

Neil Grutchfield

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I have a strong interest in and commitment to the development of new writing, developed through my career at the Royal Court Theatre, as New Writing Manager at Synergy Theatre Project, as Literary Manager at Hampstead Theatre and over 20 years as a dramaturg and script reader who has worked with first time, emerging, mid-career and senior playwrights.

Employment History

2010-present	New Writing Manager, Synergy Theatre Project - commissioning; facilitating playwriting, audio drama writing and comedy writing courses in prisons and theatres; project management of national prison scriptwriting competitions for prisoners and ex-prisoners in association with partners including Royal Court Theatre, Kiln Theatre, Ipswich New Wolsey, The Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and Birmingham Rep; project management of new writing festivals at Soho Theatre and Theatre503
2008-2010	Literary Manager, Hampstead Theatre - commissioning; producing a new writing festival; producing <i>Start Nights</i> in association with visiting companies including the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse, Tamasha Theatre and Angle Theatre; delivering a writers attachment scheme, managing year round open submissions of 1000+ unsolicited scripts
2006-2007	Editorial Assistant on the Royal Court Theatre's 50 th Anniversary book
2006-2007	Support Worker, Royal Court Theatre Young Writers Programme
1996-2006	Box Office & Sales Manager, The Royal Court Theatre

Dramaturgy

2010-present	Synergy highlights: Hassan Abdulrazzak's <i>The Special Relationship</i> , Evan Placey's <i>Lifers & Holloway Jones</i> (Brian Way Award 2012) Ambreen Razia's <i>Providers</i> , Magero Otieno Magero's <i>He Said She Said</i> , Natalie Mitchell's <i>To My Younger Self</i> , John Donnelly's <i>Burning Bird</i> , Inua Ellams' <i>Cape</i> . New plays by prisoners and ex-prisoner playwrights.
2008-2010	Hampstead Theatre highlights: Steve Thompson's <i>No Naughty Bits</i> , Atiha Sen Gupta's <i>What Fatima Did</i> , Michael Punter's <i>Darker Shores</i> , Tim Luscombe's <i>Hungry Ghosts</i>
2025	for Ed Edwards on <i>Ordinary Decent Criminal</i> (Paines Plough / tour)
2022-2023	for Adenike Ojo on <i>In Hiding</i> (Tower Theatre)
2018-2023	for Joakim Daun on <i>The Boy</i> (Soho Theatre)
2019-2023	for Corey Bovell on <i>Chicken Burger and Chips</i> (Brixton House)
2018-2022	for Ric Renton on <i>Nothing In A Butterfly</i> (Omnibus Theatre)
2018-2019	for Laura O'Keefe on <i>Vessel</i> (Tour 2022)
2017-2018	for Eva Edo on <i>Wonder Girl</i> (Oval House)
2017-2018	for Ambreen Razia on <i>Pot</i> (Oval House, Stratford Circus & tour)
2016-2017	for Phizzical Productions <i>Bring On The Bollywood</i> by Samir Bhamra (National Tour)
2015-2016	for Black Theatre Live on Ambreen Razia's <i>The Diary of A Hounslow Girl</i> (National tour)
2012-2016	for Kathryn O'Reilly on <i>Screwed</i> (Theatre 503)

Dramaturgy (continued)

2015	for Ovalhouse Theatre on a site specific project in Brixton
2015	for Simon Mole & Peader Kirk's <i>No More Worries</i> (Albany Theatre)
2012-2014	for Cut Collective on Juliet Gilkes Romero's <i>Upper Cut</i> (Southwark Playhouse)
2008-2009	for Bilimankhwe Arts on Jack Mapanje's <i>The President's Tobacco</i>
2005-2007	for Big Creative Ideas on Juliet Gilkes Romero's <i>At The Gates Of Gaza</i> & Segun Lee-French's <i>Booty Call</i> (Regional touring)
2006-2007	for Tell Tarra on JB Rose's <i>The Next Big Thing</i> (Albany Theatre)
2006	for Theatre Centre on Oladipo Agboluaje's <i>God Is A DJ</i> (Theatre Centre)
2005-2006	for Tiata Fahodzi on Oladipo Agboluaje's <i>The Estate</i> (Soho Theatre)

Also various projects for Oladipo Agboluaje, Michael Bhim, Rosa Connor, Juliet Gilkes Romero, Karis Halsall, Sabrina Mahfouz, Christopher Rodriguez, Charlotte Thompson

Script editing

2021	<i>Dues</i> by Ambreen Razia (a short film for Synergy Theatre Project)
2016	<i>The Thief</i> by Michael Bhim (a short film for Synergy Theatre Project)

Script reading

2018-present	Script reader for the Theatre503 Playwriting Award
2015-present	Judge / reader Stage Play category The Koestler Awards

Other script reading, sifting, shortlisting and reporting:

Royal Court Theatre (2006-2008, 2013-2016), Talawa Theatre Company (2011)
Soho Theatre (2010), Paines Plough Theatre Company (2008),
ACT Productions & Sonia Friedman Productions (2008), Zenith Entertainment Ltd (2005).
Nottingham Playhouse & the Theatre Writing Partnership (2002-2004)

Awards

2026	Established Dramaturg Award (shortlisted)
2021	Kenneth Tynan Award for Dramaturgy (shortlisted)

Education, Qualifications & Training

2006	Attended Stephen Jeffreys' Playwriting Masterclass
2001	Arts Management Diploma, Roehampton Institute
1993	BA Hons degree: Upper Second Class, Drama & Theatre Studies, Royal Holloway University of London

Referees (contact details available on request)

Esther Baker	Artistic Director, Synergy Theatre Project
Anthony Clark	Former Artistic Director, Hampstead Theatre
Steven Luckie	Freelance Director. Former Producer The Eclipse Programme