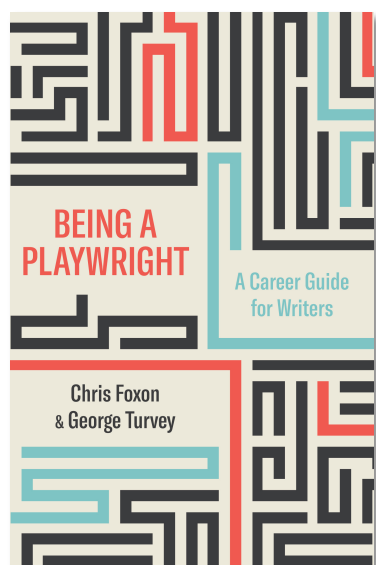


Nick Hern Books publishes

# How to succeed as a playwright: the insider guide



## Being a Playwright *A Career Guide for Writers*

by **Chris Foxon and George Turvey**

The essential guide to a career in playwriting, from the team behind the multi-award-winning Papatango, one of the UK's leading new-writing companies.

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Writing a good play is only the first step towards becoming a successful playwright; it is just as crucial to understand all the practical and business elements of building your career. *Being a Playwright* transparently and honestly sets out everything you need to know, including clear and constructive advice on:

- Starting out, including training options and gaining practical experience
- Finding a playwriting model that works for you
- Getting your script noticed and connecting with industry decision-makers
- Developing a production-ready draft through redrafting and R&D
- Pursuing programming, commissioning and funding opportunities
- Approaching and working with agents and publishers
- Securing the best possible deal with producers
- Working with collaborators throughout the rehearsal process and previews
- Capitalising on a production, assessing its success and planning new projects

Drawing on Papatango's superlative track record of discovering and launching new writers – including BAFTA, OffWestEnd, Royal National Theatre Foundation and Alfred Fagon Award winners, many of whom have premiered worldwide as well as in the West End – and featuring tips from a host of industry insiders, this encouraging and accessible guide explores the opportunities and pitfalls of life as a playwright.

Whether you're an aspiring writer wondering how to break into the industry or a working playwright looking to move up to the next level, this is your road map for navigating the world of professional theatre.

**'This enlightening book, full of pragmatic information, is an excellent tool for playwrights navigating today's industry.'** Indhu Rubasingham, Artistic Director of Kiln Theatre, London

**'Chris Foxon and George Turvey – aka Papatango – are a phenomenon for playwriting good. *Being a Playwright* is packed with inside information that will kick-start your writing life. Written with insight and chock-full of useful advice, this will be a bible for playwrights.'** Steve Waters, playwright and Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia

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## About the authors

**Chris Foxon** went to Gosforth Academy in Newcastle upon Tyne before taking a first-class degree in English Language and Literature at Oxford University. He subsequently received an MA (Distinction) in Creative Producing at the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama, where he studied on an AHRC scholarship.

He has developed / produced new plays at fringe and West End venues. These have won or been nominated for a range of awards, toured the UK, and transferred internationally. He is currently the Executive Director of Papatango, and has taught at Central as well as the Universities of York and Northampton.

**George Turvey** went to Mangotsfield School in Bristol before studying acting at the Academy of Live and Recorded Arts. He co-founded Papatango in 2007, becoming sole Artistic Director in 2013. He has directed new plays at venues including the Arcola Theatre, Theatr Clwyd, North Wall Arts Centre, Marlowe Theatre, Cheltenham Everyman and Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, as well as for BBC Radio.

As a dramaturg he has led the development of all of Papatango's productions, which have premiered worldwide and won Critics' Circle, OffWestEnd, Alfred Fagon and Royal National Theatre Foundation Awards. As an actor he has appeared on stage and screen throughout the UK and internationally, including the lead roles in the world premiere of Arthur Miller's *No Villain* and *Batman Live World Arena Tour*.

## About Papatango Theatre Company



One of the UK's leading new-writing companies, Papatango discover and champion new playwrights through free, open-application schemes and opportunities.

Their flagship programme is the Papatango New Writing Prize, the UK's only annual award guaranteeing an emerging playwright a full production, publication, 10% of the gross box office, and an unprecedented £6,000 commission for a second play. The Prize is free to enter and assessed anonymously, and all entrants receive personal feedback on their scripts, an unmatched commitment to supporting aspiring playwrights. Over 1,300 entries are received each year.

Writers discovered through the Prize have received OffWestEnd and RNT Foundation Playwright Awards and BAFTAs, made work with the RSC, BBC, Hampstead Theatre, National Theatre, Out of Joint and other leading organisations, and premiered in over twenty countries.

Papatango also run an annual Resident Playwright scheme, taking an emerging playwright through commissioning, development and production of a new play. Their first Resident, May Sumbwanyambe, won the 2016 Alfred Fagon Audience Award for Papatango's production of *After Independence*, which the company then adapted and produced for BBC Radio Four. The second Resident, Sam Potter, won a place on the Channel 4 Playwright's Scheme, and Papatango toured her play *Hanna* nationwide.

Papatango launched a new arm in summer 2017 called GoWrite. GoWrite delivers an extensive programme of free playwriting opportunities for children and adults nationwide. Children in state schools write their own plays which are then professionally performed and published, while adults take part in workshops, complete six-month courses at a variety of regional venues culminating in free public performances, or join fortnightly one-to-one career-facilitation services. GoWrite delivered face-to-face training for over 2,000 budding writers in its first year, with £5,000 available in bursaries to enable in-need writers nationwide to access these opportunities.

10% of seats at Papatango productions are donated to charities for young people at risk of exclusion from the arts. All their opportunities are free and entered anonymously, encouraging the best new talent regardless of means or connections. Papatango's motto is simple. All you need is a story.

<http://papatango.co.uk/>

For further information and review copies, contact Jon Barton, Marketing Manager, [jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk](mailto:jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk) or 020 8749 4953