

Report

SDUK and Equity: Better Together?

Dan Ayling, 18 February 2015

Dan Ayling, session convenor, began by explaining that he thought the two organisations could work effectively together and that his wish was for a strong bond between them.

Issues such as contracts/negotiating rights/directors as employers/rates of pay and Low Pay/No Pay were raised, and a comment was made that directors often felt their interests were not looked after by Equity.

There was debate about how the two organisations could work together. This included how they could share resources and infrastructure. It was agreed that SDUK should draw up a list of their wants from Equity and present this to the union. And there was consensus that it was best for the two organisations to have a transparent parallel relationship.

Discussion was had about subscriptions and the cost to directors of being part of Equity and then having to pay a further subscription to be part of SDUK. There was a suggestion of a shared subscription but members of the Creative Team Specialist Committee present said this had been tried before and didn't work.

A suggestion was also made that SDUK could have a similar relationship with Equity to that of the Association of Lighting Designers/Stage Management Association. This was positively received.

Contracts were mentioned and it was agreed that the current models need revising so they less resemble that of an actor's contract and more closely resemble that of a writer's contract.

The meeting finished with a feeling that representatives of each organisation should continue to liaise informally until such time as it feels right to open formal discussions.

Those present were Dan Ayling, Robyn Winfield-Smith, James Macdonald, Kathleen Douglas, Alex Brown, Thomas Hescott, Faynia Williams, Fran Rifkin, Edmund Sutton and, briefly, Richard Lambert and Ivor Benjamin.

Tags:

directors, Equity, Directing, union, together, Directors, equity, SDUK, directing