



Entertainment Diversity Committee

2025 Election Booklet | Disability Co-Chair

Nominees At A Glance

Disability Co-Chair Nominees

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Vote by going to:



Represent

Diversity, inclusion & access for
performers, crew and musicians

Angela Witcher
She/Her | TAS
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



I have worked in the arts for many years and have always been a strong advocate for disability. Now diagnosed with Osteoarthritis and ADHD I feel that, along with my extensive experience, I have a lot to offer as a peer with lived experience of disability.

I was the founder and artistic director of InsideOutside Theatre Company in Brisbane, providing training and professional development opportunities for artists with disability, through linking with international artists. I also worked with Access Arts Inc, engaging people with dementia in the creation and celebration of performance. I am currently studying for my MBA with a goal of working with arts organisations to foster a sense of belonging for diverse artists and creatives of all ages and abilities.

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Chloe Hayden
She/Her | VIC
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



Im an actress, author and disability advocate, best known for my role as Quinni in Heartbreak High where I made history as Australia's first publicly autistic actress, and my best-selling book 'Different, Not Less.' Being autistic, and having Ehlers Danlos Syndrome, MCAS and Dysautonomia, disability is something that I know first hand, and that I also know how deeply it impacts our place in society, and the entertainment industry. My passion is ensuring a safe, equal future for not just performers of disability, but all performers; currently, I am the MEAA delegate for Heartbreak High and have ensured safer work practices be reinforced for my cast mates and gotten us to be 100% union. I have experience speaking with government bodies and parliament, including the Disability Royal Commission, and the Select Committee of Autism Royal Hearing as well as working with entertainment, union and disability organisations globally. Advocating for disabled folks right to exist is my entire life, it's time to now also raise our voices in the entertainment industry.

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Courtney Watts
She/They | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



Queer. Autistic. ADHD. Teacher. Writer. Cereal Killer. I've had a lot of labels throughout my life and I've now reached a point where I fully embrace them all. Acts of creation like performance and writing have been everything, every day of my life growing up. I've acted in a short film, a feature and a TV series. I've written picture books, YA fantasy novels and am currently writing a sitcom. As a disability educator and critical academic, I advocate for intersectional understanding, cultural competence, and human rights for all. Acting, singing, teaching, research, writing and stand up are all tied to the same goals for me: reclaiming my acting skills for myself and educating the world on authentic representation. That is why I'm nominating for this role. It ties into my life goals not only for disability advocacy, but for making an impact on the industry in this area.

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Dan Graham
He/Him | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



I am Proud in being Co Chair Disability and putting myself forward to for this next Term . I have done extra work in this space including meeting with various Drama Schools, Theatre Companies & Performing Arts Venuesvalond with individuals in Industry with a Disability / Neurodivergent to push forward to create Equity and Opportunities.

Dan Graham is a theatre director and disability advocate with a particular interest in access support for neuro-diverse performing artists. Dan has engaged with companies across Australia such as Bell Shakespeare, Sydney Festival, Sydney Fringe, Antipode Theatre Company, and the Ensemble Theatre. His recent collaborations in the US include the Atlantic Theatre Company and Pasadena Playhouse and in the UK the Globe Theatre.

Dan is a fellow of the Australia Council's Future Leaders Program, and an Ian Potter Foundation Scholarship and Create NSW fellowship recipient. Dan is on a number of boards championing for accessible and inclusive arts across the sector.

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Liv Hutley
She/Her | QLD
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



My name is Liv, and I am a Graphic, Production, and Costume Designer for Film, TV, and Live Performance. As someone living with a rare disease, ADHD, and multiple chronic illnesses, I am committed to driving real change for professionals with disabilities in the arts. I've seen firsthand how difficult it can be for crew members to access accommodations while working in the creative industries and how often disabled creatives are expected to sacrifice their well-being to stay employed. I'm proud to be part of Australia's disability arts community and have worked closely with organizations such as Accessible Arts NSW. My experience working on productions of various scales—from indie theatre and films to international television series—has given me insight into the gaps and needs of my community within the arts workforce. Through advocacy, I've championed practical measures like access riders and workplace disability education to foster inclusion in my various workplaces. As a co-chair of the MEAA EDC, I aim to spotlight these issues and empower individuals with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and injuries to join and thrive in the industry. My focus is on developing tangible pathways to support their rights as workers and improve workplace conditions—because no one should have to choose between their health and their passion.

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Rae Leigh
She/Her | QLD
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



I am writing to express my interest in the position of Entertainment Diversity Committee Co-Chair on the MEAA Board. Recently, I completed training with the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and participated in the Observership Program with PPCA in Sydney as the owner of Songwriter Trysts Pty Ltd. As a voting member of the Recording Academy (GRAMMYS) and ARIA, and an ambassador for One Music Australia and Mamas in Music, I am committed to championing diversity, equity, and inclusion within the entertainment industry. Through my experiences as a performer, songwriter, event manager, and workshop facilitator, I've seen firsthand how representation strengthens the creative industries. As Co-Chair, I aim to support MEAA's mission by advocating for diverse perspectives, mentorship for underrepresented groups, and inclusive policies that promote equality across all sectors.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute.

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**Ramana Dienes-
Browning**
She/They | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



I am an autistic film director and artist. Last year I was director's attachment and neurodivergence consultant on the successful ABC Kids TV series Fizzy & Suds. I have been brought on again for Season 2 as a co-director and ND Consultant. I have advocated for better representation of those with a disability in front of and behind the camera throughout my career and would be honoured to have this opportunity to make a real difference for this talented and underrepresented community.

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River Heart
They/She | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



River Heart (they/them) is a queer, crip creative who works in performance, visual arts, film, theatre and participatory projects. They are the Creative Producer and Art Director for feature film and TV, and a PhD Candidate in Creative Industries whose research focuses on inclusion and accessibility in the arts sector. Their work explores crip and queer subcultures, experience and identity, centering on intergenerational storytelling and cultural preservation.

I am a project manager, researcher, lecturer and art director building unique and valuable spaces to encourage collaboration, innovation and excellence. I am a Lecturer of Screen Production and Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility as it relates to the Screen Industry. Prior to the film industry, I accrued over eighteen years' experience working in senior policy, event and project management roles for community organisations and government. I am very interested in joining the board to contribute the work of expanding equity and diversity within the industry and I feel my combo of project management and research will benefit the board.

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Saroni Roy
She/Her | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee

A first-generation migrant, Saroni is a CaRM Actor, Singer, proud Co-chair, Equity Diversity Committee since 2020, former Federal Councillor, National Performers Committee – MEAA Equity, Keynote-Speaker, Social-Entrepreneur. A Body Activist, she's a Cancer-survivor, facing multiple progressive-disabilities. Listed as Most Influential Asian-Australians of 2024 & 2023, she's won several awards including the 2024 Diversity Enabler Award, the Ms India-Australia Goodwill Ambassador title at 2018 Miss/Mrs/Mr. India-Australia beauty pageant, for extensive contribution to global community-welfare. A D.E.I Champion she's the Founder & CEO, Saroni Roy Foundation, an award-winning NFP creating a paradigm shift in the way the world thinks about peace, a 3Cs approach, leveraging the 'Cultural, Creative & Circular Economy'. "It would be an honour to continue representing, advocating and amplifying accessibility, visibility & inclusion of CaRM creatives with disabilities, creating safe ecosystems, tailored training opportunities, using community-engagement platforms. Address cultural disconnects within our industry, empowering marginalised voices to scale the Australian entertainment industry to global heights".

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Shannon Meilak
She/Her | VIC
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee

I am a disabled and queer creative from a religious and ethnic minority. With varied experience in media, I have worked across film, television, radio, photography, and journalism, championing accessibility and inclusion. I have been a passionate advocate for equity in the arts, calling for inclusion both on screen and behind the scenes. I am running for Co-Chair to ensure all marginalised communities—especially those with disabilities—have a seat at the table. Too often, these voices are excluded from equity discussions, despite facing significant barriers in media. I am committed to changing systemic discrimination, pushing for authentic representation, and creating real opportunities for underrepresented creatives. I believe in intersectional advocacy and a future where our industry reflects the diversity of our communities. I will fight for fair access, better opportunities, and true representation across all creative roles. Vote for me to ensure no one is left behind.

Represent

Diversity, inclusion & access for
performers, crew and musicians

Tiffany Wong
She/Her | NSW
Disability Co-Chair
Nominee



As a Cammeraygal-based actor, director, and advocate with lived experience as an autistic artist, I am committed to fostering inclusivity within the arts. I have worked with leading organisations including Bell Shakespeare, STC, Ensemble Theatre, the Australian Shakespeare Company, and various independent theatre companies. My work with Accessible Arts has provided invaluable insights into the barriers disabled female and non-binary artists face, and I've developed essential leadership skills in strategic decision-making, inclusive practices, and advocacy. Additionally, I will be working with Brand X on their Ground Zero program for disabled artists. As Co-Chair, I will leverage my experience to champion policies and initiatives that create a more accessible and equitable arts industry, ensuring that disabled artists' voices are amplified both within the Union and across the sector.