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SIGNING A CTA ACTOR CONTRACT
CONTRACT AND NOT YET AN EQUITY MEMBER?
There are membership options to consider.
Make the decision that is right for you.

WHICH MEMBERSHIP SCENARIO APPLIES TO YOU?

YOU MUST CHECK OFF A MEMBERSHIP OPTION (✓) ON YOUR CTA ACTOR CONTRACT.

We encourage you to contact Equity at 1-800-387-1856 (416-867-9165 in Toronto) or email membership@caea.com with any questions regarding membership obligations and options. Equity is available to assist you in making the best possible individual choice.

1. **If you are a member of ACTRA:**
   A member of ACTRA may join Equity at the choice of the artist. A member of ACTRA in good standing will be given a $475 reduction to the Equity initiation fee upon presentation of proof of membership in good standing with ACTRA at the time of applying to join Equity. A member of ACTRA who chooses not to join Equity will work as a non-member under an engagement permit while signed to a CTA contract (see scenario 6 below).
2. **If you are a member of Actors' Equity Association (AEA):**
   You must join Equity by virtue of the reciprocal agreement with AEA (U.S.). Depending on the initiation fee you paid AEA you are entitled to a discount of up to half of Equity's $1,000 initiation fee. Contact Equity to confirm your situation.
3. **If you are a member of Union des artistes (UDA):**
   UDA members in good standing may be eligible to work under a "Courtesy Work Permit." A Work Permit must be filed before you begin work. If you are not eligible for a Work Permit you must join Equity. There is no discounted initiation fee for UDA members.
4. **If your contract is longer than 10 weeks:**
   Long-term engagements may require you to join Equity. It is not in your best interest to work on a long-term contract without access to the benefits and protections offered by Equity. Contact an Equity Business Representative to confirm your situation.
5. **If your engagement is in commercial theatre (Sector 2):**
   Engagements in commercial theatre (Sector 2) may require you to join Equity. It is not in your best interest to work on a Sector 2 contract without access to the benefits and protections offered by Equity.
6. **If you ARE NOT YET READY to join Equity:**
   If scenarios 2 through 5 do not apply to you, you do not have to join Equity by virtue of being signed to a CTA contract. You may work as a non-member under an engagement permit instead. You will be signed to a contract and work under the same terms, conditions and protections as the Equity members but you will not have access to any membership rights, or benefits such as Equity's RRSP, or insurance plan coverage. Without the obligation of Equity membership you will be free to accept future work from any engager and not limited to accepting only engagements under Equity contracts.
   The filing fee for a non-member working under an engagement permit as negotiated by Equity and PACT is 8.25% of your weekly fee, plus a small additional fee, totalling the same amount paid by Equity members. Up to $333 of the filing fee for each contract will be used to offset your eventual initiation fee, if and when you join Equity. Note that filing fees paid in excess of $333 per contract, or of the total initiation fee, are non-refundable.
   You may acquire up to four (4) engagement permits, after which you are expected to join Equity.*
7. **If you ARE READY to join Equity:**
   You may join Equity at any time after signing your first CTA contract. However, you are not obliged to do so and you are encouraged to carefully consider if membership is the right choice. Equity members benefit from deductions for RRSP contributions and insurance coverage, as well as all the other rights and privileges of membership. By becoming a member you commit to work in theatre only when first signed to one of Equity's policies or negotiated agreements.
   The cost of joining Equity is a one-time initiation fee of $1,000, plus payment of $90 for a half-year of basic dues, for a total payable of $1,090. Previously paid filing fees (up to $333 per contract) and apprenticeship credit fees, up to the allowable amount, will be applied to your initiation fee thereby reducing this payment. Any remaining initiation fees owing, plus current basic dues, must be paid at the time you apply to join the Association.
   If you decide to join Equity, you must pay your initiation fee directly to the Association as soon as possible, or alternatively provide the Theatre with written authorization to deduct the specific amount of your initiation fee and remit it to Equity on your behalf. Please contact Equity for confirmation of the amount owing.
   If you complete the joining process (including submitting the necessary paperwork) before the end of the first two weeks of your contract, you will benefit from RRSP contributions and applicable insurance coverage for that entire contract. Otherwise, you will not have access to insurance and RRSP benefits until you start your next contract.
8. **If you are already an experienced professional in another country and now resident in Canada:**
   An artist with a professional career in live or recorded performance in another country, now living in Canada, may apply to join Equity. Membership is granted upon application and submission of your curriculum vitae. Membership in the Association does not supersede any requirements for applicable work visas in Canada.

***** *In calculating the engagement permit limit, a contract must be two weeks or longer (including free days). For short engagements of less than two weeks, each twelve (12) workdays aggregated across multiple contracts will count as one engagement permit in the calculation of the maximum number before an Artist is expected to join the Association.*

Apprenticeship credits:
CTA Actor apprenticeship credits exist only under the Stratford Festival Addendum and TYA engagements (upon request). Contact Equity's membership department ASAP if you wish to apply for an apprenticeship credit when working in TYA. Non-members may accumulate both engagement permits and apprenticeship credits. Consult ***How to Join Equity (www.caea.com)*** *for more information.*

Please contact Equity for more information and to confirm your specific situation and options.
EQUITYONLINE **at www.caea.com is a great resource for additional membership information and copies of Equity's agreements and polices.**

Revised April 26, 2017