

Shirley Sergent received her MFA in Playwriting from the University of New Orleans in 1997. She then became a Teaching Fellow for New York City Public Schools and taught English to high schoolers at a performing arts school. Her full-length play, *Father's Prize Poland China* won the National Student Playwriting Award in 1995 and was given two performances at the Kennedy Center. A year later, Samuel French published the play. Shirley has continued to write plays and in 2014 had her one-act play *An Absence of Gray* performed at the Portland Play Festival. She resides in Midcoastal Maine.