

Anastasia Traina - Playwright Biography

Anastasia Traina is a writer and director working across film, television, and theatre, with a body of work that bridges independent New York stage development and commercial film and television production. Her projects have been developed and produced with companies including Sony Pictures, Katalyst, Open City Films, Showtime, MTV, Studio Dante, and leading New York theatre institutions.

In film, she sold the feature screenplay *Horton Bliss* to Sony Pictures, with Ashton Kutcher attached to star and Mark Gordon and Katalyst producing. She was commissioned by Open City Films (Jason Kliot) to write the feature *Away*. Her feature writing also includes *Sparticles and String* and *The Love Life of Mr. Tom Bottoms*, both completed screenplays in development.

Her screen and television work includes writing for the Showtime one-hour drama *Street Time*. She adapted her play *Natural History* for MTV's Melting Ice Productions, resulting in a short film starring Nicole Ari Parker and Scott Cohen.

Traina's theatre work has been extensively developed and produced in New York and internationally, with multiple projects moving between stage development and screen adaptation.

Her play *In Audela* received workshop development at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London and a full production at The Culture Project, starring Frank Wood, Scott Cohen, Yeardeley Smith, and Polly Draper. The play received Honorable Mention in the 73rd Writer's Digest Competition.

Her play *From Riverdale to Riverhead* was produced by Studio Dante (Michael Imperioli) with Angelica Torn, Catherine Curtin, Sharon Angela, and Bess Rous, and is currently under option for feature adaptation.

Her work *Seagulls on Sullivan Street* has been developed through LAByrinth Theater Company's Intensive Program, The Director's Company workshop development, and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), London, with continued development in both New York and London. It is currently slated for a 2027 production directed by Sheryl Kaller and produced by Sarah Jessica Parker and Leah Michalos, following additional workshop development.

Additional theatrical development includes *The Dustman*, a musical produced at EST's Octoberfest and awarded Honorable Mention in the 72nd Writer's Digest Competition.

Earlier plays include *Mermaids on the Hudson*, *When Heaven and Earth*, *Winny and G*, and *Eternal Pyramid*, developed and produced across Circle East Theatre Lab, Manhattan Theatre Source, HERE Arts Center, and other New York experimental theatre venues. *Winny and G* was a finalist for the Jane Chambers Award and published in *Women Playwrights Anthology* (Heinemann).

Traina's work has been developed through leading institutions including Circle East Theatre Lab (where she also served as Head of Literary Department and Curator of the Full Circle Festival), RADA (London), LAByrinth Theater Company, Bard College's Voice & Vision Retreat, The Director's Company, and multiple Off-Off-Broadway development centers including Rattlestick Theatre and The Culture Project. She is a recipient of multiple Writer's Digest Honorable Mentions and has been active as a dramaturgical and literary leader in New York theatre development spaces, including teaching playwriting for NYSSA at the Ross School in East Hampton and serving on selection and advisory boards for arts organizations including the Edna St. Vincent Millay Colony and the Columbia County Film Festival.