

Paul Smith

Director / Writer

Paul is a multi award-winning theatre director who has worked as the artistic director of Middle Child since 2011. As artistic director he has overseen the company's growth from its foundation to joining the Arts Council's National Portfolio in 2018. The company is now an established force in Britain's new writing scene, with Lyn Gardner saying "there is a disconnect between an industry predominantly based in metropolitan areas and those who feel unheard, those who never go to the theatre, who think it's not for them, or who have no access."



Agents

Giles Smart Assistant
Lee Byrne
LByrne@unitedagents.co.uk
+44 (0)20 3214 0812

Credits

Theatre

Production	Company	Notes
BABY, HE LOVES YOU 2024	Middle Child	Written by Maureen Lennon
RED RIDING HOOD (PANTO) 2023	Middle Child	As Writer and Director
THIS ONE'S FOR US 2023	Absolutely Cultured	
MODEST 2023	Middle Child / Milk Presents / Kiln Theatre / Hull Truck Theatre	Written by Ellen Brammar Production received nomination for UK Theatre Best Supporting Actor Award

Production	Company	Notes
ROBIN HOOD (PANTO) 2022	Middle Child	As Writer and Director
THERE SHOULD BE UNICORNS 2022	Without Walls / Middle Child / London Greenwich & Docklands Festival / Freedom Festival / Brighton Festival / Hat Fair	Written by Luke Barnes
RAPUNZEL (PANTO) 2021	Middle Child	As Writer and Director
WE USED TO BE CLOSER THAN THIS 2021	Middle Child / Absolutely Cultured	Written by various writers including Tom Wells, Tabby Lamb, Luke Skilbeck and RashDash
THE CANARY AND THE CROW 2020	Middle Child / Arcola Theatre	<p>Written by Daniel Ward</p> <p>Winner: George Devine Award</p> <p>Winner: Best Performance Piece (OffWestEnd Awards)</p> <p>Winner: Best Ensemble (OffWestEnd Awards)</p> <p>Nominee: Alfred Fagan Award</p>
THE LITTLE MERMAID (PANTO) 2019	Middle Child	As Writer and Director
SEAGULLS 2019	Bolton Octagon	<p>As Gig Theatre Consultant</p> <p>Written by Beth Hyland</p>
REBEL MUSIC 2019	Birmingham Rep	<p>As Dramaturg</p> <p>Written by Robin French</p>
THE CANARY AND THE CROW 2019	Middle Child / Paines Plough Roundabout	<p>Written by Daniel Ward</p> <p>Winner: Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence</p> <p>Winner: Best Play for Young Audiences (Writers Guild Awards)</p> <p>Nominee: Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation & Playing With Form</p>
US AGAINST WHATEVER 2019	Middle Child / Hull Truck Theatre / Liverpool Everyman	Written by Maureen Lennon

Production	Company	Notes
BEAUTY & THE BEAST (PANTO) 2018	Middle Child	As Writer and Director
ALL WE EVER WANTED WAS EVERYTHING 2018	Middle Child / Bush Theatre	Written by Luke Barnes
ONE LIFE STAND 2018	Middle Child / Paines Plough Roundabout	Written by Eve Nicol
CINDERELLA (PANTO) 2017	Middle Child	Written by Tom Wells
I HATE ALONE 2017	Middle Child	Written by Ellen Brammar
PRONOUN 2017	Hull Truck Theatre	Written by Evan Placey
ALL WE EVER WANTED WAS EVERYTHING 2017	Middle Child / Paines Plough Roundabout / Hull 2017	<p>Written by Luke Barnes</p> <p>Winner: The Stage Award for Acting Excellence (Marc Graham)</p> <p>Winner: The Broadway Bobby Award</p> <p>Winner: 730 Review 'Best of the Best' Award</p>
DICK WHITTINGTON (PANTO) 2016	Middle Child	Written by Tom Wells
TEN STOREY LOVE SONG 2016	Middle Child / Hull Truck Theatre / Pleasance	<p>Written by Luke Barnes</p> <p>Winner: The Broadway Bobby Award</p>
MERCURY FUR 2015	Middle Child	Written by Philip Ridley
DIVAS 2015	Fine Mess Theatre	Written by Joel Samuels
WEEKEND ROCKSTARS 2014 - 2015	Middle Child / Hull Truck Theatre / Underbelly	<p>Written by Luke Barnes</p> <p>Winner MTN Award for Innovation</p>
SATURDAY NIGHT & SUNDAY MORNING 2013	Middle Child	Adapted by Amanda Whittington

Production	Company	Notes
APPLES 2012	Middle Child / Hull Truck Theatre	Adapted by John Retallack

Additional information

Paul is an experienced facilitator and teacher, having led workshops and residencies at institutions including the Royal National Theatre, the Birmingham Rep, Bolton Octagon, Hull Truck Theatre, the Tron and at the National Studio Drama Festival (NSDF).

Reviews

★★★★ “Rollicking piece of gig theatre, bubbles over with charisma” – **The Guardian** on *Modest*
 ★★★★★ “75 sweatily intense, adrenalin-pumping minutes, skilfully supervised by director Paul Smith....

setting fire to your expectations of what theatre can be” – **The Telegraph** on *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything*

★★★★ “Under Paul Smith’s direction the performances are electrically charged and the show addresses its themes with fierce intensity.” – **The Stage** on *Us Against Whatever*

★★★★ “Gig theatre is a sometimes superficially applied label, but here, director Paul Smith succeeds in making sure that

it’s completely core to the show’s timely message about identity – individually, socially and how we tell people’s

stories.” – **Time Out** on *The Canary and the Crow*

★★★★ “Paul Smith’s engrossingly seamy production...few shows have captured the conflicting emotions evoked by dating apps and social media. None has done it as stylishly as this”

– **The Scotsman** on *The Canary and the Crow*

★★★★★ “Suspenseful and always suspecting...it really doesn’t get any better than this”

– **The Reviews Hub** on *Baby, He Loves You*

★★★★★ “Unashamedly joyous” – **The Stage** on *There Should Be Unicorns*

★★★★★ “Gold dust for engaging young audiences in theatre” – **A Younger Theatre** on *Weekend Rockstars*

★★★★★ “Brilliantly inventive” – **The Scotsman** on *The Canary and the Crow*

★★★★★ “Delivers punch after punch...a hugely pleasurable watch” – **WhatsOnStage** on *Modest*

★★★★★ “Paul Smith’s direction rejects any moment of stasis. The play spirals dynamically in its every beat, constantly in motion..” – **A Younger Theatre** on *The Canary and the Crow*

Training and Education

Hull University (Drama, First Class Degree)

LAMDA – Theatre Directing (1yr)

National Theatre Directing Course