

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
Eden Stoppard
EStoppard@unitedagents.co.uk
+44 (020 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 | Written by Daniel Ward Winner: George Devine Award |
| | | Winner: Best Performance Piece (OffWestEnd Awards) |
| | | Winner: Best Ensemble (OffWestEnd Awards) |
| | | Nominee: Alfred Fagan Award |
| THE LITTLE MERMAID (PANTO) 2019 | Middle Child | As Writer and Director |
| SEAGULLS 2019 | Bolton Octagon | As Gig Theatre Consultant Written by Beth Hyland |
| REBEL MUSIC 2019 | Birmingham Rep | As Dramaturg Written by Robin French |
| THE CANARY AND THE CROW 2019 | Middle Child / Paines Plough Roundabout | Written by Daniel Ward Winner: Brighton Fringe Award for Excellence |
| | | Winner: Best Play for Young Audiences (Writers Guild Awards) |
| | | Nominee: Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation & Playing With Form |
| 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 | Written by Luke Barnes Winner: The Stage Award for Acting Excellence (Marc Graham) |
| | | Winner: The Broadway Bobby Award |
| | | Winner: 730 Review 'Best of the Best' Award |
| DICK WHITTINGTON (PANTO) 2016 | Middle Child | Written by Tom Wells |
| TEN STOREY LOVE SONG 2016 | Middle Child / Hull Truck Theatre / Pleasance | Written by Luke Barnes Winner: The Broadway Bobby Award |
| 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 | Written by Luke Barnes Winner MTN Award for Innovation |
| 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

★★★★ “Roolicking 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