

Rebecca Manley

the Agency

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Writing

Rebecca is currently writing a play with music about Ada Lovelace, the “world’s first computer programmer” for National Youth Theatre, directed by Andrew Whyment. Sarah Frankcom, artistic director at LAMDA, is attached as dramaturg. Rebecca has written extensively for young adults including theatre commissions with National Youth Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse and York Theatre Royal. She has been commissioned a number of times for SMASHfest, a science/arts festival for young people in London.

Rebecca was selected as one of the 10 writers for the prestigious BBC Drama Writers’ Programme (2018), where she developed an original drama with Kudos North.

She is currently working with Peter Straughan on a TV series with Bad Wolf for Apple. She also recently did some script development with Clio Barnard on her next film, Ali and Ava (to be released 2021).

Acting

Rebecca is also an actor. Recent roles include Mary, playing opposite Timothy Spall in the new adaptation of Philip K Dick’s Electric Dreams for Channel 4, written by Jack Thorne, Barbara in Shane Meadows BAFTA winning This is England 86, 88 and 90, Shelly, Arbor’s mum in Clio Barnard’s BAFTA nominated film The Selfish Giant, and Reverend Kathy Robertson in The Moorside recently screened on BBC1. She is represented by Aileen McEwan at Hatton Mcewan Penford for acting work.

Teaching/other

Rebecca is a Delivery Lead for Tonic, who are driving change across the arts and cultural sector to achieve greater diversity and inclusion. She teaches for a number of organisations, working with women in prisons and secure settings for Clean Break, with young actors at National Youth Theatre and on the MA in playwriting at the University of Essex. She has an MA from the Institute of Education and her dissertation about the therapeutic effects of drama on women ex-offenders was shortlisted for the Sunley Prize, awarded for outstanding contributions to research in criminal justice.

Advisory roles

- Trustee for Scene and Heard children's charity
- Former Chair of Board for Education for Choice
- Mentor for young graduates on National Youth Theatre rep company
- BAFTA judge on craft awards panel

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