



Application for the Equity Foundation Victorian Mentorship Program 2008

So you are finally part of the industry that you have worked so hard to get into, but you are finding it bigger, broader and sometimes more daunting and confusing than you expected.

Do you sometimes wish you had someone who understood what starting out as a performer is like and could give you some advice?

The Equity Mentorship program is an initiative that performers created for performers and it is being steered by experienced Equity member Don Bridges. It was developed in recognition that most performers would welcome a helping hand at the start of their career.

The Equity Mentorship programme plans to match new performers with experienced performers. We aim to match you with an experienced performer who shares common interests and goals for the mentorship relationship and who believes that sharing their experiences will be of benefit to you.

You and your mentor will decide how your relationship will work however it is up to the mentoree to make the initial and follow up contact once the relationship has been confirmed..Experience has shown that most of the time the mentor and mentoree meet once a month for coffee and supplement this with a phone call. However, once the relationship has been confirmed, it is up to the individual pairs to define what works for them.

This a golden opportunity for emerging performers as the mentors are committed to the programme. Please note that Equity needs to ensure that the potential mentorees respect the good will, time and energy that the mentors are giving to this programme.

Please Note:

Due to the limited number of mentors, preference will be given to mentoree applicants who, in the opinion of the selection panel:

- Can establish they would benefit from the programme and have a demonstrable commitment to acting as a full time career. The applicants training and/or experience to date will be some of the factors the panel will consider in making decisions.
- Have a willingness to commit to the programme and the mentor

Once the mentorship is underway please note that:

- The mentors are not and should not be regarded as counsellors or life coaches.
- The mentors are also not expected to find work or source agents for the mentoree.
- Each party is free to decide that they do not want to continue the program and can contact Alexandra Jones at the Equity Foundation who will advise the other party.
- The formal mentorship program extends for approximately six months, after which the pairing can continue if both parties wish it to continue.
- This initiative is only offered to financial members of Equity.
- Once the mentor/mentoree relationship has been confirmed it is the mentoree's responsibility to make contact and set up the initial meetings.
- If, for some reason, the mentoree decides not to continue with the mentor relationship, protocols need to be followed. You need to let Alex Jones of Equity know and not just stop contacting the mentor. If the mentorship programme is to continue, then courtesy towards the mentors is a priority.

For the unsuccessful applicants, Equity will run seminars that will address many of the issues that they may have wanted to discuss with mentors.

**For this programme to work effectively we have had to put these guidelines in place.
Thank you for taking these seriously.**

Don Bridges
Equity Member

Alexandra Jones
Programme Manager
Equity Foundation

