

EQUITY
BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS

Branch Newsletter March 2024

Hi everybody and a warm welcome to our month of March regional newsletter for all our members across the Birmingham and West Midlands Region.



Vijay Shah Midlands Assistant Official

Our meeting in March welcomed Vijay Shah as our new Assistant Official for the Midlands Region. Vijay will be working with and supporting Ian Manborde and based at our new Birmingham Office in the TubeWorks in the heart of Birmingham city centre. Vijay was our special guest speaker on the evening of 12th March at the Hippodrome. Vijay is originally from Coventry and grew up in the region before moving to London for university and then starting a career within the aviation industry as cabin crew. He flew internationally for over fifteen years, as senior cabin crew for British Airways and becoming a Unite Workplace Rep, representing the lowest paid cabin crew in the industry. In 2017 he represented members during the longest strike in aviation history, which was a success! Following the pandemic, he 'flew' to UNISON as an area organiser working within the Higher Education sector in the Greater London Region. He is looking forward to getting to know Equity members and the performing arts sector in more depth. If you ever have any questions, please just get in touch!" vshah@equity.org.uk

Tracey Briggs Campaigns Officer and Equity



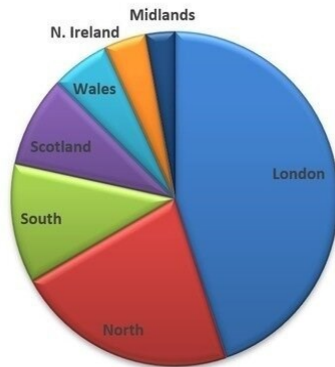
Members Rally 5th March

Campaigns Officer Tracey Briggs supporting the 'Stop The Cuts' rally in Birmingham on the 5th March. All arts funding is to be cut by 50% this year and 100% in the following year. We are working hard to do our best to protect arts funding and the cultural heartbeat of the city and region. Many of our members also attended along with members from the MU, Writers Guild and BECTU

Don't forget our Regional Meeting 22nd March 2pm to 5pm Birmingham Rep Rehearsal Room 2

Campaign to Increase BBC investment in The Midlands

Where is your licence fee spent?



An important initiative to establish;

- how the BBC will reinvest the *Doctors* budget in our region,
- increase investment in the Midlands so that parity with other regions is finally achieved
- Invest in a way that creates jobs based in the Midlands and grows the creative economy

Please sign the petition here!

<https://chnng.it/qvTnQ9WhXZ>



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More dates for your diaries - We're planning ahead folks! Our Meeting Schedule for 2024 and 2025 – all held in the Artists Lounge, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thorp Street Entrance from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. We would be delighted to see you – so come along and get involved! All meeting days are Tuesdays

2024

9th April
14th May
11th June
July and August No Meetings
17th September
15th October
19th November ONLINE ONLY
17th December ONLINE ONLY

2025

21st January ONLINE ONLY
18th February
18th March
15th April
20th May
17th June
July and August No Meetings
16th September
21st October
18th November ONLINE ONLY
16th December ONLINE ONLY

We are currently working on where our meeting minutes can be securely posted for access by members



We were delighted to welcome Chris Sudworth Creative Director to our meeting on 13th February. Below are several links to articles and documents Chris referred to during his talk and you will be able to access all these by clicking through for greater insight into the work of the Hippodrome Creative Department

<https://www.birminghamhippodrome.com/giveandjoin/memberships/hippodrome-creatives/>

<https://www.birminghamhippodrome.com/hippodrome-projects/artistdevelopment/>

<https://www.birminghamhippodrome.com/hippodrome-projects/new-musical-theatre/>

<https://www.birminghamhippodrome.com/launching-our-five-year-organisational-plan/>

Equity Conference 2024

A quick reminder on Conference

Equity Conference 2024 will be held at Birmingham Town Hall, from Saturday 18 - Monday 20 May 2024. The conference is a great opportunity to get involved in your union by debating and voting on policy, hearing reports on the work of the union over the past year, learning about and participating in campaigns and meeting members from across the country.

Three representatives from our regional membership can attend so please have a think and email your name to us at birmingham&westmidlands@equitybranches.org.uk and we will take it from there. There is no need to be proposed or seconded all we ask is that you are available to attend the whole conference. Should it be necessary to conduct a vote to elect the three reps we will be in touch to confirm and with more information. Equity provides accommodation and either provides or pays for meals. Equity reimburses travel costs within the UK (second class rail and public transport as standard)

Very Best Wishes and we all look forward to seeing you at a meeting soon

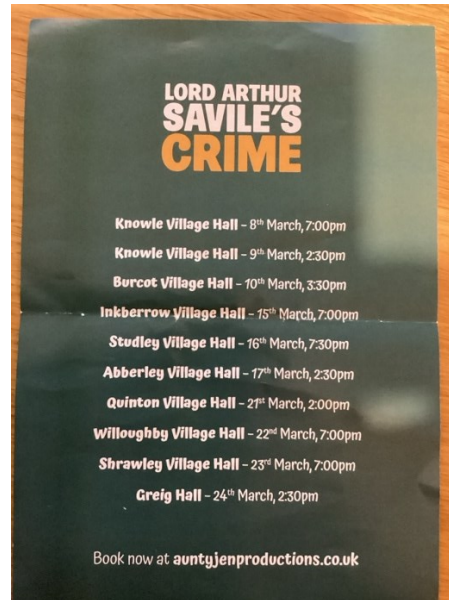
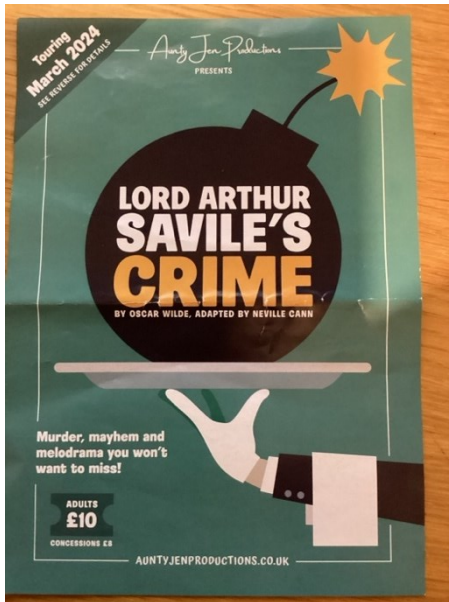
From your committee; Georgie, (Chair) Nicholas, (Treasurer) Tracey, (Campaigns) Peter, (Variety) Kriss, (Development) Kerry (Joint Secretary) and Alexander (Joint Secretary)

Contact Us; birmingham&westmidlands@equitybranches.org.uk

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Members Productions



Lord Arthur Savile's Crime By Oscar Wilde Adapted by Neville Cann Touring NOW!