

NICOLA WERENOWSKA

PROFILE AND VISION

I'm an award winning experienced neurodivergent playwright from a working class background. I wrote my first play when I was 16 and it was a runner up in the Royal Court Young People's playwriting competition but due to my undiagnosed disability and its debilitating effects on my confidence, it took me another 15 years before I began writing professionally following my life changing diagnosis of dyspraxia in 2003. Since then, my work has been developed and produced regionally and nationally with diverse theatre partners including Hampstead Theatre, the National Theatre Studio, the Royal Court, Theatre 503, the Mercury Theatre and Graeae Theatre. Recent work includes my 5 star sell out show *Silence* which was on national tour in 2018 and my radio debut as co-writer for Radio 4's Christmas Classic adaptation *Amy Dorrit* in 2019.

I'm currently associate artist at the Mercury Theatre and have work in development with Graeae Theatre, (libretto for an opera about a blind musician); the Mercury Theatre, (adaptation of D.H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow*); the New Wolsey, (*Masked* - a play about undiagnosed female neurodivergency); The Marlowe, (*Broken English* – a contemporary piece about the impact of Brexit on Polish migrants).

As a disabled writer, I am committed to exploring underrepresented voices in my writing and have successfully run engagement projects in relation to my theatre practice with diverse communities including Polish, neurodivergent, and deprived communities. Integrated community productions include *Japanese Tales* (2008) and *Aftermath* (2006) for the Mercury Theatre's disabled acting group 'dis:play' and I am developing a community ensemble of neurodivergent women as part of my new play *Masked*.

SCRIPTS IN DEVELOPMENT

<i>Masked</i>	The New Wolsey/Colchester Arts Centre. National Tour planned for Autumn 2022
<i>The Paradis Files</i>	Graeae Theatre. National Tour Spring 2022
<i>Broken English</i>	The Marlowe Theatre
<i>The Rainbow</i>	The Mercury Theatre
<i>The Black Madonna</i>	A play about memorialisation, race & religion through the history of a Polish icon. Eastern Angles/Colchester Arts Centre.

THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

<i>Behind Doors</i>	2020	Mercury Theatre online festival zoom short
<i>Late to the Party</i>	2019	Mercury Theatre community engagement commission

<i>Silence</i>	2018	Mercury Theatre, Salisbury Playhouse, Liverpool Unity and on national tour
<i>Guesthouse</i>	2018	Eastern Angles Theatre Company
<i>Hidden</i>	2017	Oxford Playhouse, Marlowe Theatre, Mercury Theatre
<i>Tattooed Under Your Skin</i>	2016	Acts of Defiance' festival, Theatre 503
<i>CASH!</i>	2013	Mercury Theatre Ethics festival commission
<i>Tu I Teraz (Here and Now)</i>	2012/13	Hampstead Downstairs, Nuffield, Mercury Theatre
<i>Birth Date</i>	2013	Nabakov commission for <i>The Best Years of Your Life</i> , High Tide Festival and Watford Palace Theatre
<i>Standpoint</i>	2011	Jumped Up Theatre. Readings at Pulse Festival & Quay Theatre, Peterborough
<i>Camolodunum</i>	2010	Monologue for Paines Plough's 'Come to Where I'm From' tour
<i>Dreamdance</i>	2009	Footprints community theatre
<i>Hurt</i>	2008	Footprints community theatre
<i>Japanese Stories</i>	2008	dis:play production, Mercury Theatre
<i>Freedoms of the Forest</i>	2008	Menagerie
<i>Peapicker</i>	2007	Eastern Angles Touring Production
<i>Aftermath</i>	2006	dis:play production, Mercury Theatre
<i>Davy's Day</i>	2004	(Slammers), Mercury Theatre

RADIO/AUDIO

<i>Look Me In The Eye</i>	2020	Menagerie Theatre Commission for diversity training
<i>Amy Dorrit</i>	2018/19	Radio 4 Christmas Classic adaptation slot, produced by Graeae and Naked Productions
<i>Not So Dead End</i>	2009	Audiotheque drama produced as part of a Menagerie/BBC collaboration

AWARDS & ATTACHMENTS

2018 - ongoing	Associate Artist Mercury Theatre, Colchester
2014 - ongoing	Associate Artist, Lakeside Theatre, Essex University
2016	Longlisted, Papa Tango Award for Hidden
2016	Runner Up, Mercury Theatre Prize for Hidden
2013/14	Write to Play Attachment with Graeae Theatre Company

2013	Invited member of Royal Court Theatre National Writer Group
2007	East 15 drama school showcase presentation, Actors Centre
2006	Finalist in the Churchill Theatre Playwriting Competition
2005/6	Arts Council Award for East to Lumb Bank, an Arvon Foundation course for new playwrights in the Eastern Regions
2005	Shortlisted for Channel 4 The Play's the Thing
2005	Shortlisted for London Writers Competition
2005	Highly Commended Award in the Drama Association of Wales Playwriting Competition. (shortlist of five)
1988	Runner-up in Royal Court Young Playwrights' Competition for play Twenty Per Cent.

TEACHING & MENTORING

2013-21	Employed by theatres/arts venues including Graeae, Mainspring Arts, the Mercury Theatre, Eastern Angles, Firstsite to deliver ongoing creative writing/drama workshops and mentoring/dramaturgy for early career and/or ND writers
2008-2012	Freelance study skills tutor for students with neurodivergent learning profiles, Colchester Institute
2008	Paths to Playwriting Course, Lakeside Theatre
2000-2005	Learning Support Tutor, King Alfred School, North London
1996-2015	Independent Specialist Personal Tutor and Mentor, focusing on students with neurodivergent learning profiles
1996-1999	Post-45 German Literature/Theatre, Lancaster and Birkbeck

EDUCATION

1996-2000	Ph.D German literature, Birkbeck, University of London.
1995-1996	MA Modern Languages Research, Lancaster University, (distinction).
1992–1995	BA German Studies (French sub), Lancaster University (1 st).