**Chair Report 22nd March 2025**

We’ve advertised for 2 positions on the committee although we need at least 3 more people.

Unfortunately, our variety officer Nikki has needed to transfer to North London Branch due to where she lives and works mostly. On behalf of the branch and committee I thank Nikki for the many hours she put in and big impact she made. We need to remove Nikki’s name, photo and contact details from the Equity Branch website.

Andrew will be unable to continue as Treasurer and the committee from end of August due to personal and work projects. We’re thank him greatly for the many years of work he has put in for members of the Essex Branch and latterly Essex and Herts.

Also need a Campaigns Officer, and someone to do social media...

Showcase at the Actor’s Church. This was mostly organised by Steve, with some assistance from me. The quality of performances from younger and older members was fab but there was a disappointing turnout from agents. Because we are a trade union first and foremost, we provided the venue but performers were informed to invite agents themselves. One contacted over 100 and Steve emailed 230 agents with notification and a flyer prepared by Guildhall and re-contacted them. Nevertheless, the acts found it a very positive experience, including networking and gaining feedback on their performances. Steve and I have received emails of thanks.

I’ve been liaising with other members of the Singers’ Committee concerning the content for Singers’ Charter and Singer’s Hub, newsletter and Liturgical network. On Sunday 15th March I attended the Liturgical Singers networking meeting at Guild House where we discussed the draft Equity Liturgical Singers Charter. Do we have any branch members with us who are working on a summer opera festival? Or have in the past? There is a chance your contract might not meet the requirements of employment law. You are urged to join a meeting in person, or on Zoom, on 10 April at 4pm. Details on social media and website. Lottie Stables Industrial Official for Singers happy to attend to attend/speak at branch meeting.

Equity’s website is looking better than ever and more helpful and informative. There are pages devoted to providing advice in sector specific areas accessed by clicking advice and support. At least one of these will be beneficial clicking on:

A.I. tool kit- your guide to protecting your rights, audio info hub, comedians charter, commercials with a guide to working in commercials, directors and designers resources, working at the Edinburgh fringe -a complete guide; Singers’ Hub, state management hub, student film engagement, video games.

If not done yet, check out and join the appropriate network for you: Actor-musician, choreographers and movement directors, circus network, class network- fighting for working-class representation in the arts, comedians, commercials, drag, film and TV, green new deal network, gypsy Roma and traveller network, immersive, LGBT plus, liturgical singers, models, non-UK born artists, puppeteers, storytellers, supporting artists, wrestlers, video games, Welsh language network.

We didn’t receive any formal motion suggestions from branch members in time for the deadline, so none from our branch will be in contention at Monday’s South-East and East of England area meeting. Unfortunately, I cannot attend that meeting due to teaching commitments.

Dee Mardi