



# Provisional Membership for Stage Managers

This classification of membership is designed for inexperienced stage managers who are engaged in professional productions because the engager was unable to find an existing Equity stage manager compatible with its needs.

With the introduction of this classification it is the goal of Equity to strengthen the training foundation and introduce a practical manner for gaining experience in the discipline which will eventually culminate in membership in the Association. It is also designed to address inequities in the availability of apprenticeship positions across the country

Ultimately this will broaden the range of work experiences which qualify for credit under the Equity Stage Management Apprentice Program, while still maintaining the integrity of the program.

## **“I’ve signed an Equity contract. Does this mean I’m a member?”**

Almost all of our agreements require that the engager give first consideration to existing Equity stage managers before hiring a non-member. Historically, when a non-member was engaged, he/she was required to join CAEA as a full member. As of October, 2003, provisional membership applies instead. ***Please note that this is absolutely mandatory.*** Aspiring stage managers do not have the option of joining as full members by virtue of being signed to a contract.

A provisional stage manager shall be signed to the applicable Equity contract for the duration of the engagement, subject to the full terms and

conditions of the agreement, including fees, hours of work and benefits as though he/she were a full member of Equity.

## **“What’s the difference between a provisional member and an apprentice?”**

An apprentice is not working under an Equity contract and is not considered a member of the Association.

## **“What’s the difference between a provisional and full membership contract?”**

There is little difference between a provisional contract and a full member’s contract. You must be paid at least the minimum fee and you are eligible for benefits. Equity will make sure that the theatre has provided security to cover some or all of your fees in the event that the theatre doesn’t pay you. The only real difference is that you are not permitted to vote in any Equity ratification or election or stand for elected office in the association. A provisional member cannot be elected Equity Deputy but can vote in the Deputy election.

Under this membership classification, a provisional stage manager would have access to the Deputy and Equity’s dispute resolution procedures if a problem did arise.

## **“What happens after the gig?”**

Upon completion of the engagement, the provisional member shall revert to apprentice status for the purpose of future engagements and completion of the Equity apprentice stage management program. In other words, the provisional member shall be free to accept work without reference to an Equity contract, and in fact, may not accept another Equity stage management con-

tract until such time as he/she has completed the apprentice stage management program, or another situation arises where the Engager has satisfied the requirements of the applicable agreement to give first consideration to existing Equity stage managers.

In addition, the engagement as a provisional member shall count as one credit toward the completion of the Equity stage management apprentice program. A maximum of two credits may be earned in this fashion.

## **“I need more information!”**

Additional information may be obtained through either Equity office. Also, Equity has a national Stage Management Committee that is committed to a strong and professional training program. They have developed several communications vehicles specifically designed for the stage management discipline.

Visit our web site or contact the elected stage management representative for your region if you would like more information.

For information on the Equity Apprentice Program please read the brochure “The Equity Apprentice Program,” which is available from either office or on-line at

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