

Digital Principles

For playwrights
commissioned by the
TNC theatres

Developed jointly by WGGB and
the Personal Managers' Association

www.writersguild.org.uk

Digital Principles

WGGB/PMA/TNC theatres have agreed a set of digital principles.

1. The commissioning or programming of a new play for performance on the live stage will not be contingent on the writer granting digital rights to the TNC theatres, National Theatre, Royal Court and Royal Shakespeare Company.
2. Where there are digital iterations of a commissioned new play or non-commissioned new play, the licence terms of those digital iterations will be subject to separate negotiations for appropriate remuneration including up-front payments or advances and – where applicable – royalties.
3. The term, territories and length of the grant of digital rights in the live stage version of the play will be subject to mutual agreement between the writer and the theatre. The remuneration for the writer will reflect the specific terms of that agreement and will take into account the audience size, territorial reach, time window and distribution model for delivery.
4. The TNC theatres' acquisition of digital rights in the live stage version of a play will not include the film and television rights in the play which will remain vested in the writer.
5. No digital rights in a commissioned play shall be subject to a buy-out by the TNC theatres. Such rights will be granted under limited licence only, with the exception of licences of digital content for educational purposes which may require a longer licence term and will be negotiated in good faith.
6. The writer will be creatively consulted during the preparation for and – if reasonably available for consultation – editing of the digital capture of the commissioned play, as well as – where possible – during the capture/digital broadcast process itself. In any edit of the production for digital distribution, the play and production will not be materially altered without the writer's consent.
7. The TNC theatres will take all commercially reasonable steps to prevent the illegal downloading and sharing of filmed productions. Where piracy/illegal downloading and distribution is suspected, the TNC theatres will take action as soon as possible.