



# EQUITY MEMBERSHIP

# CANDIDATE PROGRAM

The Equity Membership Candidate Program (EMC) permits actors and stage managers in training to credit theatrical work in certain Equity theatres towards eventual membership in Equity. Candidates must complete creditable weeks of work at any of the participating theatres. The weeks do not have to be consecutive, and may be accumulated over any length of time. There are two phases to the program.

## PHASE ONE

- **Fee:** \$200 (This amount is credited towards the future initiation fee when joining Equity.)
- **Membership Threshold:** 25 creditable weeks of work.
- **Phase Completion:** 25 creditable weeks

The Candidate may then join Equity or enter Phase Two. Eligibility to enter Phase Two lasts for six months. During the six-month eligibility period, if engaged to work at an Equity theatre, the Candidate must be signed to an Equity Contract. If they choose NOT to join Equity or to enter Phase Two within six months, all accumulated creditable weeks will expire, registration fee will be forfeited, and no credit will be received towards a future initiation fee.

## PHASE TWO

- **Fee:** additional \$200 (totaling \$400, credited towards the future initiation fee)
- **Membership Threshold:** The Candidate may join Equity at any time during Phase Two (as long as you do not have any non-Equity work booked)
- **Program Completion:** 50 total creditable weeks (including the 25 weeks accumulated during Phase One)

Eligibility to join Equity lasts for five years. During that time, work at an Equity theatre must be under an Equity contract. If the Candidate does NOT join within the five-year eligibility period, all accumulated creditable weeks will expire, the registration fee will be forfeited, and no credit will be received towards a future initiation fee.



## REGISTRATION

To register for the program, first secure a qualifying position at an Equity theatre that offers the Membership Candidate program. Complete the EMC Registration Form supplied by the theatre and return it to them with the non-refundable \$200 registration fee, payable to *Actors' Equity Association*. Members of any performing arts sister union (see reverse) must complete the Modified EMC Program section of the registration form.

## EMC WORK WEEKS

The EMC Registration Form must be completed each time weeks are accrued with a participating theatre. This is not optional. EMC weeks are submitted by the Theatre and tracked by Equity. Be aware that there are limitations as to the types of work that can be credited under provisions of various Equity contracts.

## JOINING EQUITY

When the Candidate wishes to join Equity, they must complete a membership application and pay the remainder of the required minimum of the initiation fee. The EMC registration fee will be credited against the initiation fee (except as noted above). Once the Candidate joins Equity, they will also be subject to basic dues and working dues. Call us or visit [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org) for current rates.



## IMPORTANT NOTES

- It is the Candidate's responsibility to keep their contact information current with Equity's Membership Department.
- Although EMC weeks are tracked by Equity, we encourage Candidates to maintain their own work week records. Producers may not submit weeks correctly or in a timely manner.
- Equity policy does not permit the duplication of names among its members. Be aware that the name used as a Membership Candidate may not be available when the Candidate becomes eligible to join Equity.
- The list of theatres participating in the EMC program can be found in our Document Library at [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org).
- There are no established salaries for Membership Candidates except those agreed upon by the Candidate and the producer who employs them.
- The EMC Program is only available to U.S. Citizens, Resident Aliens, or non-resident aliens with a valid Employment Authorization Card.
- EMC policies and procedures are subject to change. Please check Equity's website for updates.

**Please contact the nearest Equity office with questions or concerns regarding the EMC program.**

## ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ONE OF OUR PERFORMING ARTS SISTER UNIONS?

Members of any performing arts sister union (SAG-AFTRA, AGMA, AGVA, GIAA) would normally be required to sign an Equity contract when working in Equity's jurisdiction. However, a waiver of professional status may be requested in order to train for the theatre.

- A performing arts sister union member who joins the EMC program will be eligible to participate in Phase One only.
- A performing arts sister union member who joined the EMC program PRIOR to sister union membership will be eligible to participate in Phase Two. Said participant will be subject to all fees.

## WHERE TO FIND US

Equity's governing and administrative structure is divided into three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Equity maintains offices and staff in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Orlando. Twenty-eight Liaison Areas are home to volunteer Liaison Committees which provide an opportunity for local involvement in the union and often invite EMCs to meet with and learn from Equity members.

### OFFICES

#### National/Eastern Region

165 West 46th St.  
New York, NY 10036  
212-869-8530

#### Central Region

557 West Randolph St.  
Chicago, IL 60661  
312-641-0393

#### Western Region

5636 Tujunga Ave.  
North Hollywood, CA 91601  
323-978-8080

#### Orlando Satellite

10319 Orangewood Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32821  
407-345-8600

### LIAISON AREAS

Greater Albany	Milwaukee/
Atlanta	Madison
Austin/San	Minneapolis/
Antonio	St. Paul
Boston	Nashville
Buffalo/	New Orleans
Rochester	Philadelphia
Cincinnati/	Phoenix/
Louisville	Tucson
Cleveland	Pittsburgh
Dallas/	Portland
Fort Worth	St. Louis
Denver	San Diego
Detroit	San Francisco
Central Florida	Bay Area
South Florida	Seattle
Houston/	Greater
Galveston	Washington,
Kansas City	D.C./Baltimore
Las Vegas	



**Stage Manager Melissa A. Nathan got her Equity card in 2011 through the Equity Membership Candidate program.**

