

PAUL JEPSON – Director | Writer - 2026

Paul Jepson has directed classics, contemporary classics and new plays at the Royal National Theatre, the major regional theatres, the new writing theatres and in the West End.

Paul became CEO and Creative Director of Landmark Theatres Ltd in April 2023 and was previously Creative Director for Selladoor (North Devon Theatres). He has been instrumental in Landmark Theatres becoming part of Arts Council England's National Investment Programme with an ambitious artistic mission for the audiences across North Devon and Peterborough. In 2024 he directed Landmark Theatres' production of **RENT** which enjoyed 4 and 5 star reviews. He is co-writing a new musical and developing a comedy for theatre as well as writing for film. In 2026 he is directing a new UK touring production of **9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL**.

In 2022 Paul devised and wrote a dramatic work, alongside academics from the University of Exeter, in particular Professor Linda Clare who leads the IDEAL research programme, exploring and enabling people with dementia, carers and practitioners in the field, and together they produced a theatrical piece which played to a range of audiences. The documentary film of the theatre piece is available on YouTube as an important educational resource with accompanying materials, realistically portraying life with dementia and as an aid for people caring for a person with dementia.

Paul brought an innovative new adaptation to North Devon of **THE BEGGAR'S OPERA** by John Gay - Barnstaple's famous son, in 2021 and in December 2020, Paul directed Jason Merrells in a one-man production of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL** for Selladoor North Devon Theatres again at Queens Theatre Barnstaple in a version Paul devised, seen through the eyes of an NHS doctor battling the pandemic. In summer 2020, Paul directed a series of films for cinema-in-education entitled **LIFE TO THE FULL** in a programme of study for use in schools. He also worked as a consultant to regional theatres during the challenging pandemic years.

From 2015 - 2018, Paul was Executive and Artistic Director of the Exeter Northcott Theatre (ENT) and his energy and expertise put the theatre back on the map by producing exciting productions with increased audiences, curating successful and creative work, as well as inventing and implementing sector-leading programmes. Exeter productions included **THE RAILWAY CHILDREN** incorporating a UK tour with 4 & 5* reviews (which Paul also directed), the theatre's own Christmas Pantomime and Schiller's **DON CARLOS**, with new theatre company ARA, starring Tom Burke, which Paul produced for ENT in October 2018. In addition, Paul initiated an Associates Programme and an Impact Series bringing academic research together with the arts, at the Northcott and on tour.

Whilst at the Northcott Paul also directed **BETRAYAL** by Harold Pinter starring Simon Merrells, Nick Moran and Sarah-Jane Potts, in Feb/March 2016, and the award-winning anti-trafficking play by Martin O'Brien **THIS IS MY BODY** at Exeter and on tour which received excellent reviews and previously played at St. James' Theatre London when it won the award for Best Stage Production in the Anti-Slavery Day Media Awards 2015.

Paul and the Northcott Theatre were the subject of a half hour documentary shown on BBC One and BBC Four in November 2015. Part of the BBC's national **ON STAGE** season, it followed Paul's first six months at the theatre. Narrated by Maureen Lipman, the documentary featured contributions from John Nettles and Lesley Joseph.

Paul was on the board of the Northcott Theatre in Exeter and was previously an Artistic Associate of the Nottingham Playhouse. He was Co-Artistic Director of Fireraisers TC for five years and is a referee for theatre applications to The Wellcome Trust.

Paul's previous directing has included working with the poet Murray Lachlan Young with **THE INCOMERS**, by Lachlan Young which toured during 2013 and ran at The Pleasance Theatre in London.

In 2013 Paul also directed the site-specific piece **MANCHESTER SOUND: THE MASSACRE** (nominated for Best Ensemble Performance in the Manchester Theatre Awards) for the Library Theatre, Manchester. Having made the successful Arts Council G4A bid, Paul worked on the development of the play with writer Polly Wiseman which included community performers as well as professional leads. At a secret location, two worlds collide, the 'Madchester' scene of the late-Eighties and the Peterloo Massacre of 1819, and set in a warehouse venue Paul created the 'sort of adrenaline-raising immersive vibe you can feel on your pulse' (Dominic Cavendish, The Telegraph).

Paul developed two new plays by Martin O'Brien: **GOOD CREATURES** and **THE JEWELLER**, a free adaptation of **THE JEWELLER'S SHOP** by Pope John Paul II with Ten Ten Theatre. **GOOD CREATURES** was researched through a series of residencies in Young Offender Institutions with a fixed company of actors over a period of eight months and the work was supported by Arts Council England, the Plater Trust & Fear and Fashion (Award winner).

Other theatre: **I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES** by Neil Simon (Manchester Library Theatre – Kirsty Osmon winner of Manchester Evening News Best Newcomer award).

In the West End: **TELSTAR** by Nick Moran, **HAUNTED** (Arts Theatre), **FAME**, The Musical (Associate Director of original cast and director of first re-cast).

At the Royal National Theatre: **LIFE AFTER LIFE**, written and directed (Lyttleton Loft, RNT); **NATIONAL HEADLINES** - co-producer and director, two seasons of short reportage plays by Richard Bean, Ryan Craig, Stella Duffy, Lucy Prebble, Mark Ravenhill, Moira Buffini, Greg Burke, Tanika Gupta & Paul Jepson.

Regional Theatre: **ANATOL** by Arthur Schnitzler and **RATS, BUCKETS & BOMBS** by Barry Heath (both Nottingham Playhouse) - Associate Artist; **THE IDIOT**, written and directed (West Yorkshire Playhouse, winner of Wellcome Trust Science on Stage and Screen Award); **A DOLL'S HOUSE** (Salisbury Playhouse); **CHARLEY'S AUNT** (Norwich Playhouse) **15 MINUTES** by Christine Harmer Brown (New Vic Workshop/Devonshire Park Eastbourne & Arcola). Also productions at Watford Palace Theatre, Haymarket Basingstoke & Devonshire Park Eastbourne.

London Beyond the West End: **THE PROVOKED WIFE** (Southwark Playhouse), **BRIGHT** by Polly Wiseman (Soho Theatre), **TEENAGE VITRIOL** by Justin Chubb (Finborough), **JUDGEMENT** by Barry Collins (Man in the Moon).

Additional Commercial Touring: **THREE MEN IN A BOAT** by Jerome K. Jerome, ad. Clive Francis, **TELSTAR** by Nick Moran, **GASPING** by Ben Elton (Manchester Evening News Award nominee)

For Fireraisers: **X** a site generic murder mystery with South Hill Park, Frensham Heights & Quex Park (Producer); **THINGS THAT GO BUMP** (South Hill Park) - conceived and directed, **LOADED** by Polly Wiseman (Yvonne Arnaud Guildford), **CAR THIEVES** by Akos Nemeth ad. Che Walker (Birmingham Rep), **INTERNATIONAL NEW WRITING FESTIVAL** (Hampstead Theatre and Birmingham Rep.).

Paul's experimental and laboratory work includes **4D Theatre**: A research project on theatre space and its relationship with theatre form, performance and audience - Rose Bruford College, the Bartlett (UCL) & Helm Architecture. 4D reached the short list for the capital rebuild of BAC.

Opera and music theatre includes: **THE ESCAPE** from the Seraglio and Gluck's **ORPHEO** (Opera Spezzata and Theatre Royal Plymouth). New musical development for the Mercury Workshop.

Paul has taught acting and directed at major drama schools in the UK and in particular at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Final show directing credits include: Edward Bond's **THE FOOL**, Simon Gray's **QUARTERMAINE'S TERMS** & Ostrovsky's **INNOCENT AS CHARGED** at RADA, Bill Naughton's **ALFIE**, Schnitzler's **ANATOL**, Coward's **PRESENT LAUGHTER**, & Shakespeare's **AS YOU LIKE IT** at RWCMD & Sophie Treadwell's **MACHINAL** at Rose Bruford College.

He has led workshops for most major regional theatres and for several companies and new writing theatres. He is a Laban Trained movement director and an experienced dramaturg in theatre and in film.

AWARDS

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY MEDIA AWARDS Best Stage Production Winner for **THIS IS MY BODY**
MANCHESTER THEATRE AWARDS Best Ensemble Nominee **MANCHESTER SOUND: THE MASSACRE**
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS Nominee **GASPING**
WELLCOME TRUST, SCIENCE ON STAGE & SCREEN Winner **THE IDIOT**
WELLCOME TRUST IMPACT Winner **THE IDIOT**
WHAT'S ON STAGE Nominee for **EAST & TELSTAR**
OLIVIERS' Nominee Con O'Neill (Best Actor) - **TELSTAR**
MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS Winner Kirsty Osmon (Best Newcomer) - **I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES**.

His play **LIFE AFTER LIFE** is published by Oberon/Bloomsbury. His screenplay **THE GLEN** is in development with Kenith Trodd and his adaptation of **THE CITADEL** has been approved

for production by the estate of A J Cronin for 2023. Paul is also writing further theatrical adaptations.

Paul works for several leading investment banks as a communications consultant, speechwriter and coach.