



## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **Who will be eligible to apply for the scheme?**

Applications are welcomed from any professional pairing of a playwright and a producer, venue or theatre company in England.

### **Do I need a full script to apply?**

No, applications will require a proposal and a sample(s) of previous work.

### **What will the scheme provide?**

The scheme will fund the first phase of the commissioning fee as set out in the appropriate WGGB agreement for 15 writers, expecting co-applicant venues/producers to meet subsequent payments.

### **Do I have to be a member of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain (WGGB) to make an application?**

No, applicants **do not** have to be members of the WGGB to apply and membership status **will not** be divulged to the selection panel. We would of course recommend that any professional or emerging playwright join the WGGB. Full details of the benefits of membership and how to apply can be found here: <https://writersguild.org.uk/join-renew/>

## **I am a writer, but I do not have a producing partner. Can I still apply?**

No, to be considered for the scheme applications must include submissions from both a writer and the producing partner.

## **Why can't playwrights apply alone?**

Unlike writing development schemes, a specific aim of NPCS is to ensure that new writing is being brought to the stage. The assessment of applications will be made on **both** the creative idea **and** the likely pathway to production.

## **Doesn't this just favour existing partnerships?**

The scheme specifies that 75% of awards will go to applications where the writer and producer have not staged work together before.

## **If I do not have a producing partner, how can I find one?**

To ensure full transparency and independent oversight, NPCS cannot introduce playwrights to producing partners. However, we have produced a brief fact sheet for those writers without existing relationships with producers which you can access here:

<https://writersguild.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Fact-sheet-finding-a-producer.pdf>

## **I work with a writing partner – will an application with more than one writer be eligible?**

Yes. NPCS is open to proposals of plays written by more than one writer (under the terms of the relevant

WGGB agreements); in this document the word “writer” can include a co-writer.

**We are a producing consortium – will an application with more than one producing partner be eligible?**

Yes. NPCS also welcomes proposals for co-productions between more than one theatre, producing company or independent producer.

**The producing partner is based in England, but the writer is not. Can we still apply?**

To honour the terms of the scheme’s funding from Arts Council England, both writer and producing partner must be based in England. During the application process you will be asked to provide the full address of the producing partner, and the postcode of the writer, in order to establish eligibility.

**My script writing process includes community co-creation – would my work be eligible?**

Yes, but the resultant script must be written by and credited to you (though co-creation partners may be acknowledged).

**Is verbatim theatre eligible?**

Yes, although the final script must be written by and credited to you (though writing partners may be acknowledged).

**Our production is partly improvised – is it eligible?**

If the writing process includes improvisation by the writer or others from which material is drawn for the creation of a written script, then yes. The final script must be written

by and credited to you (though partners may be acknowledged). There are provisions in the WGGB Agreements for co-writing agreements to be made at the outset.

### **Is musical theatre eligible?**

New musical theatre writing is eligible for the NPCS, but the scheme will only support the commissioning of the written word (librettist, lyricist or book writer). The additional costs of commissioning the musical composer will have to be born fully by the producer, and the application should clearly show how this additional funding will be raised, as part of the pathway to production. Additionally, if a musical theatre commission is successfully supported by NPCS, subsequent conversations will be required to establish the appropriate WGGB collective agreement against which funding will be awarded.

### **Are adaptations and translations eligible?**

As NPCS was designed to stimulate new pieces of work, translations and adaptations of existing work will not be eligible. That is not to underestimate their value or importance in the literary landscape but to reflect the fact that our research suggested that they were increasing in commission numbers while new works were decreasing.

### **Are plays for children eligible?**

Yes.

### **As a writer, can I apply to self-produce my own work?**

No. Applications must be submitted by a producing partner on behalf of a playwright/producer partnership. However, you can apply if you are part of a pre-existing producing company, of which you are not the only member, which produces new work.