

What Students Should Know About Equity

As someone looking to pursue a career in performance arts, it's important to know who's supporting you along your journey. Equity shapes the professional working conditions you will encounter — from minimum pay and rehearsal hours to health and safety — and addresses issues beyond an individual artist's control, helping to create the conditions for a sustainable career.

Who We Are

Canadian Actors' Equity Association (Equity) is the voice of nearly 6,000 professional artists working in theatre, opera, and dance across Canada. Equity's national membership includes performers, directors, choreographers, fight directors, intimacy directors, and stage managers.

Equity is a member-led association that empowers artists by advancing their professional, artistic, and economic interests in live performance. In pursuing our objectives, we demonstrate and advocate for fairness, inclusivity, integrity, and collectivity.

A national Council of 23 Equity members from across Canada represents different regions and artistic disciplines and serves as the Association's leadership, determining Equity's objectives.

What We Do

Negotiate

Equity negotiates and administers collective agreements for work in dance, opera, and theatre — ensuring artists are paid fairly, and their rights are respected. Equity also establishes engagement policies that encourage the development of independent production and make it easier for members to participate in small-scale projects or produce their own work.

Protect

Equity enforces the health and safety provisions of its agreements and develops initiatives that promote respectful workplaces. Programs like Not in Our Space! address harassment and discrimination in the live performance sector and support safer, more respectful working environments.

Advocate

Equity advocates for sustainable funding in the live performance sector to help create work opportunities for members. We also lobby to ensure the needs and realities of artists working in live performance are always considered by the Canadian government.

Support

Equity provides additional benefits to our members, such as RRSP and insurance benefits, reciprocal agreements, professional development, discounts through the Members' Advantage Program, community events, communication, and more.

Equity & You

Becoming an Equity member is an important step in an Artist's career, providing recognition throughout the industry as a professional Artist. Membership provides access to opportunities, rights, and benefits, while also carrying professional responsibilities.

Many opportunities exist for emerging Artists, but professional theatres, opera houses, and dance companies hire professional artists on Equity contracts.

There is no single "right time" to join — the best time depends on your career stage and the type of work you are doing. Generally, you should join when you are ready to work exclusively under professional Equity contracts and when it makes financial sense for you.

The pathway for joining Equity depends on the discipline — Performer, Stage Manager, Choreographer, Director, Fight Director, or Intimacy Director. In most cases, an Artist is eligible to join on their first Equity contract under a negotiated scale agreement (e.g. Canadian Theatre Agreement, Independent Theatre Agreement, Ballet Agreements, or Opera Agreements).

An Artist must be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident, or hold a visa permitting work in Canada, unless joining through a reciprocal agreement with ACTRA, UdA, or AEA.

Resources

Subscribe to eDrive

eDrive is Equity's free job board and email list, sharing paid work opportunities in the Canadian live performance industry. eDrive shares notices for auditions, stage management opportunities, jobs in the sector, and more, right to your inbox.

Sign up at caea.com/subscribe

Find more information at caea.com

Equity's website has all the information you need to learn more about what we do, what it means to be a member, joining requirements, and more.

 [@cdnactorsequity](https://www.instagram.com/cdnactorsequity)

 [CanadianEquity](https://www.youtube.com/CanadianEquity)

Questions? Send us an email at info@caea.com

Educators: If you are interested in scheduling a class visit to learn more about Equity, please contact communications@caea.com