



## 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 Local 728 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; [Local728@iatse728.org](mailto:Local728@iatse728.org)

To qualify for membership in Local 728, you must be placed on the Contract Services Administration Trust Fund (CSATF) roster, the IER (Industry Experience Roster).

To attain roster status, you must accumulate 30 qualified days of permitted work on one or more signatory (union) productions within one year 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.

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 can be added to our referral list if you do so. Please provide your Name, Email & Postal Mailing addresses, your mobile phone number and the last four digits of your social security number.

Whenever Local 728 cannot dispatch 728 members for employment, the referral list can be emailed to 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. The majority of people who become 728 members get their 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 qualifying days needed to be placed on the CSATF roster.

- 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 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 without the written permission of the Call Steward. 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, that company will be grieved for hiring an off-roster, non-union member without permission.

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 on one of the two Rosters, you qualify to be added to a CSATF roster, contact CSATF (<http://www.csatf.org>) and apply to be added to the roster.

CSATF will notify Local 728 of their intention to place you on that roster 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 roster 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 will be denied roster 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 up to 9 months from the date on our letter to pay the balance of the initiation fees in their entirety in three installments every 90 days. Any new quarterly dues that occur during the payment period will be added to the total due.

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 are allowed to 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), plus application fees and your first quarter dues.

You should plan ahead 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 in New York and approved, after all fees are paid, 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 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 on an IER roster production.

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 a roster and consideration for union membership. To protect our members' ability to be gainfully employed, Local 728 does all it can to find work for Local 728 members and IATSE union members, in that order, 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.

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

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Pascal M. Guillemard  
Treasurer-Call Steward  
IATSE Local 728

Office: 818-954-0728

Email: [TCS@iatse728.org](mailto:TCS@iatse728.org)

Website: <http://www.iatse728.org>

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;

<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>