JOINING CANADIAN ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

44 Victoria st. 12th floor • Toronto, ON M5C 3C4 • Tel: 416-867-9165 • TF: 1-800-387-1853 • info@caea.com • caea.com

Congratulations on your engagement under the CTA/ITA. With this contract, you are now eligible to become a member of Canadian Actors' Equity Association – the voice of nearly 6,000 performers, directors, choreographers, fight directors, intimacy directors, and stage managers working in theatre, opera, and dance across the country.

Becoming a member of Equity is a big step in your career. Membership opens up opportunities and provides certain rights and benefits, but it also means accepting certain responsibilities. Becoming a member at the first available opportunity may or may not be the right choice for you, so make the decision that best serves your interests.

Why might I want to join Equity as soon as I'm eligible?

Equity members benefit from access to professional work opportunities, a medical insurance plan and RRSP, voting rights, participation in our community, discounts through the Member Advantage Program, and of course, by having a voice in determining the objectives of our member run Association. Here's another reason to join:

Members

- Contribute 8.25% of weekly fees - of which 6% is contributed to the member's RRSP and 2.25% is paid in working dues
- Pay medical insurance premiums for coverage while on contract (during which time benefits are accessible) and can obtain off-contract insurance coverage next year if they work a total of 8 weeks this year

Permittees (non-members)

- Pay 8.25% of weekly fees as permittee filing fees to Equity, a percentage of which is used towards a credit on their eventual initiation fee (at a maximum of $400/contract)
- Pay medical insurance premiums for coverage on contract (up to 85% of policy maximums) for accidental insurance only, with no possibility of off-contract coverage

Please note, for **Contracts longer than 10 weeks** and **engagement in Sector 2** (commercial theatre):
It's in your best interest to join Equity immediately and begin accessing the benefits of membership on this contract.*

Why might I want to wait to join Equity?

Joining Equity comes with responsibilities established in Equity's Bylaws, including the requirement to accept work only on Equity contracts. If you are a new artist, just starting out, that may not necessarily be the best decision for you.

Please note that once you become an Equity member, you will be required to have an Equity contract when working in our jurisdiction and you will not be able to work on non-union productions. There are, however, a number of Equity engagement policies that allow members to work on collaborative and other small-scale projects, even with non-members.

Joining Equity also comes with a $1,200 initiation fee**, which can seem daunting for many artists. In continuing to work as a permittee, a portion of the permittee filing fees you pay will be applied towards your initiation fee***, allowing you to pay it off gradually as you work.

If I'm eligible to join, is there a time limit to do so?

No. Your eligibility to join Equity never expires***.

Before making your decision, we encourage you to visit our website to learn more about Canadian Actors' Equity Association – who we are and what we do.

Remember, Equity will always be there. If you don't join today, we'll be happy to have you as a member tomorrow.

** If you wish to join on a current contract, you need to complete your joining requirements within the first two weeks from the start of the engagement, to take advantage of membership in Equity during that contract.*
*** ACTRA Full members in good standing are eligible to receive a $475 discount to their initiation fee. AEA members are eligible to receive a discount of up to 50%. UDA members may be eligible for a courtesy work permit. Please inform us of any unioon membership you hold when you apply to join.*
**** Permit filing fees applied towards the initiation fee expire after three years.*

If you have any questions or would like to start the joining process, contact Equity membership at **membership@caea.com**.

April 24, 2025