

The Playwright's the Thing!

This study was commissioned by the Theatre Development Fund (TDF) to document the situation of the living playwright in the United States.

Basic findings include Research Center statistics that 69% of playwrights are white, 48% are male, over half spend 20 or more hours on art or art-related activities, and one fourth earn their major incomes as artists. For those who receive grants, the mean grant is About \$7,500, the mean royalty income is about \$4,200.

The study describes five tiers of theatre organizations where playwrights work, both in and outside of New York: Broadway, institutionalized Off-Broadway, non-institutionalized off-Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, fringe events in New York; touring productions/bookings, institutionalized regional theatre, non-institutionalized regional theatre, and fringe events. It discusses the collaborative process of developing new plays from unsolicited scripts to full productions, discusses opportunities for playwrights and new work, and their training and education.

Finally, the major issues and recommendations reinforce the need for more productions, more money, audience development, collaboration, mentoring, critical review, second productions and more information. **Property of TDF.**