

James McDermott  
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James McDermott is a writer based in East Anglia represented by Independent Talent.

James graduated from the **University of East Anglia** with an **MA (Distinction) in Scriptwriting** (2016) and **First Class BA Honours in Scriptwriting and Performance** (2012-2015). James was the recipient of UEA's Malcolm Bradbury MA in Scriptwriting Bursary 2015.

James has also trained on **The Royal Court Writers Group**, **Soho Theatre Writers Lab**, **Hampstead Theatre's Inspire: The Next Playwright Programme**, **Criterion Theatre's New Writing Group**, **Menagerie Theatre's Young Writers' Workshop**, **Hat Trick Productions Your Voice Your Story Scheme** and **BBC's EastEnders Writers Shadow Scheme**.

James has written several plays for venues across the country. These include **'Jab'** (Finborough Theatre; starring Kacey Ainsworth and Liam Tobin; directed by Scott Le Crass), **'Acid's Reign'** (Vaults Festival 2023; starring Scarlett Harlett from RuPaul's Drag Race UK), **'The Birds & The Bees'** (New Wolsey/UK Tour), **'Shanty'** (Sheringham Little Theatre), **'Robin Good: The Politico-Panto'** (Norwich Playhouse), **'Ghosted'** (Sheringham Little Theatre/Out There Festival 2021), **'Time & Tide'** (Park Theatre/East of England Tour; nominated for an Off West End Theatre Award for Best New Play 2020; longlisted for the Bruntwood, Papatango & Verity Bargate Playwriting Prizes; shortlisted for the Snoo Wilson Playwriting Prize 2016), **'Rubber Ring'** (Pleasance Islington/UK Tour; Winner of Pulse Festival's Suitcase Prize 2017) and **'Fast Food'** (Lyric Hammersmith Gala 2017; starring Jude Law). **'Jab'**, **'Time & Tide'** and **'Rubber Ring'** are published by **Samuel French/Concord Theatricals** and **'Shanty'** is published by **Polari Press**. James has also written episodes of BBC One soap opera **'EastEnders'** and plays for **BBC Radio 4**.

As a poet, James is widely published in journals and magazines including Poetry Wales, The North, Butcher's Dog, Popshot Quarterly, Ink Sweat & Tears and 14 Poems. His poetry collections include **'Wild Life'**, published by Nine Arches Press, and the spoken word collection **'Manatomy'**, published by Burning Eye Books, which was longlisted for the Polari First Book Prize 2021. James's pamphlets include **'Erased'**, published by Polari Press, and **'Green Apple Red'**, published by Broken Sleep Books. James was commissioned by **Netflix's Heartstopper** to write new poem 'Fizz' which featured in Series 2 Episode 7 of the show.

James is a **Lecturer in Scriptwriting at The University of East Anglia**, **Visiting Lecturer in Scriptwriting at Norwich University of the Arts**, **tutor for National Theatre's New Views** and an **Arvon writing tutor**. James has designed and delivered scriptwriting courses for Norwich Theatre Royal, Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds and New Wolsey. Freelance, James teaches creative writing online and in theatres, schools and colleges across the country. He is also a private scriptwriting and poetry writing tutor. James is **currently writing a handbook on scriptwriting craft as part of Story Machines' You Are A Writer series**, due for publication in Spring 2024.

James is currently a **Trustee of the Board at Creative Arts East** and has previously been a **Trustee for Holt Festival** and **INK New Writing Festival**.