



## **Joining I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 Studio Electrical Lighting Technicians**

Welcome!

Becoming a Local 728 Lighting Technician involves many steps. This document will help guide you through that process, describe what is needed to qualify for membership in Local 728 and how you can help your crewmates become members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the I.A.T.S.E.

Organizing non-union productions: Helping the International Alliance organize non-union productions is the most reliable way to accumulate permitted employment days. Send the Local 728 Business Representative a call sheet or a crew list once you are employed on a non-union production. This will increase the Union's opportunities to organize that production.

Email call sheets or crew lists to; [pja@iatse728.org](mailto:pja@iatse728.org)

To qualify for membership in Local 728, you must be placed on Contract Services Administration Trust Fund's (CSATF) roster; the Industry Experience Roster (IER). To attain roster status, you must accumulate at least 30 qualifying days of permitted work on one or more signatory (union) productions within 365 days of the anniversary of your first permitted workday. These are "active" permitted employment days. One of the challenges that you may face is that your permitted work must total 30 days in one year on the roster.

Once you acquire one or more days of permitted employment, you should go to CSATF and make application. You will then have a file where verification of employment letters will have a place to accumulate.

If you have already accumulated any permitted union employment days that are less than one-year-old from today's date and you have not yet informed the Call Steward, please do so by emailing the information to [tcs@iatse728.org](mailto:tcs@iatse728.org).

You will be added to our referral list if you do so.

Whenever Local 728 cannot dispatch Local 728 members for employment, the referral list may be emailed to Local 728 crew chiefs upon request to help them find crew. Your name, mobile phone number and the number of active days you have

will be reflected on the list as well as any specific skills that you may possess beyond the norm. The list is in order of the highest number of permitted days first. Keeping the Call Steward informed of any new permitted employment moves your name up higher on the list.

The two most common ways of getting permitted employment are:

- 1) *Being employed on a non-union production before it is signed to a union agreement by the International Alliance.* Many people who become Local 728 members get their qualified permitted union workdays from having been employed on non-union productions that were subsequently organized. Employees on those productions become permitted hires or “permits”. For most organized productions, employed workdays count towards the 30 or more qualifying days needed to be placed on CSATF’s IER but there are productions that will not recognize “date of hire” as the first date of union work.
- 2) *If Local 728 is contacted by a union signatory employer who needs to hire and Local 728 is unable to dispatch a member.* Contractually, the employer can request permission in writing to hire anyone of their choosing. When granted permission to hire a non-member by the Call Steward, that non-member can remain employed for as long as needed in that **specific job** occupation but must be laid off before any Local 728 members are laid off. The non-member **cannot** be shifted to another job occupation such as from a rigging position to a lamp operator position. The employer will need to gain permission anew if they wish to rehire that person after a lay-off or a hiatus.

If an employer has received permission to hire you:

- 1) Notify the Call Steward by email that you have been offered employment.
- 2) Notify the Call Steward by email when you are laid off.

*Failure to notify could result in those workdays being protested by the Local.*

Beginning with your first employment day, the Call Steward will ask you for your contact information, start date, the name of your crew supervisor and your probable layoff date. Your name will then be added to the “active permit” list.

Union productions must be given permission from Local 728 to employ you. If Local 728 does not grant permission to an employer to hire you, a grievance will be filed against that company for hiring an off-roster, non-union member.

Before a crew is hired, the employer should email the crew list to check the union standing of any Local 728 members to [ClearCrew@IATSE728.org](mailto:ClearCrew@IATSE728.org)

As you accumulate permitted workdays and receive your pay checks, contact the payroll companies and ask for employment verification letters. Ask the payroll companies to submit these to CSATF. This is not the same as applying for roster placement.

Once you have a minimum of thirty “active” permit days doing “covered work”, you qualify to be added to CSATF’s IER.

Once you are ready to make the commitment financially and career wise to accept an invitation to make application to Local 728, contact CSATF (<http://www.csatf.org>) to make application to be added to the roster.

CSATF will notify Local 728 of their intention to place you on the IER and seek confirmation that each day of employment was "permitted". If Local 728 confirms that those days were permitted hire days, your name will be added to the IER and Local 728 will be notified of your roster placement.

If you submit permitted hire days that were not permitted, Local 728 will protest those days and you could be denied IER placement.

Local 728 will send you a letter notifying you that you are eligible to apply for membership in the International Alliance.

You must make application to the Local within 10 days of the date on the letter that we send to you and deposit a minimum of ½ of the initiation fees.

You will have forty days from the date on our letter to pay the initiation fee in its entirety, no exceptions.

Until such time as you have made application and deposited ½ of the initiation fees you may not work on a union production without permission being granted to the production by the Call Steward. Once you have applied for membership and met the minimum required payment you can accept work as a provisional new member of the Local without restriction.

If you fail to complete the application process within the given time, Local 728 must notify CSATF and you will be removed from the Roster. Your qualifying days will be vacated. Your Local 728 Provisional New Member status will be revoked, and any portion of the initiation fees paid to Local 728 will be forfeited.

The initiation fees are equivalent to the current Hollywood Basic Agreement scale rate for lamp operator’s times 160 (hours), any application fees and your first quarter dues.

(\*You should plan to be financially prepared to meet the requirements for joining our Local as once you make application for Roster placement, you cannot stop the process.)

The entire application process can take many weeks depending on how many applications are being processed by CSATF and how many requests for verification of employment industry payroll companies are processing. Calling Local 728 during this time will not speed up the process.

Once your IATSE application is submitted to the IATSE General Office and approved, after all fees are paid, and the Membership of Local 728 is notified via the Local 728 website, you will be invited before the membership for a swearing in ceremony. Failure to appear for your swearing in will delay your full membership status.

Our contracts with the employers require that we complete "Safety Passport" classes as a condition of employment within six months of roster placement. It is on you to complete these classes to avoid being temporarily suspended from the Roster, in which case you may be denied employment by production companies looking to hire.

You can take the "A" General Safety Pass course any time after your first permitted workday.

In any given year, only a handful of people out of hundreds acquire the 30 days of permitted employment needed to qualify for placement on the IER and consideration for union membership. In order to protect our members' ability to be gainfully employed, Local 728 does all it can to find work for Local 728 members in preference to allowing non-members to be hired.

This is a part of our oath of loyalty to the Local.

This makes qualifying to join Local 728 a very challenging prospect and making membership in our union a distinct privilege. We are the only exclusively Lighting Technician's union Local anywhere and as such possess the best trained, most experienced technicians world-wide.

We wish you good luck in your quest to become a member of IATSE Local 728. We hope this document has answered any questions you may have had.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact the Local office at 818-954-0728.

Please provide us with information about non-union productions that you are aware of so that we can work with the International Alliance Office to get the members of that crew their justly deserved benefits, guaranteed working conditions under an IATSE agreement and you the qualified permitted hire days you need to become an eligible union member.

Send us a call sheet or crew list as soon as you get one and encourage members of other departments to send the same to union representatives from their departments.

Resources for finding production non-union production jobs:  
(IATSE Local 728 cannot verify any of these links)

<http://www.productionbeast.com/>

<http://www.media-match.com/usa/>

<http://losangeles.craigslist.org/>

<http://www.productionhub.com/>

<http://www.mandy.com/>

<http://staffmeup.com/>

If you would like to check into hands-on film & theatrical educational programs, here are some options:

**Los Angeles Trade-Technical College**

Address: 400 W Washington Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Phone: [\(213\) 763-7000](tel:(213)763-7000)

**Hollywood CPR at West LA College**

**Hollywood Cinema Production Resources**

P.O. Box 88459

Los Angeles, CA 90009-8459

Phone: (310) 258-0123

Fax: (310) 258-0124

For general information, please e-mail: [info@hollywoodcpr.org](mailto:info@hollywoodcpr.org)

For information on props, please e-mail: [props@hollywoodcpr.org](mailto:props@hollywoodcpr.org)

**NONPROFIT-STREETLIGHTS**

662 N. Van Ness Avenue #105

Los Angeles, CA 90004

Contact Phone (323) 960-4540

<http://streetlights.org>