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The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT), for the purposes of organizational membership, defines “Community Theatre” as follows:

Community Theatre refers to theatre primarily produced by and for residents of a local or regional geographical area. Artistic and administrative staff members, including musicians, may be paid as full-time, part-time, or contract employees. In general, auditions for productions must be open to the general public. While actors in productions are typically volunteers, they may receive stipends, travel reimbursement, complimentary tickets, or other forms of limited compensation. Actors may be members of Actors’ Equity Association or other professional unions, but may not be compensated at professional (Equity) “living wage” scale for their performance in standard community theatre productions, and must conform to the applicable contract or code required by their representative union.

One exception for the purposes of festival entry (per the *AACTFest Handbook*): “Persons who are active members of Actors’ Equity or Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) may not under any circumstances be involved as an actor in an entering production at any level of AACTFest.” (*AACTFest Handbook 2019*, p. 4)