

Membership Guidelines

December 7th, 2024

Written by Rhayna Poulin '25



Yale University Dramatic Association, Inc. · P.O. Box 209037 · New Haven, CT 06520 · (860) 531-8224

Part I. Definitions

Active Producing Member - someone who has been inducted into the Dramat after earning two show credits or serving a full term on Associate Board; they have all the rights and privileges of a Dramat member including the ability to vote in elections/any votes of the Producing Membership, the ability to run for Executive Board, access to newsletters and membership-wide emails, free tickets, and access to exclusive Dramat events.

Inactive Producing Member - someone who has previously been an active producing member of the Dramat but in the previous semester failed to meet one or both of the requirements for maintaining membership; they do not have the rights and privileges of a Dramat member but will still receive newsletters and membership-wide emails, this means they cannot vote in elections or run for Executive Board and do not have access to exclusive Dramat events or free tickets.

Lapsed Member - someone who was an inactive producing member and failed to gain back their active status; they have no rights and privileges of a Dramat member and to earn back their membership they must first meet the initial membership requirements again (two show credits or serving a full term on Associate Board, they would be reinstated at the end of the second show or appropriate semester of Associate Board service).

Part II. Membership Process

Becoming a Member - to become a Dramat member any member of Yale College must either receive two Dramat show credits OR serve a full term on Associate Board; at the strike of the second show or at the conclusion of the semester they served on Associate Board, they will be inducted and will become an Active Member

Maintaining Membership - to maintain membership in each semester following the semester where the member is inducted they must:

- a) Participate in the production or administrative functioning of the organization once in the semester; examples include but are not limited to ushering, attending load-in and/or strike, serving on a show team in any capacity, or serving on Associate or Executive Board

AND

- b) Vote in regular elections held at the end of the semester either in person or by proxy

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Reactivating Inactive Membership - to reactive an inactive membership, the member must earn one show credit in the semester when they are inactive; they will then be counted as an active member for elections and must vote to be considered an active member again in the following semester. Show credits can only be earned through being a cast or crew member on a Dramat production, an inactive member cannot become an active member again through ushering or load-in/strike attendance.

Reinstating Membership - to reinstate a lapsed membership, the member must earn the same number of show credits/Associate Board service credits necessary for initial induction. This means they must either earn two show credits on Dramat shows (these do not need to be consecutive or happen in a single semester) or they must serve one term on the Associate Board after which they will be reinstated as a member.¹

Part III. Special Cases

Executive Board Members - if a member has served on the Executive Board at any point in their time at Yale their membership cannot lapse or become inactive even if they do not participate in elections and/or earn participation credit each semester.

Graduating Seniors - if a graduating senior is an active member at the conclusion of the election before the semester in which they will graduate, they will remain an active producing member until graduation even if they do not participate in elections and/or earn participation credit each semester.

Commencement - participation in the Commencement musical counts as participation in the Spring semester; if a member earns their membership during the Commencement musical they will remain a member for the Fall semester elections regardless of their participation in the Fall semester.

Part IV. Membership Procedures

Membership should be evaluated prior to each election, at least ten days before the election the Secretary and President should review the current membership list to determine accurate numbers for quorum and special quorum.

All inductees from that semester should be added to the existing list of active producing members and then each active producing member should be evaluated to ensure they met the requirements necessary for maintaining their membership. If an active member has not met the requirements for maintaining membership that semester (i.e., they did not participate in any function of the organization) then they become an inactive producing member.

¹Even though they will be reinstated, they will not be reinducted. Members should only be inducted once when they initially earn membership.

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All inactive producing members from the previous semester should also be evaluated to determine if they reactivated their membership by earning a show credit in that semester. If they have met the requirements, they become eligible to vote in/run in that semester's election cycle. If they have not met the requirements, their membership will lapse for the following semester and they will not be eligible to vote in/run in that semester's election cycle.

At least ten days prior to elections, the Secretary should email all members of all statuses informing them of their membership status and what that means for voting and elections. These emails should also clearly outline the process for gaining back membership if it has lapsed or reactivating inactive membership; they should also emphasize to active members that not voting in elections will result in their membership status changing to inactive. After this, the official membership number will be set which should be the number used for calculating quorum and special quorum at that semester's election.

After elections, the membership list should be updated and all active producing members who did not vote should be designated as inactive for the following semester.

Part V. Relevant Clauses of the Constitution

Article III. Section 1

Any student enrolled in Yale College may become a Producing Member of the Association by earning two (2) show credits. A show credit can be earned by working for at least ten (10) hours in any capacity on an Association project or by working at least one (1) load-in shift and one (1) strike shift on an Association project. Participation in non-show activities will be counted as credit at the discretion of the Executive Board of the Association. Upon the completion of the third qualifying show, the student will be considered a member and open to special courtesy ticket privileges as stated in the Bylaws. If any student terminates their participation in an Association project in which they had a position of responsibility, even after 10 hours were garnered, the Executive Board reserves the right to discount the project toward membership. The Producing Members shall have ultimate authority over the affairs of the Association. The maintenance of rights of Producing Membership shall be contingent upon enrollment in Yale College.

a. Privileges of Producing Membership

Producing Members shall be notified of each meeting of the Producing Membership. Each Producing Member may attend and may cast one (1) vote on each matter put before any meeting of the Producing Membership. Producing Members may use this vote in their absence by entrusting a proxy vote to another Producing Member who will then vote for the absent Producing Member as well as for themselves. Each Producing Member can have a maximum of one (1) proxy vote per meeting. Producing Members shall be entitled to one (1) free admission to designated performances of each production staged by the Association. Producing Members shall pay such dues as may be fixed by the

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Executive Board. The full Bylaws, including the Constitution, of the Corporation must be made readily available to the Producing Membership

b. Requirements and Responsibilities of Producing Membership

To maintain privileges as may be defined in these Bylaws or by action of the Executive Board, each Producing Member must be present, either in person or by proxy, at Executive Board elections. Each Producing Member must also participate at least once each semester in the production or administrative functions of the Association. Any Producing Member who fails to fulfill the requirements and responsibilities of Producing Membership as defined here and in the Bylaws shall be designated an Inactive Producing Member. The Executive Board

c. Special Courtesy Ticket Privilege

Whenever possible, Producing Members are entitled to one (1) ticket to each production staged by the Yale School of Drama and the Yale Repertory Theatre in accordance with Article III Section A of the Constitution of the Association.

Part VI. Membership Flow Chart

