

# MARIA MESSIAS MENDES

## Screenwriter/ Playwright

+44 (0)7384 378870

maria.mm.091998@gmail.com

mariamessiasmendes.wixsite.com/writer

London



I am particularly interested in work that finds beauty in the ordinary and opens conversations that cross borders. Being from a migrant background, I am keen to platform new voices and explore the question of how we can tell stories to better reflect complex realities and identities.

## SELECTED WRITING

### Screen

#### LIGHTER SHADES OF BLUE

FEATURE SCRIPT  
ANTI-ROM-COM

Script development under mentorship of **award-winning scriptwriters** and Simon Burke (Liverpool 1, White Teeth, Domina, etc) Stephen Bennett (Coronation Street, Emmerdale, The Royal, etc.)

*When an isolated young woman and a suffocated up-and-coming artist are stranded together in a London gallery during a rainstorm, their unexpected connection challenges them to confront their pasts, redefine their identities, and take the next step toward healing—through art, music, and an unlikely friendship.*

#### SISTERS OF THE RED EARTH

PILOT SCRIPT AND TREATMENT  
HISTORICAL DRAMA

Script development under mentorship of S. Bennett and S. Burke

- Top 2% NFTS x Left Bank / Sony Diverse Writers Development Programme
- Top 12% BBC Writers Room
- Top 20% All3Media New Writers Collective
- Honorable Mention The Finish Line Script Competition

*Falangists won the Spanish Civil War. Amid widespread persecution of the 'Reds', a recently widowed mother fights to protect her infant daughter as both are incarcerated in church-run Saturrarán prison.*

#### LE PRINCE

FEATURE SCRIPT AND TREATMENT  
MYSTERY DRAMA

with Thomas Mullen

- PAGE International Screenwriting Award, Quarter-Finalist

*When an artist's husband disappears without a trace, Lizzie Le Prince must give up everything to find out what happened. In her search, she ends up face to face with Thomas Edison, who has claimed her husband's invention, motion pictures, for himself.*

#### FOR EMMA

FEATURE SCRIPT  
PSYCHOLOGICAL DRAMA

with Anne Giroux

*When her partner, a successful choreographer, has an accident and falls into a coma, a neuropsychologist must abandon the certainty of science and plunge into the emotional, intuitive world of art and love in a desperate search for meaning, healing—and hope.*

#### WHERE WE MET

PILOT SCRIPT  
FAMILY DRAMA

*A family grapples with the decision of their aging parents to sell their long-time home and move to Italy, where the parents first met, uncovering buried emotions and unresolved grief along the way.*

#### LEANNE

SHORT FILM

dir. Anne Giroux

#### A MONTH

SHORT FILM

dir. Maria Messias Mendes

- longlisted for ODEON National Youth Film Awards

### Stage

#### AND THE STENCH OF FLOWERS FILLS THE AIR

- Shortlisted for The Alpine Fellowship Theatre Prize 2025
- Arts Council Project Grant 30k (+10k in kind)

Young Vic, Cardboard Citizens, HighRise, Carmen Collective  
Research & Development (2024)

*A piece of political theatre that explores how social inequality leads to the breakdown of community. This play uses lyricism inspired by rap, inviting audiences to experience these stories emotionally, rather than solely intellectually. and the stench of flowers fills the air highlights our shared responsibility for any injustices in our communities.*

#### STROKING BUMBLEBEES

- Longlisted for Jerwood Foundation Writer in Residence 2026

Omnibus Theatre  
Mercury Theatre  
Cambridge Junction

Excerpt

Staged Reading (2025)  
Development (2024)  
R&D (2023)

*Childhood friends Zana and Tai reconnect with each other and the world around them and discover that their past is not what they thought it was. Decades before, Rio embarks on a long journey to find hope in the girl of her visions.*

#### ONE NIGHT AT THE BLACKBIRD

with Thomas Mullen  
NOLA Project

Staged Reading (2025)

*Lucy operates a clandestine nightclub within the walls of a funeral home. The Blackbird's performers are among New Orleans' greatest legends, now dead, and some of them are having an existential crisis.*

#### SOLIFUGE

Corpus Playroom: 5 Shows (2022)

*Haunted by his actions in Iraq, a veteran struggles to adapt to civilian life, pouring his fragmented memories and guilt into a letter to a child he wronged—but as his past and present collide, he confronts the question: will anyone truly understand his story?*

## LECTURING

### Associate Lecturer and Supervisor

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Since 2022

'Theatre Practice and Production' under Dr. Joel Chalfen

### Guest Lecturer

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Since 2022

MSt Writing for Performance

## EDUCATION

---

### Mercury Creatives Mentorship Programme

MERCURY THEATRE

📅 2024-2025

Mentor: Nicola Werenowska

### Mercury Playwrights Programme

MERCURY THEATRE

📅 2023-2024

Led by Kenny Emson (**BAFTA Nominee**)

### Menagerie Young Writers Programme

CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

📅 2023

### MSt Writing for Performance

DISTINCTION

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

📅 2021-2023

Supervisors: Donnacadh O'Briain (**Olivier Award Winner**)

Mentor: Stephen Bennett (**BAFTA Winner**)

### BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

📅 2017-2020

## LANGUAGES

---

ENGLISH

Native



GERMAN

Native



PORTUGUESE

Native



FRENCH

Intermediate



SPANISH

Basic

