

The ALD - what's in it for you?

Peter Mumford, ALD Chairman, explains...

The purpose of the ALD is to improve the standards of the aesthetics, professional practice, working conditions and public awareness of the profession. These principles can only be really effective if we have 100% support and membership from all practitioners and all others with related interests in lighting design. Over the last decade the ALD has firmly established itself in this role and is reckoned to be the largest professional body of lighting practitioners worldwide and the vast majority of working lighting designers in the UK are members as well as a number of international members and associates.

So, it is important to belong. It is important to take part in the various debates and discussions held around the country. It is important that the membership expresses its opinions about the direction the ALD should be taking.

The ALD is a professional organisation run by members of the profession. As the chairman of the ALD I have become part of a committed Executive which works hard for its members to further the aims of the organisation.

We are not a union but we can help with contractual issues and we do work to improve fees and terms of employment. The majority of our members are freelance and the ALD provides an opportunity for individuals to share opinions and also to socialise and keep up with what's going on.

Membership of the ALD includes free entrance to PLASA and ABTT tradeshows, free subscription to *Lighting & Sound International* and *Entertainment Technology* magazines and access to a range of discounted products and services. The ALD is directly involved in the Knight of Illumination Awards and the Michael Northen Bursary (for young designers) as well as organising numerous events, site visits and lectures.

So if you are involved at any level in the lighting design industry and are not a member of the ALD – it's simple... **please join now!**

Why should I join?

1. For advice and practical support in all aspects of working in the world of lighting
2. To be a part of a substantial body of people who are passionate about the art of lighting design
3. To contribute to the future of lighting design and the tools we use
4. To propagate excellence and share information within the profession
5. Unity means strength and influence

“Probably the first thing to understand about our organisation is that it encompasses and encourages members from all the many creative layers involved in the realisation of lighting design; so technicians, programmers, equipment designers and manufacturers, sales and hire companies and designers all should have a reason to belong.”

Membership of the ALD

Membership for individuals is available in four areas:

Professional Member £85 pa

Professional Membership has a single category open to anyone who can demonstrate a professional track record in one or more areas of lighting and/or video live performance in its broadest definition.

Professional Members receive the standard ALD benefits **plus voting rights, exclusive professional email briefings and invitations to professional member meetings.**

Professional Membership can be gained under one (or more) of six headings. These are:

- Lighting Designer
- Video Designer
- Programmer (for Lighting and/or Video)
- Lighting Professional
- Video Professional
- Education Professional

Applicants are asked to demonstrate at least two years of professional work in each of the headings for which they apply. You may apply to be listed under multiple headings at no extra charge.

Affiliate Member £50 pa

Recent graduates and emerging professionals in their early years of work in lighting and/or video for live performance, who may not match the criteria for full Professional Membership but are working in the industry should consider joining as Affiliate Members. They will then receive standard ALD benefits for Professional Members, but will not have voting rights.

Associate Member £45 pa

For anyone who is interested in joining, but whose work is not directly concerned with lighting and/or video for live performance.

Students £30 pa

For those in full-time education. Each autumn term we have a sponsorship scheme for higher education students to sign up for free membership, paid for by our Corporate Members. All students receive the standard ALD benefits plus invitations to student meetings.

For full details and to apply, visit our website at www.ald.org.uk/membership/