



The RIGHTS Card

What *all* playwrights are entitled to

WGGB has legally binding agreements with the National Theatre, the RSC and the Royal Court (the Theatres National Committee, TNC) and with the subsidised building-based theatres, and some subsidised touring companies (UK Theatre, UKT).

These are minimum terms agreements, meaning that no contract can be less favourable to the playwright (though writers can negotiate *better* terms).

These KEY RIGHTS apply to all plays premiered by TNC and UKT theatres, and to *all* playwrights, old or young, emergent or established, famous or unknown.

1. Companies **must use the agreement** in any of their theatre spaces. They cannot choose just to purchase a licence to perform the play.
2. Companies cannot pay less than the **TNC/UKT rates on commission, delivery and acceptance**; for rehearsal attendance; and for options for future performances.
3. If the play is non-commissioned, the company **must pay the same fees and royalties** it would have paid had the play been commissioned.
4. The **text of the play cannot be changed** without the playwright's permission. Any changes become part of the playwright's play. Playwrights cannot be asked to waive their moral rights.
5. The playwright has the **right to attend all rehearsals** and to be paid for so doing. (Under the UKT agreement, the company is not obliged to pay for more than 12 days).
6. The playwright is entitled to **expenses** for attending rehearsals and other duties relating to the production of the play.
7. The playwright has the **right of approval** of the choice of directors, designers and actors (while paying attention to the company's policy and resources). He or she has the right to be consulted over publicity.
8. The company has the right to a proportion of the playwright's future earnings, but *only* after the playwright has earned a substantial amount from the subsequent productions of the play. This **threshold figure** is currently £34,211 (TNC) and £35,385 (UKT).

For a summary of the TNC and UKT agreements, go to the Resources section of the WGGB website (www.writersguild.org.uk/resources/) and click on *The Working Playwright: Agreements and Contracts*.

For current rates, go to www.writersguild.org.uk/rates-agreements/ and click on the UK Theatre and TNC rate cards.

WGGB supports writers at all stages of their careers. Join online at www.writersguild.org.uk or by phone: **020 7833 0777**.