

AYAD AKHTAR

*“Ayad Akhtar offers up his heart and life with an honesty that astonishes.
Never have I experienced such a reading thrill.” —Maria Semple*

Ayad Akhtar is an award-winning novelist and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright. In his work, he deftly weaves politics, family, friendship, capitalism, and the eternal existential crisis of being “American” into confessional observations that are emotionally moving and culturally essential.

Ayad is the author of *American Dervish*, published in over 20 languages and named a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Book of 2012. His latest novel, *Homeland Elegies*, is a deeply personal work about identity and belonging in a nation coming apart at the seams, and it has been called a “Tour de force” by the *Washington Post* and a “revelation” by *Publishers Weekly*.

As a playwright, Ayad has written *Junk* (Broadway, Kennedy Center, 2018 Kennedy Prize for American Drama, Tony nomination), *The Who & The What* (Lincoln Center), and *The Invisible Hand* (NYTW; Obie Award, Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award, Olivier, and Evening Standard nominations). His play *Disgraced*, a sobering take on race, class, and religion in the United States, won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama. As a screenwriter, he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Screenplay for *The War Within*, which he also starred in.

Among other honors, Ayad is the recipient of the Steinberg Playwrighting Award, the Nestroy Award, the Erwin Piscator Award, as well as fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, MacDowell, the Sundance Institute, and Yaddo, where he serves as a Board Director. Ayad has served as the president of PEN America since 2021. He lives in New York City.