

Paul Sellar

Writer

Current work includes an original Radio 4 Drama Series for the BBC.

Recent work includes *The Gold Killing*, a two part thriller for Radio 4 which was Drama of the Week; And a new untitled stage play written with ACE funding and additional support from The Farnham Maltings and The Jerwood. *The Moonflask* a BBC Saturday drama for Radio 4 was repeated Easter Saturday 2015. His previous play *The Takeover* (BBC Radio 3) was nominated for The Prix Europa, Berlin and shortlisted for The Imison Award (2013).





Agents

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Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
UNTITLED THEATRE COMMISSION		Arts council commission (support from Maltings and Jerwood) Rehearsed Reading Dir: Rebecca Hill (2015) A contemporary thriller

Radio

Production	Company	Notes
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HOW TO BUILD A SUPERTOWER 2019	BBC Radio 4	A new drama series in which self made tycoon Max Silver sets out to build an iconic London skyscraper. 4x45 Episode One: Directed by Jessica Dromgoole Episode Two: Directed by Jonquil Panting Episode Three: Directed by Sasha Yevtushenko Episode Four: Directed by Sasha Yevtushenko *Today's Choice in Radio Times
THE GOLD KILLING 2015	BBC Radio 4	2 x 45' Directed by Sally Avens Drama of the week - Two part thriller about a boxer turned businessman who invests mafia money in a Ghanaian gold mine
THE MOONFLASK 2014	BBC Radio 4	1 x 60' Produced and Directed by Sally Avens and Marion Nancarrow Saturday Drama - A group of jobseekers pool their resources to pull off a heist
THE TAKEOVER 2012	BBC Radio 3	1 x 60' Directed by Sally Avens Two half-brothers unite over a hostile takeover bid that sparks a war amongst rival business interests *Nominated for Prix Europa, Berlin. Best radio drama in Europe *Shortlisted for the Imison Award / BBC Audio Awards

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
THE AUDIT 2011	Itself International Festival. Warsaw	Prod: Lincoln Company. (Performed in English with Polish Surtitles) *Special Jury prize: Jury included Peter Stein, Krystoff Zanussi and was led by Stacey Keach An earlier version of this play premiered at the LPAC and then Edinburgh entitled "The Man Who Fell Out of Bed" (2010)
WORLD'S END 2008	Pleasance Edinburgh / Trafalgar Studios	Director: Paul Robinson (Edinburgh) / Guy Retallack (London) A bitter sweet relationship drama set in contemporary London Cast included: Fiona Button (Charlotte Lucas in London), Merryn Owen (The Stage best actor nominee)

Production	Company	Notes
2 GRAVES 2006	Pleasance Edinburgh / The Arts	A young man avenges the death of his father in an East End Underworld. Dir. Yvonne McDevitt Cast: Jonathan Moore
THE DEAD MOVE FAST 2000	Edinburgh Festival	A comedy thriller set in the twilight world of 1950's pulp. Cast included: Sylvester McCoy
THE BEDSIT 1999	Tabard Theatre / BAC* / Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh	A lone gunman awaits his fate in a London Bedsit Dir. M.C. Friend Cast included: James Ellis *Part of Time Out's Critics Choice Season

Film

Production	Company	Notes
THE TAKEOVER	Warp / Film 4	Original feature commission for Warp X / Film 4: Caroline Cooper Charles / Robin Gutch
2 GRAVES 2013	Trinity Films. Premiere EEFF	Film adaptation of play *Michael Nyman: Best original soundtrack (nominee) EEFF

Additional information

HOW TO BUILD A SUPERTOWER

BBC Radio 4 Drama Series (4x45)

“In Paul Sellar’s taut drama, Silver decides he wants a piece of the architectural action. And with the City backing his plans for an iconic new skyscraper, the mogul spies an opportunity to shore up his family’s future and slather the icing on his personal legacy. But Silver will nevertheless require all his ruthless deal making skills to avoid the manifold and unforeseen traps laid in his path...”

Chris Gardner. Radio Times (Today's choice).

THE GOLD KILLING

“The Gold Killing, Paul Sellar’s follow up to his acclaimed play The Moonflask, is a gritty two part thriller that cements his place within the vanguard of the genre.” **Radio Times. Critic’s Choice.**

“The Gold Killing (Monday, 2.15pm, Radio 4 FM) an engaging thriller in two parts... Robert Glenister plays a rough diamond... helping Russian oligarchs via a corrupt peer to invest in West African mining. Clearly this is a mistake...” **David Hepworth. Guardian. On Radio.**

“A gritty, well written thriller” **(Weekend Choice - Mail on Saturday / Weekend Supplement)**

“This two parter about mafia money and a gold mine hits a rich seam of drama and intrigue right from the off.”

Susan Jeffreys. Daily Mail (Radio Choice)

"Robert Glenister packs a punch as likeable bruiser Joe in a role that fits him like a glove."

Tom Goulding. Critic's Choice & Pick of the Day. Radio Times

THE MOONFLASK

"The Moonflask will light up your day... this drama by the talented playwright Paul Sellar will keep you guessing right up until the end.... a drama of bluff and double bluff, smoke and mirrors where nothing is quite as it seems." **Jane Clinton Sunday Express**

"There is no mistaking the signature of writer Paul Sellar - the master of deception layered upon deception" **Moira Petty The Stage (Saturday Pick).**

"An exhilarating plot... capers don't crop up often on radio so this is a drama to cherish". **RADIO TIMES (RT Critics Choice)**

"The Moonflask is a crime caper with a difference" **TELEGRAPH (Weekend Highlight)**

"A group of job seekers pool their resources to pull off a heist." **Recommended in MAIL ON SUNDAY (weekend magazine).**

"An ingenious riff on recession-fuelled crime unfolds in The Moonflask... - as the audience become as deliciously duped as the characters... the action gives way to a thrilling heist, and getaway and yet more astonishing twists...." **Moira Petty The Stage & Television Today**

THE TAKEOVER

"Plotting doesn't come any cleverer than in The Takeover, another success from Radio 3." **Moira Petty The Stage**

"...an ingenious tale of the soft underbelly of business: double-double-cross and then some"
Martin Hoyle Financial Times (Critic's Choice/Weekend Choice)

"Lays bare the evils of capitalism... contained the kind of wanton cruelty reminiscent of Jacobean revenge tragedies." **Lawrence Raw, Radio Drama Reviews Online**

"this weeks highlight, a fast moving play The Takeover." **Gillian Reynolds Daily Telegraph**

"The twist at the end is both surprising and moving... A well constructed story, beautifully told."
Judges at BBC Audio Drama Awards (2013)

THEATRE

2 GRAVES

"There's an Oresteia like magnificence to this revenge cycle... which contains the years most bleakly beautiful lines..." **Fiona Mountford Evening Standard (Critic's Choice)**

"Engaging and rewarding... poetic tales from the underworld" **Jonathan Gibbs Time Out (Critic's Choice)**

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"The genius of the writing... humour flashes through the piece like lightning... a stunning drama."

Patrick Marion What's On (Five stars & Critic's Choice)

"A blistering script... A joy. A bullseye!" **Sarah Hemming The Express**

"all proves unexpectedly compelling and distinctly Euripidean." **Charles Spenser The Telegraph**

"Raw blunt stuff. And it's absorbing too." **Benedict Nightingale The Times (Critic's Choice No 1)**

"Beautiful... Powerful, brave drama holds us spellbound." **Sunday Express**

"The Arts reopens with a theatrical cracker in 2 Graves. A rarity - a modern verse drama that works." **Paul Taylor The Independent**

"an ingenious offering... a work of rare skill... intense artistry." **Quentin Letts Daily Mail**

"A fascinating piece of contemporary verse" **Paul Vale The Stage**

WORLD'S END

"An intriguing play with cracking dialogue... confirms its author's growing reputation for chronicling the feel of 21st century life." **Jeremy Kingston The Times**

"I strongly advise anyone to see this new play... it's a delight" **Fiona Mountford Evening Standard**

"a searing... gut wrenchingly honest drama written with a clear, contemporary pulse of its own." **Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph (Top 10 show)**

"A thrilling hour of drama. ...the play ends with two quite brilliant twists that had me gasping in admiration. Paul Sellar has turned into a writer we can cherish" **Lloyd Evans The Spectator**

CELL G159 aka THE DEAD MOVE FAST

"A rib tickling comedy full of surprise... more twists than a rattlesnake on laughing gas" **Daily Mail (Top 5 Show)**

"Succeeds as both comedy and as thriller... keeps you guessing right up to the end." **The Scotsman (Critic's Choice)**

"The script is both eloquent and poetic. This comic psychological whodunit is a must for all lovers of the macabre." Jonathan Preminger **The Evening News**

"A Machiavellian play with enough labyrinthine twists to fox Theseus... Laughter is uncomfortable but unavoidable." **Zoe Green The Independent**

THE BEDSIT

"A highly charged political play because the personal stakes are so high... thrilling... the sustained dramatic tension is stunning."

Simon Reade Time Out (Critic's Choice Season)

"bristling drama... a fast-paced, vicious experience thick with tension." **Evening Standard (Critic's Choice)**

"Cleverly crafted play involves us not just as a thriller, but as a thought provoking study of fear and idealism" **Alison Huntley Times Literary Supplement**

"...surreal and brutal drama." **Mark Cook The Guardian (Theatre Choice)**

"Almost defines the term thriller" **(Five Stars) Dawn Kofie The List (Hit List)**

"Also recommended is this taut little play; essentially a thriller, and a good one, with some clever twists and a satisfying surprise ending." **John Gross The Sunday Telegraph**

"Real life events serve as a savage reminder of the plays extreme relevance" **Rachel Halliburton The Independent (Theatre Choice)**

"I long to mention the closing moments. But this would be an unforgivable offence. I must not give away the end." **Jeremy Kingston The Times**