's Online Branch.

The establishment of a committee is the branch's priority. They will lead and grow the branch including where and when it meets, even the possibility of satellite meets or meetings that travel the region using remote access to cast votes for decision making.

Meeting One – Wednesday 1st February

- 7.00 pm | Arrive DOORS OPEN - Meet Equity, Meet your fellow members.
- 7.20 pm | Welcome
- 7.40 pm | Open Space “What can this branch do for me? What can I do for my branch?”
- 8.00 pm | BREAK
- 8.20 pm | Report Back, What happens next? What to think about for meeting TWO.
- 9.00 pm | Bar & Banter
- 9.30 pm | Good Night. See you in February.

At meeting ONE there is going to be a lot to take on board; reading this will hopefully start to provide a foundation for questions you might have while attending for the first time on February 1st.

What is this new branch?

The new Equity branch in the East Midlands is an important development for the union and its members in the region. It will provide local representation and support for members, who will have access to branch officers and regional representatives who can assist them with issues such as contracts, health and safety, and employment rights. The branch will also provide opportunities for members to network and engage with their peers, enabling them to share knowledge and experiences, as well as stay informed about industry developments and opportunities. In addition, the new branch will allow Equity to better serve its members in the East Midlands and ensure that their voices are heard on issues that matter to them.

What is the role of a Branch?

The role of a branch is to

1. provide a local forum for members to discuss, organise and campaign on issues relevant to their members
2. provide a channel of communication between members and the Council
3. propose motions for consideration at conference to the Union’s annual regional and national meetings
4. send representatives to the annual conference.

Running a Branch.

To manage the branch and help fulfil this role members of the Equity branch in the East Midlands elect a committee. Branch committees can be not less than five and no more than nine members who must all in full union membership benefit. One of the nine seats is reserved specifically for a member engaged in variety, cabaret, burlesque, circus, story-telling and similar entertainment.

The committee then designates among itself the following roles Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Campaigns Officer and Variety Officer. There are 6 specific roles and 9 committee members. In the past branches have created roles such as Diversity, LGBT, Accessibility, Events, Press Officer and Web Master. The remaining seats can simply be general seats with no specific responsibility.

In addition to electing a committee the branch can send TWO representatives to the annual conference which this year takes place in London from Sunday 21 – Monday 22 May.

You are invited to be a founding member of the East Midlands Branch of Equity.

Remember this is a brand new branch, no outgoing committee just you and your fellow union members who have lived and resided in the East Midlands region of the United Kingdom for part or all of your professional career.

There is however a legacy we should not forget and that is the Variety Branches who championed and represented the region's interests prior to Jan 1st 2023.

Every East Midland Equity member is starting as a new member of this branch. If you are a seasoned professional or just out of training with a shiny new Equity membership card everyone is welcome. Non members are welcome too so +1s are fine and the Equity curious!

Staff & Council in the East Midlands

We are supported by the union's regional organiser, Ian Bayes and connected to the council by an elected member living in the region. Tonia Daly-Campbell is the Midlands Councillor.

Ian started working for Equity in 2000 over the years he has taken on a number of roles, London Area Theatre & Commercial Tours Organiser, BBC Organiser and is currently our Midlands Official.

He has worked with various industrial committees, Independent Theatre, Designers, Fight Directors, Walk-on & Supporting Artists and the Variety Circus & Entertainers Committee. He brings all this experience to us. Ian is currently working with the Street Performers Network.

Tonia is an experienced actor, writer, and director. Is an audience development consultant at the Grand Theatre Wolverhampton and a casting director at Heart Casting. Tonia was elected as our regional councillor in July 2022.

After Meeting One on Feb 1st, Meeting Two on March 1st.

Together we have a month to process and read up on the role of the branch and then think about forming the very first committee.

You are invited also to Meeting Two on Wednesday 1st March Same time, same place, FREE drink

Meeting Two - Wed 1st March

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

7.20 pm | Welcome

7.30 pm | Forming the transitional committee

7.50 pm | BREAK

8.10 pm | All about the conference... Making a Mark and the branches first motion

9.00 pm | Bar & Banter

9.30 pm | Good Night. See you in March

The branch's committee will be a transition committee to steer the new branch until full nationwide committee elections for all 24 branches can be held in the autumn. For the first time in the union's history a centralised timetable for branch committee elections. We don't have to worry about this until later in the year. The immediate priority for all branches up and down the country is the annual conference. There is a timetable.

Here are the key dates

- Jan – Feb: Branches and committees meet to decide on motions.
- Fri 13 – Fri 17 Feb: Emails giving notice of national/regional meetings are sent to all members.
- Wed 1 Mar: Closing date for receipt of motions from branches and committees (12 noon).
- Mon 20 Mar – Wed 5 Apr: National/regional meetings select motions from branches.

... as well as forming a committee at our second meeting we must consider, with the help of our regional organiser Ian Bayes, proposing our very first motion to send to the Midlands Area annual meeting. This meeting will take place between Mar 20 - Apr 5. In the past this has taken place in Birmingham.

With Meeting 1 and 2 under our belt, A committee in place, meeting 3 will be our new horizon.

Meeting 3 Wednesday 5th April

Between meeting 2 and 3 the committee will meet and the East Midlands Branch will be ready to GO.

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To return to the top and thank you for reading to the end...

You are invited to be a founding member of the East Midlands Branch of Equity.

When: Wed 1st February

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

Time: 7pm - 9pm

1 FREE drink

RSVP would be most appreciated

Here is the eventbrite link - <https://bit.ly/equityemb-01>

Look out for email number 2. It will focus more on the first meeting.

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

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