

Docking Apprenticeships and Fellowships Online

Riding the waves of apprenticeships and fellowships help us reach various theatrical fields. But often, these are docked at inaccessible big cities with costly housing inhabited by established citizens. Times have changed during the twenty-first century, especially 2020. Besides an influx of package and food delivery, there is a surge in online learning. Trades, such as dramaturgy and writing, should be virtually accessible. You cannot spell “apprenticeship” or “fellowship” without “ship.”

Our era is the liminal stage between new and emergence. The areas, where its limited space no longer brings new ideas or emerging artists, can either virtually open their doors to outsiders or find themselves in endless societal liminality. Big-city theatres can make a virtual space to teach aspiring creatives, especially when the theatres cannot physically grow or even find a physical place.

Online training provides small-town theatremakers the insights, skills, and connections to move on to the bigger world and to build their world at home. I came out of Working Title Playwrights with a fresh perspective and a sense of community. The same is happening now at Playwrights Foundation. Here, I detail my online voyage between the Midwest and the Southeast and the Bay Area.