

The Writers Company

A place for writers and theatre makers to develop their skills, receive investment and test ideas.



Our current offer for Writers

Beyond Face has been investing in writers for 7 years. In 2020 during the height of the pandemic, we offered writing bursaries to South West based creatives and in 2021, we launched our writers group for global majority writers *We are Here to Write: The Collective*. The group offers community, accountability and upskilling courtesy of the monthly masterclasses. Our participants all have a connection to the South West, though they span the country and in some cases continents! Members of the group have taken plays we have supported to Edinburgh Fringe whilst others have won prestigious writing awards including being longlisted and shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Playwriting. To date, Beyond Face has invested over £27,000 into global majority writers' development in the region.

Introducing The Writers Company

Are you a global majority playwright or theatre-maker currently living in South West England with lots of ideas?

Do you feel stuck by the current sector?

Are you looking for community, financial investment and deadlines to bring your next project to fruition?

Here at Beyond Face, we are excited to introduce a brand new area to our writers development, the Writers Company, a 2 year programme of development support. We have created this in response to recognising that there is an urgent need for more robust development of new writing for theatre in the region. We want to support urgent ideas rooted in the South West which platform global

majority stories and provide a clear pathway from the early seed of an idea to a draft with financial support and an established development process. The Writers Company will provide opportunities for in person connection with fellow regional writers and exists to champion 3 South West based writers to bring the creation of 3 new plays into the world through guidance, financial investment, a community and those all important deadlines.



What's the offer?

Year 1:

- £1000 Bursary
- 6 paid in person sessions. Each company member will receive £120 per day to attend these workshop sessions taking place every other month in Exeter. They will involve developing the 3 ideas that you presented at application stage and be a space for creative discussion and reflection, sharing of work and peer feedback.
- Travel to and from in person sessions covered.
- Any additional required resources covered (e.g books)
- Opportunity to attend rehearsals for Beyond Face's 2027 production
- Option to hot desk from the Beyond Face office
- Mentoring support from Beyond Face Artistic Director & CEO + Artist Development Producer



Year 2:

- £3790.05 Commission to write a 30 minute draft of one of your plays.(ITC / WGGB: Writers rate for a 30 minute draft)
- Bespoke Research and Development time on your first draft
- Play will be showcased at a Beyond Face hosted public showcase
- Mentoring and dramaturgical support from Beyond Face Artistic Director & CEO + Artist Development Producer
- Option to hot desk from the Beyond Face office

Total cash investment per writer: £5510.05

Who is it for?

- Beyond Face is an organisation whose vision is to lead the South West into becoming a recognised region that amplifies and celebrates Global Majority people in the arts and cultural sector. This opportunity is designed to meet our vision and we are looking for writers who are from Global Majority backgrounds.
- This is an opportunity for writers living in the South West of England.
- This is an opportunity for early career and established writers and theatre makers with previous experience. This might look like having had a full play performed in a theatre (including fringe), receiving a commission, participating in talent development schemes, or having work showcased through R&D or scratch performances.
- The Writers Company requires a one day in person commitment every other month in Exeter for which you will be paid. We would expect you to prioritise these sessions.

What is the Beyond Face team looking for?



We are interested in work that engages with a range of subject matters from urgent stories needing to be told to everyday experiences that amplify joy and celebration. As a South West based organisation we are particularly interested in how your writing might highlight this area of the world, and how you might bring to light stories about people from Global majority backgrounds



living in this part of the world. We are happy to receive proposals for plays for young people aged 12+ or even a festive show. Our values are Joy, Community, Representation, Quality and Care. We'd love for you to consider this in your writing and how your ideas aligns with them.

How to apply

We will invite you to pitch 3 ideas that you would like to explore over the first year of the company- as such, we are not looking for fully developed plays at this stage. You might share a question, a character or a concept that you are exploring in your application. You can present these ideas as bullet points rather than full paragraphs if you would prefer. You might also wish to tell us where the inspiration for this idea came from and why you're passionate about it.



You can apply via [this form](#). You can submit written answers or you can submit recorded answers via video or audio. **All applicants will be contacted about the outcome of their application.** We will shortlist a number of applicants and meet individually with them in early July before confirming the Writers Company by the end of July.

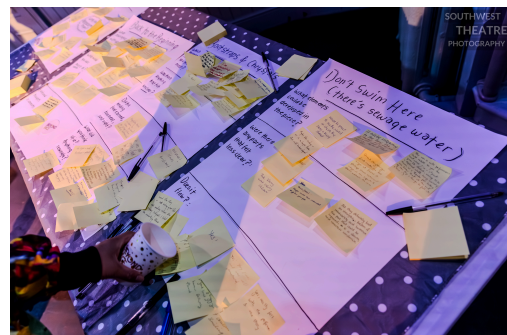
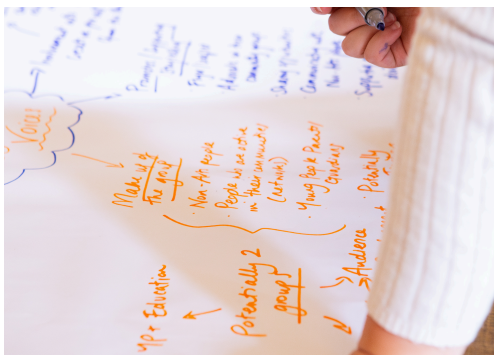
Application questions (for reference)

- First name and last name

- Email address
- Where are you based?
- First half of your postcode - this opportunity is only for those currently based in the SW
- Please let us know of access requirements you have or actions we can put in place in order for you to engage with this opportunity.
- Tell us about you and your writing journey so far.
- Tell us about who or what creatively inspires you and your writing at the moment.
- Tell us about your 3 ideas. (You might want to include where the inspiration for this idea came from and why you're passionate about it). 100 words max on each idea
- Send an e.g 10 page extract from a play as an example of your writing- Please note this must be a play.
- Please upload a [Writing CV](#) (max. 2 pages)

Key dates

- **8th May** - Applications open
- **20th May, 1-2pm** - Online information session. A chance to learn more about the opportunity and to have your questions answered. Please register your interest to attend [here](#).
- **5th June, 6pm** - Applications close
- **7th/9th/10th July** - Interviews with shortlisted applicants.
- **End of July 2026** - Writers Company members confirmed.
- **September 2026** - Writers Company begins with first in person workshop



FAQs

Can I pitch a play idea that I've already written/have a first draft of?

- This is an opportunity to develop new ideas over a 2 year period, so we would invite you to apply with ideas that you haven't yet developed.

Will Beyond Face put on my play at the end of the 2 year period?

- Though there is no expectation that Beyond Face will produce your play at the end of the 2 year programme, we are excited by the prospect of building a relationship with all of the company members. We are currently in the process of building our programme of work post 2029 and we will have a conversation around the future of your show upon completion of the Company period. Beyond Face will be acknowledged as the original commissioner in any future life of the play that you develop whilst in the Writers Company.

Can I write more than a 30 minute play during the programme?

- We are providing a commission fee for a 30 minute first draft as part of the Writers Company. However if it feels beneficial to your development to create a longer draft, you could pursue this. It is important to bear in mind however that each play will have a 30 minute performance slot at the showcase event in 2028.

I am a writer but I have not written for theatre before, is it worth applying?

- Outside of the creative in person sessions which will take place every other month, this is a largely self-directed programme and is therefore better suited for those who have written for theatre previously. We will also be asking you to submit 10 pages of writing and this should be a play rather than a script for any other medium. Our fortnightly online writers group We are Here to Write: [The Collective](#) is designed for those interested in writing for stage but within a more regular routine and in a supportive community. You can sign up for this [here](#).

I am a writer with a base in the South West but I don't currently live there, can I apply.

- As we recognise the lack of opportunities for those based in the South West and because all in person sessions will take place in Exeter, the Writers Company is only for writers living in the region.

Can co-writing teams apply?

- We will accept applications from co-writing teams. However both writers must live in South West England. The bursary and commission would be shared between both writers if you were selected. In addition, your 10 page sample should be an example of your work writing together.

Can my idea(s) be an adaptation?

- One of the three ideas that you present as part of your application could be an adaptation but two should be your original ideas.

I'm excited by this opportunity but I don't yet have the experience that you are looking for, what else does Beyond Face offer for writers?

- We run a fortnightly writers group online called We are Here to Write: The Collective. With a combination of masterclasses, focused time to work on your scripts and opportunities to share your work for peer feedback, it's a chance to connect with other passionate writers and also to shape your practice.