

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -
PRESS RELEASE FOR PRESS & MEDIA

Live digital hustings for the role of Equity General Secretary, chaired by Sandi Toksvig

Sandi Toksvig chairs a live online General Secretary Debate with the two candidates standing for the role of Equity General Secretary, giving both candidates the opportunity to address the Equity membership in a live broadcast.

A live online hustings on 20 May 2020, organised by Equity members and chaired by Sandi Toksvig, will give Equity members at home and abroad the opportunity to meet the two candidates standing for the role of General Secretary. Equity members are invited to submit questions for the candidates, before and during the event, concerning the issues that matter to them. The Equity membership will vote by postal ballot for their preferred candidate.

Sandi Toksvig OBE, writer, broadcaster, comedian, actor and political activist, is an advocate for gender equality and co-founder of the Women's Equality Party. Says Sandi Toksvig; "It's been 15 years since Equity elected anyone to this role. The next General Secretary of Equity will be steering the Union, the Council and its members through an uncertain future post-Covid and I am honoured to chair this opportunity for the union membership to meet and question both candidates in a live online hustings."

During the live online hustings, chair Sandi Toksvig will introduce each candidate and after they have both spoken, invite them to respond to the pre-submitted questions which they will already have seen. The online audience can also post live questions during the event.

The live General Secretary Debate starts at 4pm on Wednesday 20 May 2020 and Equity members can register to attend the event at <https://bit.ly/gensec-2020-hustings> which will be broadcast on Crowdcast. Registration closes at midnight Monday 18 May 2020. Equity members are invited to submit questions to both candidates by Wednesday 13 May 2020, a week in advance of the hustings, to hustingsquestions@pcmprojects.co.uk

Two candidates, Simon Curtis and Paul Fleming are standing for the role of Equity General Secretary, which will be determined by a postal ballot open to all current Equity members. Ballot papers will be arriving in the week of 1 June 2020 and the ballot ends on Wednesday 8 July 2020 with the report of the Scrutineer, who will oversee the counting of the ballot papers, published on Friday 10 July 2020. Members who may not be at their usual postal address over the coming weeks can change their primary address on the Equity website.

The live hustings will be recorded and available to Equity members after the event.

- ENDS -

For more information please contact:

Flip Webster at flipwebster@hotmail.co.uk

Sorcha Brooks at sorcha.brooks@btinternet.com

Caron Lyon at caron@pcmprojects.co.uk and 07889 205914

For information on the candidates, please contact each candidate directly.

Simon Curtis – <https://simoncurtis.co.uk/>

Paul Fleming – <https://paulwfleming.co.uk/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The election for General Secretary is open to all current Equity members by postal ballot. The current General Secretary, Christine Payne, has been in post for 15 years and retires this October.

The General Secretary acts as the Chief Executive Officer and spokesperson for the Equity union, and as General Secretary to the Council and other meetings of the Union. The position includes the main duties of negotiating with employers, lobbying the government, advancing the interests of the union members, and managing the union's staff. The General Secretary is a paid post with a 5-year term.

For more information on this role, visit

<https://www.equity.org.uk/news/2020/january/call-for-applications-for-the-position-of-general-secretary-of-equity/>

Sandi Toksvig OBE, writer, broadcaster, comedian, actor and political activist, is an advocate for gender equality and co-founder of the Women's Equality Party. Sandi is a familiar figure and voice from TV, stage and radio, as host of BBC2's 'QI' and 'Fifteen to One', co-host of Channel 4's 'The Great British Bake Off', and chair of BBC Radio 4's 'The News Quiz', with more than 20 fiction and non-fiction books to her credit.

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