

GOOD BOY BAD BOY

By Nathan Christopher

SYNOPSIS

It's a rule kids have broken for decades: No playing ball in the house. But what happens when a super-normal mishap turns into a supernatural mystery? A fractured family is about to find out.

ABOUT NATHAN CHRISTOPHER

Nathan Christopher (www.thenathanchristopher.com) writes plays about the universal truths of everyday life. Through the exploration of familiar moments—falling in (and out of) love, the death of a loved one, an act of violence, the slow decline of age—his work offers new perspectives, questions the conventional, provides comfort, allows us to laugh and, most of all, ask us to look inward rather than outward because that's how we start changing the world.

Christopher is the author of eight plays: PICKING UP, THE FAREWELL TOUR, A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR, CLAIREVOYANT, EVE: A PALINDROME PLAY, GOOD BOY BAD BOY, TO REMAIN SILENT, and SORRY (NOT SORRY).

A MAN WALKS INTO A BAR was published in the *Smith & Kraus Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2021* anthology.

[PICKING UP](#) was a winner in the “Script” category of the 86th annual *Writer's Digest* Writing Competition. A musical version of the show, created with lauded singer-songwriter [Gregory Douglass](#), made its off-off-Broadway workshop debut to a sold-out house as part of the Emerging Artists Theatre's Fall 2019 New Work Series. It was also featured in Undiscovered Works at Dixon Place's Monthly Storytelling Series (NYC) in April 2020, and celebrated in a special broadcast on [Musical Theatre Radio](#) in October 2020 to mark the one-year anniversary of the show's creation.

Christopher is a member of the Dramatists Guild, and has supported New York City's Atlantic Theater Company since 1999. Follow him on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and read his work on [National New Play Exchange \(NPX\)](#).

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

MOTHER: Early- to mid-30s.

CHILD: A boy no older than ten.

THE PLACE

A living room.

THE TIME

Late afternoon.

AT RISE: Something broken is lying in pieces on the living room floor. It could be a lamp, a vase, a picture frame, or some other memento. Whatever it is, it needs to be recognizable but beyond repair. MOTHER and CHILD are facing each other, the mess between them.

MOTHER
For the last time: the truth --

CHILD
I didn't do it!

MOTHER
-- Or you're going to go to your room.

CHILD
It was Fred!

MOTHER
So you and Fred were playing ball in the house?

CHILD
Not me!

MOTHER
You know the rules.

CHILD
Just Freddy!

MOTHER
Go upstairs.

CHILD
Mom...

MOTHER
So where's the ball?

CHILD
Freddy has it.

MOTHER
And where'd Fred go?

CHILD
I don't know.